### The Worshipful Company of Farmers Summer 2019

# Newsletter

Inspiring, encouraging and developing excellence in the management and leadership of UK agriculture



The joy of finishing Sleepless in the Saddle



The Livery visit to the Old Bailey hosted by City Sheriff Liz Green



The Deputy Master John Reynolds and Senior Warden David Bolton attempt to land



The Livery on tour in Italy



The Annual Lecture & Dinner was very well supported

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### Clerk dobs in the Master

Who knew just how dangerous being Master if the Worshipful Company of Farmers could be! Following a malicious report from our otherwise totally loyal Clerk, the Master suffered the indignity of arrest followed by trial, for her alleged misdemeanours in Court No 3 at The Old Bailey and conviction. The sentence seemed harsh. She was sent down, pending bail and along with a motley crew of other felons (many also Liveryman and officials) transported, escorted by the Queen's Guard, directly to the Tower of London, wearing a ball and chain. Albeit on an old London bus.



Transported in chains to the Tower of London – in an old London bus

Fortunately for Master, the Clerk redeemed himself by writing out a cheque, payable to the Red Cross, for her bail, which saw her freed!



The Master incarcerated in the Tower of London.

The Clerk reports that it can't have been too bad an experience as all the convicted, as can be seen in the pictures, seemed to thoroughly enjoy their day of infamy, in part perhaps because they were served Pol Roger throughout the experience. A luxury unlikely to have been on hand in the days of Anne Boleyn or Sir Thomas Moore!



Bailed with a cheque in favour of the British Red Cross

### Farmers fast but not fast enough



Four Flying Farmers – James Peck, The Master, Adrian Bell and Mary Foster



A second outing for the inflatable chicken and Adrian Bell

Taking place for the fifteenth time, The Inter-Livery Pancake Race, organised by the Woolmens' Company, was the best attended yet. Guildhall Yard was packed with teams from over forty Companies, their Clerks, supporters and members of the public, who by design or accident came to view, what many may have considered a typically eccentric English scene. Masters and Liverymen in full robes mingled with fancy dress competitors, stewards and City dignitaries including Honorary WCF Freeman and City Sheriff Liz Green.

Our team for 2019 comprised the Master, and Liverymen James Peck,

Mary Foster and our fancy-dress competitor, splendid in his inflatable chicken outfit getting its second run out at the event Adrian Bell.

I am sorry to report that, despite great enthusiasm and spirit, none of our competitors made it through their heats to the finals, although both James and Mary were both in contention, until James tired nearing the line and Mary had a mishap with her pancake, that meant she dropped from a narrow lead to finishing a lonely last.

For the record the Victor Ludorum winners this year, much I suspect to the delight of the Sheriff, were the Framework Knitters Company but the major winners were really the Lord Mayor's charities, the competitors who all had a great day out and the spectators who witnessed a quintessentially English London City spectacle.



James Peck a study in concentration

### Master meets 2018, Miss World Vanessa Ponce at Cart Marking



From the left, the Master Carmen - Stephen Britt; Vanessa Ponce, Miss World 2018; Barrie Torbett, the Master Environmental Cleaner; Rosie Carne, the Master Farmer.

On the 17th July, on a bright sunny day, our Master Rosie Carne was on-hand at the Guildhall, to witness the 502nd Anniversary of the Worshipful Company of Carmen at their annual Cart Marking event. The Cart Marking ceremony, which dates back to the time when the Carmen were licensed to operate all the haulage around the City, re-started in 1982 with the branding of just five carts. The charity event grows in popularity every year and this year forty seven carts were presented for 'marking' by officials, including Peter Estlin the Lord Mayor of London. Also in attendance were Sheriff Liz Green and the Chief Commoner, Tom Hoffman CC and adding an extra touch of glamour, to the proceedings, not that any such was needed, Miss World.

# 2019 Inter-Livery clay competition, a story of almost betwixt and between



The 2019 Inter-Livery Clay competition team with Past Master Tony Alston

This year, the Company was represented by Liveryman David Bright's brother, spot the likeness and three local farmers. The objective of course was to win, but with a number of the Livery Companies fielding very professional teams, our team, very sensibly, had its eyes on the special prize for coming twelfth.

