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Election of Sheriffs for the City of London

Monday 25 June 2018

Candidature of GWEN RHYS

Derby House, 3 Market Place, Brackley, NN13 7AB

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May 2018

Fellow Liverymen

Encouraged by many friends in the Livery and business people across the City, I offer myself for the High Office of Sheriff at the election to be held in Common Hall at Guildhall on MONDAY 25 JUNE 2018 at TWELVE NOON. Please attend and cast one of your two votes in support of me and the other for Alderman Vincent Keaveny.

Born in Milford Haven I was educated at Neath Grammar School for Girls where my extra-curricular activities included participating in local and regional orchestras and choirs.

After gaining a business qualification in Hull, I moved to London in the early 70s and began my career in publishing, later starting my own word processing bureau which I sold in the late 80s. I made a career change and spent nearly a decade designing innovative initiatives to raise the aspirations and educational attainment of young people living in some of the UK's most culturally diverse and economically deprived areas. Building public-private sector partnerships was essential for successful outcomes and I served on many steering committees and working parties. My background in entrepreneurship led to my appointment as CEO of Westminster Enterprise Agency where I set up a network for London's women-led businesses.

In 2003 I founded Women in the City (WiC). An award-winning organisation championing diversity and supporting the progress of women in the financial and wider professional services sector, its awards programme, delivered with sponsorship from international companies, has shone a spotlight on the global female talent working in the City. WiC has supported The Lord Mayor's Appeal for several years, widening awareness of the Civic City.

I was introduced to my mother company, the Glass Sellers, in the 1980s by my now husband, Peter Rawlinson, a third generation Glass Seller and, like his father and grandfather, a Past Master. He is also a member of the Tobacco Pipe Makers.

In 1993 I became one of the first female members of the Glass Sellers and was proud to become its second female Master in December 2014. I am also a member of the Needle makers and Spectacle Makers companies and the Livery Company of Wales. I've been a member of Queenhithe and Aldgate Ward Clubs for 10 years and, more recently, the Ward of Cheap.

My husband, Peter, was educated at Merchant Taylors and Exeter College, Oxford and spent over 20 years working for British Airways. We have both travelled extensively and enjoy experiencing different countries and cultures. Following retirement, he became involved in local politics and I was delighted to be his consort when he was Mayor of Brackley and later Chairman of South Northamptonshire Council where he now serves as the Cabinet Member for Finance.

As a result of my ability to build relationships and to connect people I am frequently approached by organisations seeking to access the diverse network I have created. Most recently, I've helped ABF The Soldiers' Charity and the newly formed Guild of Investment Managers to access a female audience. Social mobility is important to me and I apply this in a practical way by mentoring students and young professionals. In particular, I always encourage them to discover the Livery and the important role it plays in the City and in wider society.

Those who know me speak of my honesty and integrity; my energy, enthusiasm, inspiration and passion. They also recognise my commitment to my values and my ability to articulate and communicate key issues. As Sheriff, I would bring all of this and more to the Civic Team in support of the Lord Mayor as he promotes British business at home and overseas.

I am, my fellow Liverymen

GWENLLIAN RHYS
Citizen and Glass Seller

To vote, take your seat in Guildhall on 25 June before 11.45am

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