

**THE WORSHIPFUL
LIVERY COMPANY OF WALES**

The Honourable Society for
Arts, Science and Technology
Nurturing Welsh Talent



**CWMNI ANRHYDEDDUS
LIFRAI CYMRU**

Cymdeithias Anrhydeddus
Tros Gelf, Gwyddor a Thecnoleg
Meithrin Dawn Cymru

*A Celebration of the Granting of the Royal Charter to The Worshipful
Livery Company of Wales.*

Royal Charter 10th Anniversary Dinner



*Cardiff & County Club
Friday 28th June 2024*



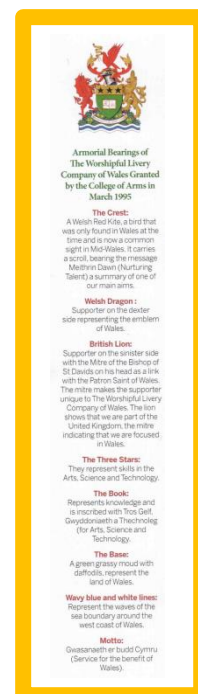
*The Royal Charter Dinner was held on 28th June 2024 at the
Cardiff and County Club hosted by the Master, Agnes Xavier-
Phillips and her Consort Nigel Phillips.*

A bubbly welcome awaited the 76 guests from the Master, and the pre-meal drinks. With background music beautifully played by **Nigel Hart**, the pre-meal drinks reception launched an evening of wit, historical and Royal insight, and wonderful music.





Tables were labelled with the armorial bearings of the Welsh Livery Coat of Arms and all the guests received an interesting, and beautifully produced, souvenir bookmark also explaining the various parts of the Coat of Arms. It was a very good reminder of our motto “**Gwasanaeth er budd Cymru**” (**Service for the benefit of Wales**) which is something which our Company does very well.





A trumpet fanfare announced the Master, Consort and top table guests into the room and this set the tone for the evening. Quality, not hot air.



Awards

Two Major Awards were presented at the Dinner.

Past Master **Kathy Seddon** introduced **Ruth Davey**, the winner of the Achievement Award, who attended with her partner Naphthali. Ruth is a highly acclaimed shoe maker and runs Red Shoes which has two shops in Machynlleth. Red Shoes has high profile customers such as Billy Connolly, Sir Alec Guinness, Diana Athill, and Emma Thompson. She is also a past recipient of a Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship.



Past Master **Stuart Castledine** introduced **Jemma Ho**, the winner of the Silver Jubilee Development Award – Architecture and the built environment. Jemma is qualifying as an architect and has a particular passion for using wood in buildings. At present, the wood in Wales is predominantly softwood but hardwood plantations are now being created to address this issue. Jemma has travelled extensively to other countries to bring back their learning on how further to develop sustainable hardwood for the construction industry.



Speeches

The Guest Speaker was **Dr. Grahame Davies CVO** who had been Deputy Private Secretary to the former Prince of Wales (now His Majesty the King) between 2012 – 2023. A fluent Welsh speaker, Grahame spoke in Welsh and English of the fascinating musical arrangements for the Coronation which were all undertaken in seven months and “orchestrated” by him. HM The King has a keen interest in Welsh matters and some of the music commissioned and played at The Coronation had a very high profile Welsh provenance.



The Master welcomed everyone and thanked the Speaker. The Master explained that although the Royal Charter was granted to the Welsh Livery Guild in 2013, the Charter was first celebrated in 2014 and tonight’s dinner was celebrating the 10th anniversary of that first celebration. She thanked everyone who was involved and instrumental in obtaining the Royal Charter many of whom were present. Even though **Captain Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards** was unable to attend, his portrait by the landing of the staircase captured in the photo with the trumpeters below made us feel his presence. The Master encouraged all members of the Livery to introduce at least just one member which would increase membership and help secure the future of the Company. The Company had made great progress establishing itself as a real force for good in Wales.



Much hilarity accompanied the Taking of the Loving Cup. In these post-covid times the wine had been replaced by chocolates but each guest got through the exercise and successfully protected the back of the person sitting on their left. Did everyone do it correctly? it didn't matter. Experienced Loving Cup participants looked on smugly whilst the novices felt relieved and proud of their very stylistic individual performances. They will look on smugly next time.



Music

Expertly organised by **Consort Nigel Phillips**, the guests were treated to excellent musical entertainment from **Nigel Hart**, on keyboard, and singer **Samantha Link**.



Samantha started with a tub thumping rendition of All that Jazz, at the special request of The Master. This got feet tapping and fingers twitching. Looking around the room many of the guests were seen, silently, mouthing their way through the rousing lyrics.



We were then treated to I dreamed a Dream from Les Miserables, Send in the Clowns from a Little Night Music, Don't cry for me Argentina from Evita, and Memory from Cats. They brought the West End to us for a Musical Extravaganza!

Samantha explained that she was not a trained opera singer but everyone found this hard to believe once we had heard her sing Puccini's, O mio babbino caro. What a voice! What a finale! What an evening!



No sooner had the applause died down when the two trumpeteers reappeared to bring the evening to a close with the Post Horn Gallop. As one of the trumpeters observed during the performance “ we all had homes to go to” and this is exactly what happened after the Master and top table guests had processed out of the room.



Fond farewells were bid, hands were shaken, cheeks were kissed and everyone floated back home having had a wonderful evening.

Many thanks to the Master **Agnes**, Consort **Nigel**, the **Clerk Christopher Dale**, **Assistant Clerk Angela Parry** and the excellent team at the **Cardiff and County Club**.



If you wish to view the photo album slideshow, please click on the link below
<https://youtu.be/DyhVxxYOe0I>



Agnes Xavier- Phillips JP DL
Master 2024-25
Worshipful Livery Company of Wales
28 June 2024