The award for finishing in this strange position, not surprisingly called 'The Glorious 12th', was introduced into

proceedings to maintain competition throughout the field and to encourage the midfield teams, who might feel the chance of an overall win was likely to be a little beyond their abilities.

Unfortunately for the Farmers, we were not good enough for one prize and too good for the other. We came a very creditable 10th overall! Past Master Tony Alston, our shoot captain, wasn 't shooting this year but never-the-less went round with our team to provide encouragement and support and was heard to say, "It was easier to comment when not carrying a gun!"





# A glimpse into the future at the 2019 Inter-Livery City Food Lecture



Dominic Blakemore paints a chilling vision of the future

Dominic Blakemore, group chief executive of Compass Group, gave a daunting, futuristic vision of a joined up food and health industry in his 2019 City Food Lecture. Looking forward to 2050.

Talking to a packed Guildhall,
Dominic described how his imaginary
granddaughter Sam would before birth
have had her genetic code analysed
and a health programme for life, that
encompassed dietary needs would be
drawn up. Nutrition would be designed
to exactly meet her needs in terms of
composition and quality.



Lively discussion followed the lecture



The panel addressed a range of interesting questions from the floor

City University; and Tamira Treffers-Herrera, regional head Europe at Rabobank.

Big data would be critical to this brave

new world that would require strong

of an ever-increasing population. Accurate understanding of demand would be essential, he argued.

partnerships to meet the dietary needs

Without new approaches to nutrition,

particularly in curbing the fast rising

world will starve or the planet will be

The lecture was followed by a panel

managing director of Fruitnet Media International and featuring Minette

Batters, president of the National

Farmers Union; Professor Corinna

School of Arts and Social Sciences,

Hawkes, director, Centre for Food Policy

debate chaired by Chris White,

wrecked.'

demand for animal protein. Unless foodchains and diets change 'half the

However, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal highlighted the need for trust alongside technology in meeting future needs. She could not envisage a world with one universal diet. In this she echoed the question asked by Master Rosie Carne: "In 2050, where would Sunday lunch be eaten – in a pub, at the home dining table or just popping a pill?"

# 2019 Agricultural Lecture & Dinner - BREXIT on the menu

The 2019 Annual Lecture and Dinner will perhaps be remembered as occurring in the midst of the most significant political crisis to hit the UK since Suez. With the lecture being given by noted economist and Brexit commentator Mr Mark Berrisford -Smith - the timing immediately after we were scheduled to leave the EU was perfect. Events and Parliament however conspired against us, which meant, what might have been expected to be a lecture on the effects of Brexit, had to be transformed into one on what might happen if there ever actually is a Brexit.

Mr Berrisford-Smith was however just as entertaining and enlightening as he would have been if the Brexit debacle had panned out in a more predictable fashion. The audience, hungry for an analysis that would help them predict the outcome, hung on his every word. And they were not disappointed - he even offered up hios own solution to the impasse - a sort, let's not be hasty, wait and see approach - with the possibility of a series of referenda every five years until a clear 60:60 (at least sixty percent of the population vote and at least sixty percent choose one option) consensus and path emerged.



Mr Mark Aitchison of Frontier Agriculture - main sponsors of the evening



A packed auditorium for the 2019 Agricultural Lecture and Dinner



Mark Berrisford-Smith on the economic implications of BREXIT

The audience, a very healthy mix of Liverymen and guests; corporate sponsors and their guests and members of the Company's Alumni Association, were thoroughly well entertained, in one of the nicest Livery Halls in London - The Plaisterers and enjoyed the opportunity to meet and chat to many of the great and the good in British Agriculture.

The Master spoke in introduction and thanked the corporate sponsors who help make the event possible and affordable for members. She made special mention of Frontier Agriculture the main sponsor for the event - it is through their generosity that we are able to invite members of our latest ACABM and CRL courses to attend the evening for free.



Liverymen, guests and sponsors listen attentively to an excellent lecture

covered market, which is full of colour

and life, the stalls with their fruit and veg

on display and amazing fish stalls, really

We all meet up for lunch, after which we

say goodbye to James who is off to meet

his wife and daughters from the

interesting to see and to spend time



## The Master's Summer Outing 2018

**Chairman of Education Karen Mercer reports** 

Tuesday 21st May and our greatly anticipated trip to Rapallo has arrived. We fly into Milan airport where we are met and transferred to Hotel Bristol in Rapallo, on the beautiful north west coast of Italy.

