



The Worshipful Company of Farmers

Spring  
2017

# Newsletter

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



Advanced Course in Agricultural Business  
Management on pages 4/5



Challenge of Rural Leadership on pages 6/7

## Education Special



ACABM The Class of 2017

## inside

- 2 The Annual Livery Banquet
- 3 Inter-Livery Events
- 4/5 ACABM 2017
- 6/7 CRL 2017
- 8 News on new Educational offers
- 10 Oxford Farming Conference
- 11 Alumni Update
- 12 Events and Announcements





## 2017 Annual Livery Banquet



The Master and Wardens and their partners

Over 200 Liverymen, partners and invited guests, gathered in a near capacity Goldsmiths' Hall for the 2017 Annual Livery Banquet.

Dinner in the Grand Hall was opened by Senior Warden Julian Sayers who welcomed Liverymen and guests. To the accompaniment of the London Banqueting Ensemble, dinner was served with the menu choices, presentation, cooking and accompanying wine, as we have come

to expect under our able watch of our most excellent Clerk, superb. During his speech, the Master spoke passionately about the current state of the farming industry and made it plain that he sees the role of the Company and its educational offerings, as being more, rather than less, important and relevant as we move forward into a rapidly changing, Post-Brexit environment.



A packed Great Hall at the Goldsmiths'



Sir James Bucknall chats to RAU's Professor Jo Price

The Company's Silver Salver was presented, for a most unusual second time, to Liveryman Richard Halhead. It is a measure of just how popular this decision was, that when the presentation was made by Mr Meurig Raymond, President of the NFU, that the applause was loud and sustained. The principle guest speaker was Sir James Bucknall KCB, CBE. Sir James retired from the British Army in

November 2013 holding the rank of Lieutenant General and having been Commander of NATO's Allied Rapid Reaction Force from February 2011. He is currently CEO of Weybourne Partners, the Family Office of Sir James Dyson.

Sir James professed a certain nervousness over speaking about farming in front of an assembly of industry professionals. His address was however both amusing and insightful. He urged us to grasp the opportunity that comes with changing times.

An unusual and fun element was added to proceedings via the 'post horn chase'. This saw four

members of the London Banqueting Ensemble competing against each other on the post-horns for pre-eminence of both pitch and virtuosity – running at full pace. As is tradition at the Annual Banquet – the Loving Cup was passed and shared, with varying degrees of proficiency but a great deal of enjoyment, to the accompaniment of the singing of 'To be a Farmer's Boy'.





## Flipping Good Effort but No Prizes

On Tuesday 28th February our team battled 23 other Livery Companies and City institutions in the annual Inter-Livery Pancake Race. With the Master leading from the front our team comprised Senior Warden Julian Sayers, Liveryman Nick Padwick and representing the ladies Verity Harvey.

The format for the day, marshalled and controlled by the Poulterers, is a series of heats for the Masters, followed by the Liverymen, ladies and then finally the the Novelty event.

The Master, his face a picture of concentration and determination, stormed into an early lead in his heat

near me! But even this wasn't enough to get him into the Master's Final – with only the 5 fastest from the heats in each category making it through the Master was sadly eliminated.

It was a similar story for each of our team. Fast but not fast enough! Perhaps the unluckiest of our intrepid band was Verity, who like the Master Farmer got off to a flying start in her heat, only to slip at the treacherous 'pylon turn' and come crashing down – ruining her chances of what had seemed an almost certain semi-final appearance.

Nick Padwick did advance to the semi-final but was eliminated at this stage.

So no success to report again this year but for Julian, a learning experience. He now has the bit between his teeth for the 2018 event and is determined to lead a winning team – so prepare yourself for the call-to-arms once he takes over as Master.



Verity Harvey approaches the treacherous 'Pylon Turn'

With a full-house of entries and many other Companies waiting in the wings for an opportunity to compete, the event seems more popular every year.

and was never headed, eventually winning by a considerable margin and earning himself the epithet - The Flying Farmer - from a member of the crowd

## Inter Livery Ski Championships 2017

Hugh Wykes reports that this year the Farmers had a full team of four Liverymen in attendance for the 8th running of the Inter-Livery Ski Championships. The team who gallantly spent the 28th and 29th January sliding down the Morzine slopes trying to outpace the other 25 Companies taking part comprised Alick Jones, John Ward, Richard Whitlock and Hugh himself.

