THE WORSHIPFUL LIVERY COMPANY OF WALES
The Honourable Society for Arts, Science and Technology
Nurturing Welsh Talent

CWMNI ANRHYDEDDUS LIFRAI CYMRU
Y Gymdeithas Anrhydeddus tros Gelf, Gwyddor a Thechnoleg
Meithrin Dawn Cymru

Annwyl Gyd-Liferïwyr · Dear Fellow Liverymen

An update from Master Jane Croad · October 2026



Bore da,

I hope you are all safe after the storms of the past few days. October brought the beautiful colours of autumn and another busy and productive month. My work representing our Company took me from the Rhondda to the Guildhall Crypt, from Vintners' Hall to Goldsmiths' Hall, and from Worcester to the Barbican, with a good deal of excellent food and even better company along the way. At every turn I have felt so very proud, and genuinely honoured, to represent the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales. It never stops being a thrill to represent our Company among the London Livery Companies and at so many other gatherings, and to tell people about the wonderful work we do to support talented young people in Wales.

So, let me take you through the highlights.

"What a privilege it is to fly the flag for Wales and for our wonderful Livery."

IN THIS UPDATE

DATE	EVENT	PAGE
Thu 1 Oct	614 Squadron: Memorandum of Understanding	2
Wed 7 Oct	Master's Lecture: Aberfan	3
Fri 9 Oct	Cerebral Palsy Cymru lunch	5
Tue 13 Oct	Constructors' installation	5
Thu 15 Oct	Musicians' dinner, Vintners' Hall	6
Fri 16 Oct	Meeting Spiro Borg	7
Sat 17 Oct	Wales Assembly of Women lunch	7
Mon 19 Oct	Armed Forces Covenant; Engineers' dinner	8
Tue 20 Oct	Worcester Clothiers' dinner	9
Mon 26 Oct	Lunch at the Cardiff and County Club	10
Mon 26 Oct	The Cross of Wales at our Carol Service	11
Mon 26 Oct	Charitable Trust Trustees' meeting	11
Thu 29 Oct	Lady Masters and the Barbican	12
End Oct	A little Christmas shopping	12
	With heartfelt thanks	13

THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER

A Memorandum of Understanding with 614 Squadron

The month began in fine style when we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 614 (County of Glamorgan) Squadron, Royal Auxiliary Air Force, setting out a proposed affiliation between our Company and the Squadron, which is now pending the approval of Court. It was a real pleasure to meet Air Commodore Rob Woods OBE, Air Officer Wales, and Wing Commander Lee Matthews, and to begin a relationship that will benefit both our organisations. It was an excellent and very well attended occasion, and it was lovely to see Liveryman Jenny Barton-Greenwood there with her husband, Flt Lt Geoff Barton-Greenwood RAFVR(T) Retd.

The Memorandum of Understanding for the affiliation, signed on 1 October by me as Master, by Wing Commander Lee Matthews as Commanding Officer and by Air Commodore Rob Woods as Air Officer Wales, and pending the approval of Court, recognises the distinguished service given to the United Kingdom and to Wales by the volunteer airmen of 614 Squadron. Members of the Company and the Squadron would be invited to each other's social and educational events, and would look for ways to work together on programmes that benefit the people of Wales. Each year the Master would be invited to Squadron functions, and the Company would present an award, with a framed certificate, to the 'Best Airman' chosen by the Commanding Officer. The Commanding Officer would be invited to our functions and to our Installation Banquet.



Signing the Memorandum of Understanding with 614 (County of Glamorgan) Squadron



With Air Commodore Rob Woods OBE, Air Officer Wales

WEDNESDAY 7 OCTOBER

The Master's Lecture: 60 Years On from Aberfan

Our Master's Lecture this year was a joint evening with the High Sheriff of Mid Glamorgan, our own Past Master Major John Charles TD DL, at Rhondda Heritage Park in Trehafod. Our speaker was Jeff Edwards OBE JP DL, the last child to be rescued alive from Pantglas Junior School. It was a very touching account of Jeff's personal experience of the Aberfan disaster. The evening was also a fundraising event to help children from Aberfan travel to New York to sing at Carnegie Hall in a musical work by the internationally acclaimed composer Paul Mealor, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the disaster.