There are over 200 Hotel Bristol's throughout the world, named after the fourth Earl of Bristol and Bishop of Derry (1730 1803) he travelled extensively and was a connoisseur of all good things. The hotels in which he stayed came to be the best known and highly regarded in each town and city. Just the place for the Worshipful Company of Farmers to rest their heads for the next 4 nights.

This is the first time the Livery company has ventured over the sea for a visit and we have 43 signed up, Graham and Janet Bamford and Maggi from Windows on the Wild to help us on our way.

Over reception drinks on the beautiful terrace we were soon chatting to one another and getting to know our new family for the next few days. It has to be said that luckily James Peck was with us, not only to entertain us but also to

bring down the average age! That evening we dined in the Chamberlain restaurant enjoying the lovely sea views, a great start.

Wednesday 22nd May, we are off for a day trip to Cinque Terre, it starts with a short train journey and then we board a boat so that we can view the five villages from the sea. Monnterosso, Vernazza, Coniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore, these villages are centuries old and seem to cling to the steep terraces. The rugged and remote costal location has to be seen to be believed and in 1997 were awarded Unesco World Heritage Site status. These peaceful and idyllic villages have narrow streets of colourful houses, and dinky harbours filled with fishing boats There are terraces on the steep hillsides where

appear to be from an era long gone. A railway links the villages and only one village has cars, get there, it is rail or boat. We stopped, explored and soaked in the wonderful atmosphere. What a beautiful, unspoilt part of the world with such stunning views.

As we took the boat back to Portovenere, is was a lovely sight to see Christopher Day with his arm lovingly around Judy, how affectionate, no Judy just needed a little warm up as we sped across the water.

That night it was a Pizza dinner in Rapallo, when in Italy ....

and took the train to Santa Margherita and then the boat to Portofino. What a little adventure, which was made

> considerable easier as Christopher Day, who was the scout for the entire group

buy anything, honest) and seafood restaurants for us to enjoy. We find ourselves a restaurant in the centre of the square with comfy sofa's where we sit and watch the world go by. There is the unmistaken roar of Ferraris as at least 18 arrive and line the far end of the square.

airport for a week's holiday. How we will miss him! The afternoon is spent with a guide who tells us more about Genoa which is known for its maritime trade over many centuries. I particularly enjoyed the old part of the city with its narrow streets the Piazza de Ferrari and our visit to the Romanesque Cathedral of San Lorenzo with its black and white façade.

Our final evening, is just out of this world, we all get dressed up to go to The Splendino Hotel which sits above Portofino, we enjoy canapes and

champagne on the beautiful terraces, the terraces are full of gorgeous flowers with a heavenly scent and we look out on to the most beautiful views. We dine in a marquee on the terrace, every mouthful was an absolute delight and of course the accompanying wines were up to Graham's very high standard. How lucky we felt to be enjoying such a special evening with one another.

Only too quickly it was time for us to go, as we made for the minibuses, I could hear live music and how I wanted to dance. A gorgeous young Italian man took my hand and whisked me on to the dance floor. What bliss until I heard Graham telling me to come along, now I know how Cinderella felt – and it wasn't even midnight It was an evening that will stay in the memory bank for a long time

Saturday 25th and time for us to say our goodbyes and for us all to make our way back to our homes. Thank you to Graham, Janet and Maggi for all their hard work, organising and for making the trip so wonderful. Graham, did I hear you say there was another trip planned for next year?



locals can grow produce. It would there are no roads – you just can't

As I lay in my bed that evening, I could hear much fun and laughter on the terrace, who could that be but Mr and Mrs Tom Copas and Co. Damn I retired

Thursday 23rdMay, is a free day for us all to enjoy and after breakfast we all set of by various means to get to Portofino, my friend June and I walked into Rapallo, found the train station

went ahead and Whatsapped vital information to the rest of us. The sun is shining and the we can feel the heat on our backs, just perfect.

Portofino is a fishing village that has pastel-coloured houses and a small cobbled piazzettta square that overlooks the harbour which is lined with super-yachts. There are high-end boutiques for us to browse (I didn't

This is definitely the playground of the rich and famous.

