



Tony Alston installed as Master



The Master, Tony Alston with Senior Warden Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard and Junior Warden Philip Wynn

On October 14th Tony Alston was installed as the 63rd Master of our Company following in the footsteps of Baroness Byford. Tony's grandfather 'emigrated' from Scotland in 1903 and was part of the first wave of Scots farmers to come to East Anglia. Tony is very proud of his ancestry and regularly appears in his clan's colours.

Tony combines a sense of tradition with innovation and an enthusiasm for 'Using the Assets' which is an ideal combination for what will be a year of significant change with the refurbishment of the hall at 3 Cloth Street, the vision of the Commission 2020 report continuing to be realised along with the introduction of state of the art communication systems via the web site and the key appointment of a new Clerk to succeed Col. David King who will be leaving after ten years of outstanding administration.

Tony was educated at Fettes College in Edinburgh, 10 years ahead of Tony

Blair, then on to Reading University, where despite the best efforts of Liveryman Professor Malcolm Stansfield, he took five years to complete his degree!

When it comes to tradition, Tony still lives on the farm where he was born at Brockford in Suffolk, where his father acquired two farms totalling about 1,000 acres in 1936 at the age of only 21. However, the farm today is very different from when Tony was born towards the end of WWII. The two dairy herds he once managed, have long disappeared, the fields are much larger to suit modern mechanised farming and many trees have been planted since the 'Plant a Tree in 73' campaign onwards.

"The trees were planted where the pheasants wanted to appreciate them, but today we have a very pleasant landscape," says the Master who is a keen shot and has developed a commercial shoot. His shooting prowess resulted in Tony being the

organiser of the Farmers' teams at the annual inter-livery clay shoot held at the Holland and Holland ground in North London.

The drive to make the most of the assets on the farm began in Mrs Thatcher's era. As the farm workforce declined and tenancy laws changed, so the cottages were let on ASTs and the older farm buildings converted to light industrial units. One of the most striking developments is the Mid-Suffolk Light Railway Museum on his land and Tony's latest innovation was the creation of Brockford Railway Sidings, a holiday accommodation venture. The Company may experience a steam train as part of the Master's summer tour.

Our new Master's engagement with the Worshipful Company of Farmers stretches back a long way. However, it was not until 1984 that he joined the Company, following in the footsteps of other family members, although his father was a Master Glazier, and two siblings were also Glaziers and another sister a Wax Chandler.

Aside from the farming business, Tony is passionate about rugby. He has both played for and been president of his local club at Diss. However, his traditional roots remain firm as he travels to support Scotland in the Six Nations competition.

Tony is married to Mary Foster who works in the City and is a member of the Worshipful Company of Arts Scholars. He has two children – Rupert and Joanna – from his first marriage and three grandchildren. Tony has decreed that Mary be referred to as 'The Farmer's Wife' to avoid the expression of Mistress Farmer causing any misunderstandings! This is the year of USE the ASSETS.



OUT AND ABOUT

Progress on Cloth Street, the Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall

Prepare to be amazed by the transformation of our Hall. You will arrive in a spacious entrance and be greeted by attendants in a large cloaks area. Having deposited coats and bags you will progress to the ground floor Reception where, before a Lunch, drinks will be served and there will be space to circulate comfortably. Special acoustic materials will moderate noise levels and full air conditioning will keep you fresh. Lunch is called and you will descend via an elegant spiral staircase or lift to the Hall, passing en route, the Heritage Wall.



Construction underway

The building is currently hidden by scaffolding and screens as conversion of the upper floors to apart-hotel progresses. (See photo). We have selected a contractor who will start work in January when our part of the ground floor will be clear. That is when the serious invoices will start to arrive.

Inevitably this is an expensive scheme. We are within budget thus far and, as Chairman of the Project Board, I am charged with keeping it so. We are being well advised by our project managers Cushman & Wakefield and between now and January they and the contractor will be exploring ways of saving costs.

Of course it will be a wonderful facility for us and, just as important, is the potential to attract lucrative lettings. The Court Room, which can be divided if required, and the separate Meeting Room will have full video conferencing facilities and Wi-Fi will be available throughout the premises. In the Hall, digital projectors will drop from the ceiling when required yet be inconspicuous when not.

We are fortunate that our predecessors had the vision and commitment to assemble a site within the City and redevelop it with the existing building. Their investment has appreciated

hugely in value since then and will continue to do so. The income that we will generate from lettings will partly finance our charitable activities including our flagship courses.

Now is the time that we all, as liverymen, need to step up and contribute generously. This is an investment that will benefit the charitable aims of the Company for many years ahead, provide us with a Hall of which we can be proud and give you great pleasure when you attend functions.