*"There are no major mishaps to report and although there were no trophies either, by the end of the prize giving dinner, thanks to Richard, everyone in the room was aware of the Farmers' presence."*

Our thanks go to Ironmonger Christopher Hudson for the efficient and friendly way the event was organised, no mean feat with 167 competitors." says Liveryman and our on the spot ski reporter Wykes. Next year the competition will be held on the 25th and 26th January. If you enjoy skiing why not come and join the team, either just for the competition, or for the week beforehand to get some practice in. Bring the family and if they are competitive they can race as guests. For further information contact Hugh Wykes. Email: [hugh@wykeslodge.co.uk](mailto:hugh@wykeslodge.co.uk) Mobile: 07831 186471. Or visit [www.liveryskiing.com](http://www.liveryskiing.com) for more information.



Hugh Wykes, Richard Whitlock, Alick Jones and John Ward



## The Master on Education

As Master I have been keen to develop a positioning statement that all members of the Livery, as well as the wider industry can understand. And we have now agreed it - **'Inspiring, encouraging, and developing excellence in the management of UK agriculture'**. You will see this appearing on every aspect of our work and communication. Education is of course at the very heart of this and having spent time with our two flagship leadership and management courses over the last few months I can assure you we are truly living up to these core objectives.

The words we hear repeatedly from the delegates of both courses are: *'a life changing experience', 'inspirational delivery', 'developed bonds for life', 'ready to start the next chapter in my life'* and perhaps most importantly *'thank you for developing the courses and for the financial support that has made it possible for me to attend'*.

As we look forward to 2020, farming will undoubtedly experience enormous change. There will of course be both challenges and opportunities but what is clear is that we will need to prepare more and more people to lead our industry into a vibrant, positive and profitable future. Our existing educational programmes, so ably lead by John Alliston and Richard Soffe, are without doubt world class and have stood the test of time with 67 ACABM courses and 21 CRL courses now behind us.

So we believe now it is the right time to widen our educational reach and in October this year we

are starting a one week, entry level management and development programme to be held at Keele University. The purpose of this new venture is to prepare young managers for leadership and management responsibilities and it will contribute to the growth of the wider rural sector.

Of course, farming and food businesses are becoming increasingly complex and carry enormous risk. We have recognised that we need to provide support beyond our existing business management delivery and we are now committing to sponsoring a delegate every year on the Cranfield Business Growth Programme.

Together with the Cranfield MBA programme, which we inherited from John Beckett a few years ago, the Worshipful Company of Farmers will now have the most comprehensive leadership and business management and development programmes within UK farming. We have always led the field in this area and I believe that we should be justifiably proud of both these new developments as well as what we have achieved over the last 60 years.

## The Advanced Course



ACABM The Class of 2017



Discussions at the 2017 ACABM





## Course in Agricultural Business Management



The 2017 running of this prestigious course was held at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester between 17th January and 5th February. Once again this year we were blessed with a strong candidate list and the selection process produced a really impressive list of delegates. So it was that eighteen very diverse and interesting agri-business managers arrived in the RAU's delightful and inspiring halls to start their three weeks of intensive and demanding work. The course is residential and intended to be entirely immersive with the delegates delving deeply into each others businesses and providing the external perspective we all need to be truly effective.

This year's group of three females and fifteen males was a lower gender mix than we would ideally wish for, but did contain the caliber of candidate and diversity of interests so important for

the success of the course. Adding to the dynamics of the group were two delegates from Germany and one from Australia.

The aim of the course is to develop the managerial skills of the individuals and the understanding of the management of land based businesses. This is achieved through enhancing present knowledge by the use of a range of educational techniques and exposure to influential industry leaders. This year the delegates were treated to a very high class group of speakers that included Professor David Hughes, Lord Don Curry, Sean Rickard, Jane King and Allan Wilkinson to name just a few of the excellent cast of presenters that Professor John Alliston, the Course Director, had engaged.