A path leads from the Piazzetta to Castello Brown, a 16th-century fortress and museum with art exhibitions, the panoramic view is breath taking and well worth the

Having spent a wonderful afternoon, we catch the boat back to Santa Margherita and then a taxi back

to the hotel. It has to be said that our Master put us all to shame as she walked the last part, no taxi for Rosie. Yet again another delicious Italian dinner, this time in Santa Margherita.

Friday 24th May

Off by coach to Genoa, a port city and the capital of northwest Italy's Liguria region. We have the morning to browse around the shops and a few of us head off to the





### Sleepless in the Saddle 2019



The Master and the Sleepless in the Saddle riders at Farmers & Fletchers Hall

### **Organiser Richard Anscombe reports**

Cycling 115 miles through the night without sleep might sound like madness but in fact, for the 25 hardy souls who took part in the WCF "Sleepless in the Saddle" charity ride, it was a magical experience. And all in a great cause too – all the proceeds of our sponsorship goes to the WCF Charitable Fund.

We were given a good send off from our Farmers & Fletchers Hall, with a pasta supper and a good luck speech from the Master, before making our way through Hackney and the Lea Valley, Epping Forest and some lovely Essex countryside before night fell and we made our way across the Suffolk boarder to our first private food stop 61 miles in, just before Sudbury. The Master, plus David Bolton, our trusty Clerk, Graham and Geoff Dodgson gave us a warm welcome and the team supplied us with hot bacon baps and

Am, cusaecuptas magni quistrum coremporum, as dollabo. Et molendunt quis sitatia quidus. Catur maxim sunto quodit lignimi, odis es erepero eum faces ducilicid quo ium, cuptaestecte odi dempos sitam fugiae pre sunt laborum verio doluptatur rat.

drinks, which as you can imagine was most welcome.

Dawn approached as we reached the 100 mile mark and food stop two. Located in Framsden, Suffolk, we found our bacon baps, hot and colds drinks and energy drink all laid out for us. A massive thank you to **Bayer** for sponsoring both food stops.

Our riders, resplendent in our specially designed event shirts cycling shirts, generously sponsored by **Corteva**, our keynote sponsor, **Fram Farmers**, **Payne Crop Nutrition**, **ProCam and RED Design**, arrived at Dunwich, on the Suffolk coast, our final destination,

between 3:30 am and 8:30 am. where breakfast awaited. We were all tired but very happy

Highlights for me were seeing 25 of us all in our unique shirts riding through London. Watching the sunset and darkness set in, with a stream of red lights stretching as far as you could see. The first glimpses of dawn breaking through the darkness then arriving on the beach in the morning sun.

The camaraderie was fabulous and the event a magical experience for all! Thank you to our team of very willing and able volunteers. Thanks must also go to farmers James Nott and Glenn Buckingham for opening up their barns for our food stops and providing excellent facilities. We anticipate we will raise over £10,000 for the charities which we support."



Looking splendid in our specially designed shirts



Finally on the beach

### 2019 City and Livery Familiarisation Day



Our local pub sign recalls the original history of the Cloth Street area

Following the success of the first City & Livery Familiarisation Day in 2018 expectations for the 2019 event were high. It didn't disappoint. Attendance was excellent, with 35 members, guests and those interested in perhaps joining the Livery, attending.

This year the event was hosted by Fellowship and Communications committee member, Hugh Wykes, who



Liveryman Hugh Wykes chaired proceedings

did a splendid job chairing the event on the day and with the help of fellow committee member, Hilary Russel and Assistant Clerk Duncan Couper, organising and championing the event and drumming-up support.

We were very fortunate to have Alderman William Russel, the future Lord Mayor of the City of London, as our guest speaker. William talked about the original purpose of the City's guilds and liveries, the history of the The Deputy Master then spoke about how this is all delivered and the Company's structures and processes and most importantly about the role and duties of Liverymen, Court members and the Company's hierarchy.

Our wonderful Beadle Ted Prior completed the mornings presentations. Speaking from what he described as his position as a Gypsy Beadle - that is to say a beadle



A memorable visit to the Old Bailey completed our day

Livery movement and the important charitable role they now play in the life of the City.

