

## Talking Heads – Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards KCVO GCStJ, RD\* RNR



On the 1<sup>st</sup> of October we were privileged to share a wonderful evening with Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, our Founder Master. This was the first of our “Talking Heads” evenings and we got off to a wonderful start. The Master, Mr Peter Coleman posed a series of questions to Sir Norman about his fascinating life. The first question was *“How have you found the time for all your wonderful achievements?”* The humorous response was *“Not being married and not participating in sport (swimming apart) has allowed me to indulge my own interests!”*

The Master then touched on the vital role that Sir Norman had played in establishing the Livery Guild (as it was then titled) from an initial meeting in 1990. Sir Norman explained the thinking and planning that led to him presiding over the first Court meeting, as Founder Master, in 1993. He also highlighted the importance of the part played by our Clerk Emeritus, David Townsley-Hughes, as a mentor and planner.

The discussion then turned to early career choices. Sir Norman’s favourites subjects at ‘A’ level were languages although he also loved drama and wanted to go on the stage. However, he was persuaded that this was a precarious choice so opted to study Law at Bristol. Having successfully completed his degree, the law firm he joined decided to open a Cardiff Branch giving him an opportunity to move back to Wales. As the client base changed, to include work for the Admiralty, he became a Notary Public, being responsible for the authentication of documents that are required for use in foreign countries. Later he became Senior Partner and Consultant with Cartwrights, Adams & Black in Cardiff and was President of Cardiff Law Society from 1995-1996.

Sir Norman had joined the RNVR in 1951 whilst at University, so he spent his National service in the Royal Navy. He described how he arrived at Chatham Barracks in 1958 to find all the flags flying. *“What a welcome”* he thought, only to discover it was in honour of Nelson’s 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday! The Master, with his great interest in naval matters, then asked about the appointments that followed including Captain of HMS Cambria in 1982 and Naval ADC to HM The Queen, Elizabeth II, in 1984.

We heard next about Sir Norman’s role as Lord Mayor of Cardiff in 1985/86. He spoke with great affection about the Mansion House and his staff there. He felt that tax ‘rule change’ that made this a ‘gift in kind’ was regrettable as it had been of great benefit to him in carrying out his work. His key task was to attract investment to Cardiff and so he travelled

extensively including to South West China via Hong Kong. An initial request to visit the Governor of Hong Kong was turned down. So, a message was sent to the effect that *“This request was from the Lord Mayor of Cardiff”*. This led to a wonderful welcome from the Governor, Sir Edward Youde, who had been born and brought up in Penarth!

In 1990 Sir Norman became Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, holding the post until his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2008. He paid tribute to his predecessor, Sir Cennydd Traherne, whom he felt had trained him for the role through tasks such as the Presidency of the South Glamorgan Scouts. The Master asked what the role of Lord Lieutenant entailed and if there had been any particular highlights. We heard about the charitable and formal aspects of the role and about the organisation of Royal visits. These involved huge attention to detail including making “dummy runs”. One of these caused some confusion with all cars accidentally going several times around Cardiff’s ‘magic roundabout’. This led Chief Superintendent Bob Evans to remark *“it’s not that interesting – once would have been enough”*

A visit by Princess Diana to Penarth involved shaking hands with newly elected dignitaries - all of whom were women. One by one they curtsied to the Princess. At the tail end of the presented party was the Town Clerk, a man, but he felt he should follow the example of the ladies ahead of him and also curtsied. This threw Sir Norman off his stride; so much so that he forgot Sir Geoffrey Inkin's name, although he had known him for years.

Princess Diana was keen that her sons knew about Wales. A private visit saw Sir Norman accompany the three of them to the new Techniquest science and discovery centre in the Bay and to St Fagan’s museum. A very dark fourteenth century farmhouse there, led six-year-old Harry to seek Sir Norman's reassuring hand. A very special pair of cufflinks were presented as a ‘thank you’ and Sir Norman recalled wearing these at Princess Diana’s funeral.

When arranging for the Queen to visit Cardiff, he knew that King George V had opened the National Museum in 1929 so arranged for his granddaughter, the Queen to open the new wing of the Museum. Many other interesting events were scheduled and so her visit was extended to two full days in Cardiff. At the end of this very successful visit, Sir Norman remembers waiting for the royal train to pull out of the station. The Queen unexpectedly returned to wave, so he was very glad that he had remained until the train departed!

The Master drew the session to a close mentioning Sir Norman’s huge range of Charity Work, both at home and abroad. He then called upon the Senior Warden, Dr Kathy Seddon to propose a heartfelt vote of thanks. We concluded this wonderful evening, enjoyed by all, with a “Toast to Liverymen”.

**Article by Dr. Kathy Seddon PhD**  
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