The delegates had a final wash-up session on the final Friday of the course, attended by the Master, the Chairman of Education and several other representatives of the Company.

The delegates gave a summing up presentation and answered questions from the Company. All of us who attended came away impressed.

Some of the concluding comments, that seem to reflect the overall impression of the whole group were ... *'The RAU is an excellent venue', 'The course was all I had expected and more besides', 'The leadership and organisational skills of John Alliston's team were first class', 'John Alliston must have a truly impressive 'Little Black Book' of contacts and speakers, the ones he chose for us were first class'.*

But perhaps the most significant comment, and this is something we have heard before, was

*'This has been a life-changing experience and I have made friends in these three weeks that I believe will last a lifetime.'*

Just being at Cirencester to hear these kinds of comments from our ACABM course delegates is an inspirational experience and it reminds you just how important it is that we continue to invest our hard earned, charitable funds in supporting this truly world class educational course.



Land Use Discussion Panel - Chair Dame Helen Ghosh members Prof Allan Buckwell, Martin Haworth, Jeremy Moody, Julian Sayers





## The Challenge of Rural Leadership

This year The Challenge of Rural Leadership course reached an important milestone - its 21st birthday.

Led by Richard Soffe and Geoff Kerr of the Duchy College Rural Business School this inspirational course, held at Dartington between the 22nd January to 4th February had eighteen attendees: for the very first time a husband and wife team were among the delegates. Wayne and Nicki Mann, both Nuffield Scholars, travelled from Australia to join the course. The number also included Vojech Riha, a Spearhead employee from the Czech Republic, making up a delegate list of eight females and ten males, which the group itself felt was an ideal candidate gender balance.

The 2017 speakers included Dr Bryon Walter OBE, who gave a very enlightening talk about his experience in the Balkan Conflict making very significant decisions under enormous pressure. Hospital A & E consultant Dr Andrew Appleboam led a discussion on 'prioritisation' – by reference to the



The Master and Chairman of Education Graham Shooter meet the CRL Class of 17



Group work at the 2017 CRL

situations that he faced in his daily duties.

The Minister of Agriculture - George Eustice - addressed the course on the final evening prior to the presentation dinner.

The following are A few short extracts

from the concluding summary of the two weeks at Dartington submitted by Wayne and Nicki Mann.

### Extracts from the Mann's Course Summary

*Dartington Hall is a venue oozing with history, character and prestige, so fitting for this course. The minute one arrives and sees the gorgeous, immaculately kept gardens and the grand buildings you feel like royalty and have to step-up and play the part, which is just like leadership.*

*Every single participant was an accomplished, highly successful individual but so personable and passionate to help one another achieve a common goal of improving ourselves for the betterment of the agricultural sector. This greatly added to the success of the course.*

*We have formed friendships, allies, mentors, confidants as well as bonds for life. There is a phenomenon that groups that have attended this particular course in the past still gather annually just to catch up, visit farms and generally keep each other motivated and focused on the bigger purpose. I can see this year's group being no exception.*





Challenge of Rural Leadership – Class of 2017

*Richard Soffe and Geoff Kerr, ably assisted by Chris Godolphin, spend all year ensuring they get the best selection of speakers to present to the course, they also interject with a strong framework of leadership tools to equip and assist us all to create the chance to maximise our success as future leaders in the industry. There is opportunity for role play, work-shopping ideas and getting into the nuts and bolts of what it takes to be a successful leader. We discussed the fact that this might sometimes include very difficult and hard to make decisions, have uncomfortable conversations or take difficult actions and how this can be very isolating and lead to you questioning yourself and your purpose.*

*The first week revolves the group doing a case study on an agricultural based business located within 200kms of Dartington. Every year the business selected for the course to perform the case study on changes. This year it was a family owned and operated business with its principle activities being farmhouse cheese making, packing and selling; dairy, beef, arable and pig farming; plus an agricultural contracting 50/50 partnership as well as a countryside education program operated through*

*a charity developed from an in-house education initiative. This gave the group a nice set of diverse challenges to get to grips with.*