Our Master, Rosie Carne, the 67th Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers, followed William and gave a very interesting potted history of the Company and of the Farmers & Fletcher's Hall. It was fascinating to hear about and the manifold machinations that eventually enabled the Company to have its own hall. And to be reminded of the various stage in its evolution to the hall we all know now. She also gave an excellent and insightful description of the purpose and activities of the Company today and talked about the charitable and education work the Company is engaged in.

not permanently attached to a hall although Ted said he was in fact, very attached to ours - he entertained us with his enormous knowledge of City formalities but told a few 'out-ofschool' tales of his experiences.

A light lunch was served, and the ceremony of the Loving Cup explored, explained and enjoyed. Altogether an excellent and very informative morning.

The afternoon was given over to a Blue Badge led, walking tour of some local historical highlights in the area immediately around the Company's hall. A tour that even those who professed some considerable knowledge of the City of London, found eye opening and entertaining.

The Worshipful Company of Farmers





### 2019 Master's Summer Visit to Bath DATE ????



The Roman Baths – a splendid location for the Master's Drinks Reception

The Master, Rosie Carne, has chosen to host her Summer Outing in her home City of Bath.

Accommodation has been reserved at the Francis Hotel which is ideally located in the City Centre. Participants will enjoy a Champagne and Canapé Reception around the Roman Baths, followed by a three course Dinner with wines & port served in the famous Pump Room to musical accompaniment.

Following breakfast on Wednesday morning, we will board an open top sightseeing bus for a tour of the City and outskirts.

#### There are still a few pots left bon this

trip so if you would like to book go to the Members Area of the Company's website or contact the Clerk at clerk@ farmerslivery.org.uk

### Livery trip to Lausanne, Switzerland September 8th – 12th 2020

With the memory of the success of the recent trip to Italy fresh in our minds, it is exciting to learn that the Clerk and Senior Warden have organised another summer trip for 2020. This time the Clerk and his team of agents have constructed a fantastic sounding tip to Lausanne in Switzerland.

The historic and beautiful city of Lausanne nestles on the shores of Lake Geneva, in the French-speaking Swiss region of Vaud. It is home to the International Olympic Committee's headquarters, as well as the Olympic Museum and lakeshore Olympic Park. Away from the lake, the hilly old city boast narrow, medieval, shop-lined streets and a 12th-century Gothic cathedral with an ornate facade. The 19th-century Palais de Rumine houses fine art and science museums.

The Company visit, takes place over four days, flying out from Heathrow on Tuesday 8th of September and based at the beautifully Chateau D-Ouchy hotel which is situated on Lake Geneva. The trip includes a host of delights, from visits to cheese and chocolate factories to a boat trip on Lake Geneva. In fact, almost every mode of transport you can imagine is represented.

You get to travel by plane, boat, railway and even cable car. And of course, with all the catering being overseen by our admirably well qualified, Clerk – you can be sure everything will be top notch.



The return to Heathrow will be on Saturday 12th September

To book see the events section of the Company's website, or contact the Clerk.

### Company 'History' updated

Past Master Follett Balch, with the assistance of several members of the Company particularly Deputy Master, John Reynolds, ably assisted by, friend of the Company, Dennis Chamberlain, has been working on a comprehensive update of the beautiful, hand lettered 'History of The Company' that was originally created when the Company moved into Farmers & Fletchers Hall.

The update, which has taken over two years of dedicated, hard and careful work, adds a detailed record of the Hall Fund Raising Project and a complete list of all those who made donations. Painstakingly researched and written by Follet and edited by Dennis Chamberlain, it covers the Hall refurbishment from conception to completion and re-opening.

The calligrapher, Annie Moring, was able to match the style of her original work exactly, so that the new material



The Master, with Past Masters John Reynolds and Follett Balch accepts the return of the Company History from calligrapher Annie Moring

now blends seamlessly with the old and brings the story of the Company and our Hall bang up to date.

The completed work was eventually returned to the Hall on Tuesday 12th February when the Master accepted the expanded book, on behalf of the

Company, at a small ceremony at the Hall. The hope is that a suitable, permanent location within the Hall can now be found to display the revised book, so that members of the Company and guests can share in the pleasure of this beautifully created artefact.