Deputy Master Peter Faulkner

INTER-LIVERY SHOOT AT HOLLAND & HOLLAND MAY 21ST 2014



The Court Team

We were blessed with fine weather for the third successive year and this time there were three full Farmers teams amongst the 100 teams present. This is the biggest clay shoot in the country and very well run by the Environmental

Cleaners with profits going to the Lord Mayor's and other charities. The H&H shooting ground is 60 acres of prime countryside, based in Northwood in North West London and only 17 miles from the City. For keen statisticians, 100 teams of four shots over ten stands plus the Flurry equals 40,000 cartridges and 40,000 clays!

The Farmers 'B' team was led by Liveryman Alistair Pinkerton and his local farmers and was the best of our three teams with a score of 285 which placed them in a very creditable 9th position overall. Daniel Bone was the best performer with a score of 64 (out of 80). They were very well served by Mrs Mitch Manning who ran a frequent drinks service, non-alcoholic of course!

Farmers 'A' was the Senior Warden's team and they came a close second with 277 with Keith Bright, brother of Liveryman David Bright, top-scoring with 67. However the top Liveryman of the day was the Warden's cousin, Robert Alston.

The third team in all respects was the Farmers' Court Team led by Junior Warden, Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard, but their score was 'undisclosed' on the day. However the editor has used good offices to obtain their score which is available for a modest fee.

The teams were ably supported by Liveryman John Evans who shot with his camera, retired early for pork crackling and drinks before departing south for his usual mid-week tennis.

How the Farmers' Livery 'works'

For many Liverymen the workings of the Farmers' Livery is a mystery. The Clerk sends out letters informing the members about events and they just seem to happen with detailed seating plans and suitable menus. The two prestige courses at Cirencester and Duchy get rave reviews, inter-livery competitions are fought every year but behind all these events a huge amount of work is carried out.

This article aims to dispel the mystery and credit the liverymen and friends who make it run so smoothly and most of the time free of charge. Unlike a trading company we do not have a managing director, executive directors etc. but operate through a number of committees. The Masters act as 'non-exec' chairmen during their year in office but the key person who co-ordinates all activities is the Clerk. He attends all the meetings, takes minutes and communicates with members and liverymen on a very regular basis. Our Company has been extremely fortunate in having Col. David King as our Clerk and his ten years of service, backed by his wife Pam, will be a very hard act to follow.

The Company has the equivalent of a Board of Directors in the 'Court' which is presided over by the Master and consists of the Wardens, Assistants, ten Past Masters, chairmen of the committees as well as some additional specialists.

The key committees, not necessarily in order of importance, are:

The Education Committee, currently chaired by Graham Shooter, manages all aspects of our two high profile courses run at Duchy College and Cirencester University along with any research projects headed by Prof David

Leaver. Their work includes liaising with the colleges on course contents, candidate selection and helping students with funding needs.

The Finance Committee, chaired by David Bolton, oversees all aspects of the Company's finances, both the charity and the trading entities, the preparation and monitoring of budgets and the production of annual accounts. This committee has two sub-committees namely, the **Investment sub-committee**, also



The gowned Clerk

chaired by David Bolton, to manage the investment strategies relating to the finances of both entities and the **Property sub-committee**, chaired by Julian Sayers, to manage the tortuous legal and technical implications of the construction as well as the financial implications. The work is made more complicated as we share ownership of the hall with the Fletchers and decisions have to be agreed by both parties. The work of this group is very demanding in time and effort but the outcome will be a 'jewel in our crown'.

The Funding Committee is an essential part of any charity to ensure that capital resources are not impacted during periods of very low interest income. The committee is chaired by Past Master Assistant John Reynolds and has resulted in the recruitment of a number of Corporate Partners including HSBC Bank, ForFarmers, Agrovista and Frontier Agriculture with a number of other sponsors for individual projects.

The Fellowship and Communications Committee, (previously Livery Liason Committee) has a very wide remit and is responsible for all events and services to members. It is chaired by David Bright and looks after communications such as the web site and the twice yearly newsletter.

It is currently reviewing how to attract younger members, beefing up communications with other Livery Companies and how to streamline contact using modern technology.

The Affiliations Committee is chaired by David King and co-ordinates our activities with the armed services and cadets: HMS Defender, RAF Waddington, RAF cadets and the Westminster Dragoons.

Other committees are: the **Almoners** who distribute charitable donations to deserving organisations, **Henman Brooks** who provide financial support for students and **Nominations** who handle key appointments. The **Charity** co-ordinator Richard Halhead keeps a constant hand on obtaining new income such as legacy donations and funding for the Hall refurbishment.

Liverymen David Bright and John Evans.



RECENT EVENTS

Sheep drive over London Bridge



Happy Farmers

On Sunday October 5th The Worshipful Company of Farmers fielded two teams of ten to exercise our rights as Freemen of the City to drive sheep across the bridge.