*The second week focused more on individuals looking at 'work/life balance', emotional intelligence, 'wellness', 'thinking politically', viewing situations from 'the balcony and not just the dance-floor', considering other people's points of view, encouraging and opening up to feedback, empowering team members by 'giving the work back' and giving confidence to step-up do a 'power-pose' and have those uncomfortable conversations we often avoid.*

*We all had opportunities to be the chairperson for the day to fine tune our leadership skills. Every participant had to present to the group on our background, our farming business, our goals and aspirations which was so impressive, exhilarating and challenged us to push ourselves further to keep up with the amazing people we were surrounded by. The course concluded with a champagne reception with the Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers and some of their senior members PLUS the UK Minister of Agriculture attended and addressed this function.*



Delegates enjoy the benefits of stunning surroundings at the Duchy College





## Two New Courses - building on our legacy

### Leadership and Management Programme (LAMP)



LAMP the first of our new offers is designed to slot into our existing course structure. It is aimed at young agriculturalists preparing to make the step up to the first rung of the managerial ladder.

Delegates for this new course might be farmers' sons or daughters who have

returned home, and school leavers or young adults from many social backgrounds who are employed in the industry and who wish to commence upon their journey into management. They will already have good practical farming and countryside skills, but now wish to develop and express their management potential.

For the first, one week, residential course to be held at Keele University in Staffordshire we are planning to select between fourteen and eighteen delegates, aged between twenty and thirty. Their programme will commence at the crack of dawn each day, with project work sometimes not finishing until after ten in the evening. So the delegates will be working intensively through the whole experience.

The course content will focus on broadening the students' understanding of how a successful business operates, how to better apply their existing technical knowledge, develop financial management skills and how to more effectively engage with other people. The course will be interspersed with farm business visits and project work. It is anticipated that the students will gain from sharing ideas with their fellow delegates as well as insightful input from the lecturers, external speakers and course work. There is no exam at the end, but a feedback report will be offered to each attendee.

### Business Growth Programme

At the very top of our educational ladder we plan to introduce our second new offering. The opportunity for delegates sponsored by the Company to join the Business Growth Programme at Cranfield.

The Business Growth Programme has been specifically designed to meet the training and development needs of owners/managers of businesses and has been successfully running for 27 years. Although not targeted specifically at agriculture, for our delegates this is seen as an advantage, exposing them to the wider world of business management and indeed a number of agricultural delegates from all across the UK have successfully

participated in the past.

BGP is modular run over eleven weeks consisting of four two day modules, followed five weeks later by a Presentation Day and after a further six months by a follow-up Progress Review Day.

The theme of the course is very much individual development broadly based around the questions – where am I now, where am I going and how do I get there?

There is particular emphasis on the four Ms – Markets : Money & Measures : Management : Me. Participants will have on-going access to Cranfield as alumni and can join the BGP club

which extends their participation beyond the supervised length of the course and provides continued access to a counsellor.

The Company plans to sponsor, through the John Beckett Scholarship fund, its first delegate in 2017, with our contribution amounting to well over half the total course cost. And in future we are planning to increase the number of delegates we support. It is envisaged that alumni from both the Challenge of Rural Leadership and the Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management would be potential candidates for this new offering. And we will be marketing the course through the new alumni organisation as it gets up and running.





## WCF Scholars attend Oxford Farming Conference

Each year the Education Committee makes an award to two members of the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs to allow them to attend and participate in the Oxford Farming Conference.

This year's delegates were Sam Dilcock, from Goole, North Humberside and Caroline Trade from Cullumpton, Devon. There can hardly have been a year when debates such as those at Oxford were more important. Both within and outwith the industry questions about how our agriculture should function and be rewarded get ever more complex. At the very heart of the matter is the future of agriculture in the UK and its relationship both to the EU and the

rest of the world. Which is why our sponsorship is even more important this year than ever, because it is one way that the voice of the next generation of farmers in the UK can be heard and taken into account. Reading the reports from our scholars is a rewarding and enlightening experience. Not just because they give access to some of the goings-on at Oxford but because the perspective is that of the next generation (you can read the reports yourself by going to the WCF website).