Liverymen and guests at Rhondda Heritage Park

At about a quarter past nine on the morning of Friday 21 October 1966, the last day before the half term holiday, a colliery spoil tip above Aberfan slid down the mountainside and engulfed Pantglas Junior School and the houses around it. 144 people died, 116 of them children. This year marks the 60th anniversary, and on 21 October the King, the Queen and the Prince of Wales joined survivors, bereaved families and the community at the Aberfan Memorial Garden, on the site of the old school.

Jeff spoke with extraordinary courage and dignity, and the lecture was very well attended. There was a great deal of emotion in the room, and many memories were shared. I remember my own family being devastated at the time, even though I was very young, and my husband David's mother, who served with St John Ambulance, was at the scene. Our Liveryman Keith Shankland spoke movingly of being there as a young man, helping with the rescue and the recovery. It was a very moving and memorable evening, and a collection was made for the High Sheriff's chosen voluntary group, World of Words. Aberfan will always be in our hearts.



Jeff Edwards OBE, Anne Morgan, Past Master Derek Morgan and the High Sheriff



With Jeff Edwards OBE and the High Sheriff, Past Master Major John Charles



Jeff Edwards OBE with Liveryman David Salway



The High Sheriff, Past Master Major John Charles TD DL, with a guest



Liverymen and guests enjoying the evening



With the High Sheriff and guests

FRIDAY 9 OCTOBER

Lunch for Cerebral Palsy Cymru

I was delighted to be a guest of Leigh Day solicitors at a fundraising lunch for Cerebral Palsy Cymru, a truly worthy charity. It is very close to my heart. My daughter Isabelle has cerebral palsy, and Cerebral Palsy Cymru were extraordinarily supportive of Isabelle, and of all of us, when she was younger, and we have continued to support them ever since. I also had the chance to tell several people about the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales and the work we do for young people in Wales. Julia Reynolds, Partner and Head of Leigh Day in Cardiff, is actively promoting the WLCoW Art, Law and Language Award as Vice President of the Cardiff and District Law Society.

TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER

The Constructors' Installation

David and I were honoured guests of the Master Constructor at the installation of the new Master of the Worshipful Company of Constructors at St Lawrence Jewry, followed by a fantastic dinner in the Guildhall Crypt. We were made so very welcome. I spoke to several people about our aims and our work, and I was delighted that some Liverymen of the Constructors with Welsh roots were keen to find out more about joining us.



At St Lawrence Jewry



The installation dinner in the Guildhall Crypt



With the Master Turner and her Consort at Guildhall



With my Consort, David Protheroe, at Guildhall



Beneath the vaulted ceiling of the Guildhall Crypt

THURSDAY 15 OCTOBER

The Musicians' Masters' and Clerks' Dinner

Master Musician Alun Hughes, his Wardens and Court Assistants kindly invited me to their annual Masters' and Clerks' Dinner at Vintners' Hall. It was a most enjoyable evening, the speeches were excellent, and I was seated next to Paul Cattermul, the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers' Company. I had very interesting conversations with several people living in London with Welsh roots about joining our Livery.

Vintners' Hall is steeped in history. In 1363 the Vintners' Company hosted the famous Feast of the Five Kings, arranged by Sir Henry Picard, a Vintner and former Lord Mayor

of London. His guests were King Edward III of England, King David II of Scotland, King John II of France, King Peter I of Cyprus and King Valdemar IV of Denmark. Two of them, David of Scotland and John of France, had been held captive by the English, and John was still living in England as a hostage at the time, so it was quite a gathering! The Hall we see today was rebuilt after the Great Fire of London in 1666, but the story of the five kings is still proudly told there.