The event was organized by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen and attracted large crowds of rather bewildered visitors and a gaggle of animal welfare folk to make sure that

the sheep were well cared for. Senior Warden Tony Alston had provided everyone with hessian aprons and many of the farmers were very appropriately dressed. It was a fine sunny day and I understand that some members later enjoyed a dinner of Barnsley chops. The photograph is of one party of ten with Liveryman Richard Anscombe brandishing his certificate confirming his participation.

Cirencester Convocation Ceremony



The Presentation Group

On July 30th The Royal Agricultural University held their annual Convocation ceremony held at the Church of St John the Baptist in the heart of Cirencester at which Eleanor Kay was presented with the Worshipful Company award as the outstanding student of the year.

Eleanor won the award for her dissertation on 'Analysis of the effects of sulphur application on winter wheat with a view to challenging the current yield plateau'. She also received her

BSc (Hons) degree in agriculture at the ceremony. Liveryman James Townshend was also honoured at the event with the award of an Honorary Fellowship from the RAU and he also gave the opening address.

The photograph shows Eleanor with Liveryman Prof. John Alliston, Past Master Richard Brooks, Richard Halhead, Rosie Carne, Graham Shooter and Dr Stephen Chadd, Dean of the School of Agriculture, Food & Environment.

Bishop Burton Prize Winner



Adam Milner receiving his award from Christopher Day

This year's award winner was Adam Milner and the photograph is of him receiving the award from Liveryman Christopher Day.

It comes as no surprise that Adam, in common with many other students, does not come from a farming background but at the age of 31 has started on the road to involvement with the world of agriculture. He spent ten years as a residential estate agent before entering Bishop Burton College to study Resource Management and after

graduating next year hopes to undertake an MSc in Rural Estate Management and have a career in rural surveying. He now spends a great deal of time working at local farms to gain experience of agricultural practices including working with a beef suckler herd, a flock of sheep and also part of a pea vining team. He has a 16 month old daughter which leaves little spare time but is a welcome recruit to the beautiful world of farming!

WCF v The Farmers Club Golf Challenge

On October 13th the Livery challenged The Farmers Club and the match was played at Royal Winchester, weather variable! The format was 4BBB with 8 players on both sides. As one would expect the match was played in a very sporting atmosphere with both sides determined to win!

I am delighted to report that due to sparkling displays from Past Master

Assistant Jeremy Courtney, Liverymen John Alliston and Jeremy Hitcham and Freeman Andrew Hay and Gerald Bonner we won three of the four matches. To console the captain of The Farmers Club I lost the final match! After the match we had a very pleasant 3 course meal and left looking forward to next year's encounter. The plan for 2015 is to have matches

against The Farmers Club and The NFU plus other Worshipful Company golfers. We have had invites to join others e.g. The WC of Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers in their events. If anyone has not registered with me to join the golf and they would like to play (ladies or gentlemen) could they e-mail me at martin1943@hotmail.co.uk Liveryman Martin Taylor

MILITARY AFFILIATIONS

RAF WADDINGTON

Over the past year our affiliation with RAF Waddington has been cemented into a permanent and lasting association through the good offices of Past Master Assistant John Reynolds and Liveryman Tony Ireland.

The highlight of the year was on June 10th when The Master and twenty two Liverymen visited the Station and were treated to a most fascinating and memorable day. We were addressed by the Station Commander Group Captain Richard Barrow, OBE who gave us a

brief history of this famous station. Sqn Ldr Colin Redican then gave us an excellent introduction, in layman's language, into the workings and capabilities of the unmanned 'Reaper' vehicles based at Waddington. This was a particularly important talk and dispelled many myths about the aircraft and emphasised their very precise capabilities and under what circumstances they might be used. After lunch we were party to the presentation of the Worshipful Company of Farmers Award for Leadership and Initiative. The citation was read by Wing Cdr Jim Beldon and

was awarded to Warrant Officer Mark Evans for his outstanding contribution to the success of the station. The award, in the form of a silver salver, was donated by Liveryman Tony Ireland and presented by The Master. This was a truly fascinating day out for The Farmers' Company and grateful thanks to Past Master John Reynolds for organising it and to Group Captain Barrow and his crew for their welcome. In July this year Waddington released a very comprehensive Fact Sheet on the activities at the Station and this can be found by going to our web site in the Military Affiliations section.