And to validate the quality of the delegates we sent Caroline was awarded the prize for the scholar with the best contribution to the debate. The Master has made it clear that he

sees the role of the Company focussed very clearly on education and the improvement of the management of agriculture in the UK. The Oxford Farming Conference brings together a wealth of talent and experience - where better for us to spend our hard earned charitable funds than making sure young farmers get access to this resource.

### George Padwick receives the 2017 Attfield Brookes Award

In common with most Livery Companies, the Worshipful Company of Farmers continues the custom of formal Apprenticeship - whereby a Liveryman as 'Apprentice Master' may have bound to him or her 'a son, daughter, grandchild or other relative (age 14 to 21) who joins the Company under special terms as an 'Apprentice'.

The Attfield Brooks Trust Fund makes awards to encourage apprentices bound to the Company to seek educational or work experience opportunities in agriculture or allied industries, either in this country or overseas.

The recipient of the 2016 award made in October last year was George Padwick bound to father Nick in 2014 and currently working with Aubourn Farming, The Master's farm contracting business in Lincolnshire.



## The Jubilee Scholarships

During her year as Master in 2001/2002 HRH the Princess Royal helped the Company establish a Scholarship Fund to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Farmers Company and Her Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee.

Awards are made each year to assist younger members of the agricultural community with their educational training expenses. The awards are made through the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs. As well as receiving a financial award for training purposes, recipients are also allocated a 'Livery Buddy'.

The 'Buddy is selected to be relevant to area of interest of the recipient, this helps create the opportunity for them to be directly involved in the area of agriculture that most interests them. The 'Buddy' also helps them become involved with the Company so that they make the most of the Company's contacts and expertise.

### The 2016 Awards

Three Awards were made in September 2016

21 years and Over - Matthew Denby from Lincolnshire. His Livery buddy is Scott Norris

18 - 21 - Chloe Dunne from Leicestershire. Her Livery Buddy is Grant Burton

Under 18 - George Smith from Warwickshire. His Livery Buddy is Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard.

### The 2017 Awards

For 2017 the arrangements for making awards have been changed to reflect the entries we have had in previous years. So for 2017 there will be three age categories instead of two; 'Under 18 years', '18-21 year olds' and 'Over 21 years old'.





## The More we Raise the More We Can Do

Chairman of the Funding Committee Richard Whitlock is working hard with his colleagues on the committee to generate the sponsorship revenue to supplement our charitable funds and to help us extend the reach of the Company's education offer.

We have been fortunate in securing generous donations from several prominent members of the Company. But in truth we need to do more. Costs are rising and as our Charity Co-ordinator Richard Halhead points out, the income from our investments

is particularly under pressure during these very low returns times.

The WCF Agricultural Education Programme now extends from youngest just setting out on a management career, through middle management and right on up now to business managers and owners.

Anyone able and willing to help the Company fund entrants at any point on this ladder should contact Richard Whitlock by email at [richard@richardwhitlockltd.co.uk](mailto:richard@richardwhitlockltd.co.uk) or by phone on 01767 631382

## Charity – its all about Education

Now that the refurbishment of our Hall is complete and the Hall Board is marketing the venue with enthusiasm, I once again thank those of you who gave so generously to make it all possible. The Board now needs our support in use of the Hall and, having recently hosted a most enjoyable birthday lunch there, I commend it to you all. If you, your family, your business or anyone you know needs to provide hospitality in London may I suggest you contact "Farmers and Fletchers in the City."

The soul of our Livery Company is Charity and that translates, in our case, chiefly into education. You will read in this newsletter of our various offerings in this field, but suffice to say, we are constantly striving to be the best and ensure that our Courses are the first choice and flagships within our industry.

The successful Hall Appeal ensured that our modest investments remain intact for charitable purposes; but the best is never the cheapest and costs inexorably rise so we must maintain and increase our Charitable Fund. I have news of another substantial legacy coming our way which will

increase our investment income. I hope many of you have already remembered your Livery Company or are minded to do so in your Last Will and Testament, however generous or modest, in order to secure the future of our charitable work.