With a fellow Master at Vintners' Hall



With the Masters of the Tin Plate Workers, Turners, Musicians, World Traders and Plumbers

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER

Planning with Spiro Borg

I met Liveryman Spiro Borg to discuss several initiatives, in particular how we can work together to support the wonderful work of City Hospice through our joint event on Thursday 12 February at Cornerstone, led by the Events Committee: a Dolly Parton and Garth Brooks tribute night. Please do put it in your diary.

SATURDAY 17 OCTOBER

Wales Assembly of Women Lunch

I chaired the Wales Assembly of Women lunch at Howell's School, Llandaff, and I was thrilled that guests from several London Livery Companies came to support us and enjoy the company. Several of our own Liverymen joined us too, which made it a very positive and happy occasion.

MONDAY 19 OCTOBER

The Armed Forces Covenant, and the Engineers' Dinner

I met the Master Engineer, Professor Andrew McNaughton FREng, who has been very helpful in supporting a proposal for the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales to sign the Armed Forces Covenant. The Worshipful Company of Turners are supporting us too. Both companies, and several others in the City, have already signed the Covenant, and it is a very positive thing to do. I have now prepared a proposal, which will go to Court after it has been reviewed by our Liverymen with experience in the Armed Forces, including Past Master Major John Charles TD DL, Commander Bob Reid RNR,GSM, our Beadle, Colonel Dominic Morgan OBE, and Commander Carolyn Jones.

That evening I was the guest of Past Master Dr Keith Williams and Janet Williams at the Engineers' dinner at Goldsmiths' Hall. It was an excellent evening, with great company and amazing food. I caught up with several friends, including Master Fan Maker Dinesh Naidu, who so kindly welcomed Past Master Derek Morgan to drive sheep with the Fan Makers last month. I also spoke to the Lady Mayor, Dame Susan Langley DBE, and her consort Gary Langley, who were very pleased to welcome us again. It has been a real privilege this year to raise the profile of our Company among the Masters of the City companies and alongside such a wonderfully active Lady Mayor.

PHOTO GALLERY · THE ENGINEERS' DINNER



With the Lady Mayor and friends at Goldsmiths' Hall



With Past Master Dr Keith Williams and Janet Williams



With Janet Williams at Goldsmiths' Hall



Catching up with friends at the Engineers' dinner



Sharing the loving cup with PM Dr. Keith Williams



With the Lady Mayor, Dame Susan Langley DBE

TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER

The Worcester Clothiers' Dinner

Assistant Clerk Angela Parry MBE and I went to the Worcester Clothiers Company's annual dinner at the beautiful Guildhall in Worcester. The weather was not marvellous, but the welcome certainly was. We were honoured guests, and enjoyed meeting Masters of other companies and guilds, including the Honourable Company of Gloucestershire, as well as the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers' Company, whom I had sat next to at the Musicians' dinner only the week before. I also spoke again to Master Woolman David Hopkins, a Welshman living in London, who is very interested in joining us.



Angela Parry MBE and I with members of the Clothiers' Guild



With the Master Clothier and the artist at Worcester Guildhall



The Master Clothier and the artist at Worcester Guildhall



With the Master Founder and Angela Parry MBE outside the Guildhall, Worcester

MONDAY 26 OCTOBER

Lunch at the Cardiff and County Club

On 26 October I was honoured to represent the Livery closer to home, at lunch at the Cardiff and County Club with Father Sebastian Jones, PM Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards KCVO, GCStJ, RD*, Dan Clayton Jones, Chair of the Cardiff and County Club, Charles Williams, Secretary of the Club, and His Grace the Most Reverend Mark O'Toole, Metropolitan Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia. Many positive things were discussed. I was able to tell our guests about the great work of the Livery, and Sir Norman recounted how the Livery was founded. I am delighted that Dan and Charles would both like to join the Livery, and they will be a great asset to the Company. We also talked about our Carol

Service in December, and I have some very special news to share about it, which I share below.