### The Company's 2019 visit to RAF Waddington



Survival training was part of a full day at RAF Waddington

The Company's 2019 visit to RAF Waddington, hosted by Flt Lt Eric Adlington, took place on Tuesday 14th May. It proved to be a very educational, if for some slightly chastening experience, as the members of our party attempted to land a Phenom Jet into Cranwell on the base's amazing simulator. Our reporter for this visit,

that some members were rather more successful than others.

Survival Training was also part of the full and entertaining agenda for the day - which is perhaps, in light of the flying skills demonstrated, just as well!

The Master also took the opportunity to present the Company's silver salver to this year's winner, Senior Air Traffic Controller Sqn Leader Allan Stubbs.

### HMS Defender update

In a burst of fire and smoke, the Farmers' affiliated warship, HMS Defender, tested her world-beating missile system off the coast of Scotland. Blasting from her silo, the missile flew four times the speed of sound before obliterating an incoming drone target designed to simulate a projectile attack on the ship. It marks the first time

Defender has taken on this particular type of target – one that is significantly more challenging as it flies faster and lower than others before it.

Assistant Clerk Duncan Couper, tells me

Defender's Senior Warfare Officer and Farmers Affiliates Officer, Lieutenant Commander Daniel Lee, said: "Being a part of our first firing against a fast-moving, low-level target has been a really rewarding experience.



HMS Defender tests is air defence capability



#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following were Admitted to the Freedom of the Company at the Court Meeting held on the 12th March 2019

## **Johnny Alan Dudgeon**Proposed by Ken Jones Seconded by Tony Strawson

Peter David Craven
Proposed by Graham Shooter
Seconded by Nick Johnson

**Keith Walter Redpath**Proposed by Rosie Carne
Seconded by Richard Halhead

**Geoffrey Michael Wright**Proposed by Christopher French
Seconded by Graham Smith

Stuart John Ross Philpot Proposed by Richard Crane econded by William Gemmill

**Giles William John Turton**Proposed by Rosie Carne
Seconded by Richard Halhead

The following were Clothed into the Livery at the Court Meeting held on the 12th March 2019:

James Richard Corbett Roderick George Balfour Parker William Edward Wild Duncan Charles West

The following were Admitted to the Freedom of the Company at the Court Meeting held on the 4th June 2019

Mr Peter Charles Jinman Proposed by Jeremy David Scriven Courtney Seconded by John Kenneth Reynolds

Mr James Robert Hume Proposed by David John Hargreaves Bolton Seconded by Richard Thomas Whitlock

#### **EVENTS 2019**

#### Tuesday 3rd & Wednesday 4th September

Masters Summer Visit – Bath Accommodation – Francis Hotel Bath

Reception – The Roman Baths, Bath Dinner – The Pump Room Bath City Sightseeing Bus Tour on the 4th September & Lunch

#### Tuesday 8th October

Harvest thanksgiving and Installation of the new Master Service - St Bartholomew the Great,

Luncheon - Haberdashers' Hall

Monday 16th September Masters' & Clerks' Luncheon Farmers & Fletchers' Hall

Saturday 9th November Lord Mayor's Show City of London

Tuesday 3rd December
Common Hall & Court and Livery
Luncheon
Carpenter's Hall, London EC2N 2]

#### **EVENTS 2020**

Tuesday 21st January Annual Livery Banquet Clothworkers' Hall

Tuesday 3rd March Court & Livery Luncheon Farmers & Fletchers' Hall Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th July Master's Summing Outing Norfolk

Tuesday 8th – Saturday 12th September Livery Short break

Monday 21st September Masters' & Clerks' Luncheor

Tuesday 13th October
Harvest thanksgiving and
Installation of the new Master
St Bartholomew the Great, West
Smithfield and Haberdashers' Hal

Tuesday 8th December Common Hall and Livery Christmas Luncheon Fishmongers' Hall

#### **EVENTS 2021**

Tuesday 26st January Annual Livery Banquet Drapers' Hall

#### **OBITUARIES**

#### Mr John Meikle Stevenson

of Lufness Mains, Aberlady, East Lothian who died on the 6th June 2019. He was Clothed on the 5th October 1992

#### Miss Margaret Loy Winter,

of Sidcup, Kent, who died on 19th March 2019, was made an Honorary Freeman on 1st October 2002. Miss Winter was Clerk to the Farmers' Company from 1992 – 2005.



The Company was delighted to welcome seven new Liverymen at the June Court