### GO THE EXTRA MILE, IT IS USUALLY QUIET OUT THERE!

Charity Co-ordinator Richard Halhead  
email [rthalhead@gmail.com](mailto:rthalhead@gmail.com)  
or telephone 01524 752421

## Affiliations visit Defender's Bottom

Members of the Affiliations Committee were invited on a fascinating visit to see our affiliated ship HMS Defender as she goes through overhaul and upgrades. The picture shows just how vast the ship is when you get to see it out of the water and close-up.

## Annual Thanksgiving Service for our ATC Affiliates

On Sunday 12th February Past Master Jeremy Courtney and our Affiliations Officer, Liveryman Anne Courtney, had the pleasure of attending the Air Training Corps Annual Service of Thanksgiving at St Clement Danes Church in the Strand. Some 530 Air Cadets marched from Lincolns Inn to the Church. The top male and female Cadet of the London and South East Region read the two lessons and a number of others took an active part in the service.

The Livery has arranged for a small group of 12 Air Cadets to visit the New Holland Ford Tractor factory in Basildon on 4th April 2017, and it is hoped if this is successful it will be an annual visit which will link-in with their STEM (Science, Maths, Engineering and Technology) studies.



The Affiliation Committee visit to Defender





## Calling all WCF Alumni – we need your views



The Company, recognising the importance of the growing body of Alumni accumulating from its several educational courses, has taken the first steps in the development of a new organisation to help maximise the value that delegates get from a WCF course and to facilitate better contact

between the numerous course/year groups that already meet and each other and between all Alumni and the Company.

A Steering Committee of Alumni, under the chairmanship of Assistant Richard Davies, has been appointed and is in the initial stages of outlining the purpose, remit, governance and funding of the new body.

The Steering Committee would very much like to hear from all WCF Alumni who would like to contribute their views on how the new Alumni Organisation should operate during this planning

stage. The members are Charles Anyan, Christopher Day, Milly Fyfe, Mark Hall, Tim Isaac, Richard Milligan-Manby and Holly Parry.

If you already know a committee member please do get in touch with them directly and talk through what you would like to get out of being an Alumni and how we can help facilitate this. If you need help with contact details for any of them please email me the chairman on [Richard@redcomms3D.com](mailto:Richard@redcomms3D.com) or call me on 07836 333008.

A little later there will also be an opportunity to comment, once formulated, on the outline plans. The Committee will be circulating a draft of the structure and ways-of-working to all Alumni for whom we hold an email address – so make sure we have an up-to-date one for you.

## Obituary – Past Master Arnold Hitchcock

It is with great sadness that we report the death on the 27th February 2017, of Past Master Arnold Hitchcock. Arnold, born on the 15th August 1934, played a very significant role in the development of the Company and in particular its educational offering.

Arnold was apprenticed to his Father, Edward Hitchcock, for four years from the 4th June 1955, it is interesting note on his indenture - 'For Faithful services his Master (his Father) would provide him with meat, drink, apparel, lodging and all other necessities - references to pay was crossed out!

He applied to become a Freeman on the 8th July 1959 and was admitted on the 29th July in the same year, when it was noted that he was farming on the family firm 'Tinney & Hitchcock's 1700 acre farm. He was clothed with the Livery on the 14th December 1959.

In 1978 Arnold became the first apprentice in the history of the Worshipful Company of Farmers to rise to the position of Master (1978 -79).

He was Hon Archivist until 2011, Chairman of Almoners until 2014 Became Senior Past Master in 2005.

The following is representative of the many tributes paid to Arnold by members of the Company and the wider local and agricultural communities.

*'A perfect diplomat - full of charm and extremely able - I have to thank Arnold for 46 years of enjoyment and education whilst being a member of the Worshipful Company of Farmers.'*

It was Arnold, following an initiative of previous Master Michael Cheveley (Master in 1977/8 ), who really drove



the process of starting the course that has now become the highly respected 'Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management'. By helping to create and develop, what was then an innovative format, with its core based on case-study work, he laid the foundations. And over the next twenty years of close involvement with it, helped make it the very real asset to the Company it is today.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following were admitted as Freemen by redemption at the Court meeting on the 5th December 2016