The Cross of Wales at our Carol Service

His Grace the Most Reverend Mark O'Toole, Metropolitan Archbishop of Cardiff-Menevia, has kindly given permission for Croes Cymru, the Cross of Wales, to lead the procession at our annual Carol Service, a Service of Lessons and Carols, on Friday 11 December at St Alban-on-the-Moors, the Oratory Church in Splott, Cardiff. What a wonderful honour for our Company.



Croes Cymru, the Cross of Wales

The Cross of Wales was King Charles III's centenary gift to the Church in Wales, and it led Their Majesties into Westminster Abbey at the Coronation on 6 May 2023. Set into the silver are two tiny splinters of wood from the True Cross, the cross on which Christ was crucified, a gift to the King from Pope Francis. The Cross is shared by the Church in Wales and the Catholic Church in Wales as a sign of their common Christian heritage.

The Cross was commissioned by the Goldsmiths' Company and designed and made by master silversmith Michael Lloyd, working with the Royal Collection. It is made from recycled silver bullion supplied by the Royal Mint, with a shaft of Welsh windfall timber and a stand of Welsh slate. On the back are words from St David's final sermon: *"Byddwch lawen. Cadwch y ffydd. Gwnewch y pethau bychain."* "Be joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things." It was blessed by the then Archbishop of Wales, Andrew John, at Holy Trinity Church, Llandudno.

I do hope as many of you as possible will join us for this very special occasion. Please do put the date in your diary.

The Charitable Trust Trustees' Meeting

The meeting of the Trustees of our Charitable Trust, also held on Monday 26 October, was very productive. Dyfrig James will be greatly missed, having been a very competent and excellent Chair of Trustees for the past five years, and I thank him warmly for all he has done. We are very optimistic about the future of the Charitable Trust.

THURSDAY 29 OCTOBER

Lady Masters, and a Night at the Barbican

I met the Lady Masters at the City of London Club. It is always excellent to exchange experiences and ideas with this very positive and dynamic group of Masters. We then went on to the London Symphony Orchestra's 20th Annual City Livery Concert and Reception at the Barbican, celebrating two decades of this special evening, at which the LSO thanks the livery companies, clubs and guilds that support its work.

Sir Antonio Pappano, the LSO's Chief Conductor, led a wonderful programme. It opened with Liadov's shimmering The Enchanted Lake, followed by the world premiere of Hannah Kendall's I have discovered the secret of death, an LSO commission sung by mezzo-soprano Fleur Barron. After the interval came Tchaikovsky's thrilling Fifth Symphony, a glorious end to a memorable night.



At the Barbican with the Masters of the Furniture Makers, Chartered Secretaries, Nurses and Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers

END OF OCTOBER

A Little Christmas Shopping!

And to round off the month, a family trip to Bicester Village, where I am very pleased to report that I have done lots of my Christmas shopping. I am now very much looking forward to Christmas.

"Please do try to join some of the events, it is such fun working together to support young talented people."

With Heartfelt Thanks

It has been another wonderful month, and I feel truly honoured to represent the Worshipful Livery Company of Wales as Master. I have met so many people who have been interested to hear about the good work our Company does in Wales, and it is a joy to see how warmly Wales and our Livery are received wherever we go.

Thank you, as always, to the Assistant Clerk Angela Parry MBE for her tireless support, and to every Liveryman who has come along to events, contributed so productively to committees and helped with all the great work we do. It makes a real difference to the young people we support.

Please if you have any questions about anything in the Update or want to know more about what I am doing or want to know how to be more involved in the great work we are doing in the committees please call me on 07970 666353.

Hwyl Fawr.
With my warmest wishes,
Jane

Dr Jane Croad
Master, The Worshipful Livery Company of Wales · 2026 to 2027