**Mr Steven George Corfield**  
Proposed by  
Graham Clive Holdich Smith  
Seconded by Philip Graham Wynn

**Mr John William Stanley**  
Proposed by  
Baroness Hazel Byford DBE DL  
Seconded by Lord Plumb  
of Coleshill DL

**Mrs Patricia Wheatley-Hubbard**  
Proposed by  
Baroness Hazel Byford DBE DL  
Seconded by Julian Anthony Sayers

The following was admitted as a Freeman by redemption at the Court meeting on the 7th March 2017

**Mr Poul Jorgen Hovesen**  
Proposed by Lancelot Millen Lepper  
Seconded by Edward Clemson  
Watson

The following were clothed with the Livery at the Common Hall meeting on the 6th December 2017

Rupert Donald Alston  
Michael Astley Arlington  
Peter Campbell Bennett  
Andrew Irwin Blenkiron  
Christopher Charles Denne  
Nicholas Charles Major  
Benjamin Anthony Parker  
John Robert Ward  
Peter Charles Waldie Ward

The following were clothed with the Livery at the Court meeting on the 7th March 2017

Mr Robert James Willey  
Mr Roger James Wyatt

New Apprentice  
Alice Dorothea Shaw Rayner  
(Apprentice) was bound to Colin  
Martin Rayner (Master) for a term of  
four years from the 7th March 2017.

## EVENTS

### 2017

**Wednesday April 12th**  
Agricultural Lecture and Dinner  
Plasterers' Hall

**Tuesday 9th May**  
Festival of Sons of the Clergy  
St Paul's Cathedral

**Monday 5th June**  
Past Masters' Dinner  
Farmers & Fletchers' Hall

**Tuesday 6th June**  
Court and Livery Luncheon  
Farmers & Fletchers' Hall

**Monday 26th June**  
Election of Sheriffs of the City of  
London – Guildhall

**Monday and Tuesday 3rd  
and 4th July**  
The Master's Summer Outing  
Beeswax Dyson Farming and  
Belvoir Estate

**Monday 18th September**  
Masters and Clerks' Luncheon  
Farmers and Fletchers' Hall

**Sunday 24th September**  
Annual Livery Sheep Drive  
London Bridge

**Friday 29th September**  
Election of Lord Mayor – Guildhall

**Tuesday 10th October**  
Installation, Court and Luncheon  
Haberdasher's Hall

**Thursday 23rd November**  
Past Masters' Meeting and  
Luncheon  
Farmers & Fletchers' Hall

**Monday 4th December**  
Court Meeting – Farmers and  
Fletchers' Hall

**Tuesday 5th December**  
Common Hall and Christmas Livery  
Luncheon – Clothworkers' Hall

### 2018

**Wednesday 17th January**  
Annual livery Banquet  
Stationers' Hall

**Tuesday 13th February**  
Annual Livery Pancake Race  
Guildhall Yard

## DEATHS

It is with sadness and regret that we announce the deaths of the following:

**John Edmund Bartleet** of  
Baldwins Farm, Great Tey,  
Colchester, Essex who died on  
the 16th January 2017. He was  
clothed on the 7th December  
1981

**Arnold Quinney Hitchcock CBE**  
of Church End, Stocking Pelham,  
Buntingford, Hertfordshire who  
died on the 27th February 2017.  
He was bound as an Apprentice  
to his Father on the 16th June  
1955, clothed on the 14th  
December 1959 & was Master in  
1978.  
He also served as Almone, Hon  
Archivist and Senior Past Master.

**George Robert Douglas** of  
Thorganby House, Grimsby,  
Lincolnshire who died on the  
15th March 2017. He was clothed  
on the 29th November 1993.  
He became a Yeoman on the 6th  
December 2015.

The Worshipful Company of Farmers' Newsletter is published by the Worshipful Company of Farmers.

Clerk Mr Graham Bamford, FIH MI,  
24 Herons Place, Old Isleworth, Middlesex  
TW7 7BE Tel: 020 8326 2945.  
Email [clerk@farmerslivery.org.uk](mailto:clerk@farmerslivery.org.uk)

Editor Mr Richard Davies Tel: 01285 851675,  
email [richard@redcomms3d.com](mailto:richard@redcomms3d.com)