AIR CADETS

On Sunday September 21st our Cadet affiliate, the Middlesex Wing Air Training Corps, held their annual Field Day and Review at RAF Northolt. Some 500 cadets took part in the events on a sunny day in North London, occasionally interrupted by jets taking off from the airfield, and it was a pleasure to see so many young people from every ethnic background enjoying the friendship that the cadet organisation provides. The Company was represented by the Master, the

Clerk, Liveryman John Evans, Past Master Assistant Jeremy Courtney and his wife Liveryman Anne Courtney who is our new contact with the cadets. The winner of the Worshipful Company of Farmers' trophy was 2473 (Highlands and Southgate) Squadron, represented by Flight Lieutenant Becky Baker, for the outstanding community involvement activities of its cadets. The photograph is of the Master receiving a gift of a framed Middlesex Wing pennant from Sqn Ldr Dejan Mihailovic with Brig Sam Evans, the reviewing officer. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Hillingdon, Bruce Holder CB QC DL, was also present.



The Master receiving the pennant

WESTMINSTER DRAGOONS

Our affiliation with the Westminster Dragoons has recently been greatly enhanced through the involvement of Liveryman George Jessel DL who, following two successful social events, arranged a meeting for the Master to discuss with the Squadron the issues surrounding funding for the reservists. Earlier this year the Government announced that as part of the Armed

Forces review a further 18,000 army reservists would be needed and Baroness Byford was keen to establish how they were faring. She was somewhat dismayed by what she found and asked that a paper be written outlining some practical improvements and 'quick wins' that could be made to improve the state of affairs. This paper was informally briefed to key senior stakeholders at

MOD Main Building in July and was well received confirming much of what others had reported. However some months on little has changed in terms of equipment availability, administrative burden and lack of human and financial support. This serious situation needs to be challenged and through the Farmers' association with the Westminster Dragoons George Jessel will actively support the campaign.

HMS DEFENDER

Our affiliated Ship, HMS Defender, is now in active service and is due to return to her home base in Portsmouth by Christmas this year.

The Ship is at the cutting edge of the surface fleet and a significant asset in

the Arabian Gulf. It is reported that her duties involve providing air defence in a US carrier group led by USS George H W Bush providing aircraft carrying out missions against Islamic State targets.

The photograph is of Defender leaving port on her first day of active service.



Defender leaving port



'Nothing to do with me'



The convivial diners aboard the Thames Princess



Karen Mercer leading the good astray



Tower Bridge at dusk

THE SUMMER OUTING TO LONDON TOWN - JULY 1st



The west front of Westminster Abbey

many artefacts and treasures rarely seen by the public. The Chapel of the Order of the Bath was particularly stunning and the photograph is of the stained glass window behind the altar.

Following the service we walked to Westminster Pier to join the Thames Princess for a memorable voyage down the river as far as the Thames Barrier passing under many famous bridges and past dozens of well-known buildings. It was a warm summer evening and a convivial drinks reception was followed by an excellent meal and wines. Compliments must be made to Mark Grove of Cook and Butler for preparing the meal on board with rather limited facilities and his



Stained glass in the Chapel of the Order of Bath

This year's Summer Outing was arranged by the Master, Baroness Byford, and was based in the heart of London around very familiar locations.

We started with a memorable and beautiful Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey where Liverymen and guests sat close to the altar and choir. The service was also attended by the High Commissioner for Canada. After Evensong we were given a very special tour of the Abbey and shown



The Abbey Choir looking east

team for serving in very cramped conditions.

The journey downstream was quite a raucous occasion with two reverend gentlemen, our own Chaplain, Dr Stuart Burgess, along with the sub dean of the Abbey, Canon Andrew Tremlett and his wife in fine form. The trip back to Westminster was memorable for the stunning evening light and one of the photographs shows Tower Bridge in a delightful setting. We disembarked and staggered away to various places of rest and some Liverymen even found a drinks establishment to round off a memorable day.

The following day many of the party went on a tour of the Houses



The Victoria Tower at The House of Lords



The dining room at the House of Lords

inimitable Parliamentary style and we were then released to listen to a debate in the House of Lords or to make the journey home.

This was a very enjoyable two day excursion and thanks as always to the Clerk for his amazing organizational skills and to fellow liverymen who furnished me with photographs. The two of

of Parliament and met up with the others at the Cholmondeley Room for a reception on the terrace followed by an excellent lunch. After lunch we were addressed by the Master in

the West Front of the Abbey and of the Choir in the Abbey are the Copyright of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster.

Liveryman John Evans



Surrey Dock City Farm News



The winning show team

Since the rebuilding of the farmyard last Autumn the farm has really prospered with a very busy schedule of regular activities and was visited in September by a large group of agricultural journalists from across the world. The farm is given huge practical support by Liveryman Edward Hitchcock who keeps them supplied with hay and straw as well as removing the 'muck'.

Most weeks Rosemary at the farm writes an E-newsletter full of interesting stories about recent activities and here is an extract from

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Over the past year Past Master Assistant John Reynolds has been in discussion with a number of leading companies engaged in the farming sector to establish their interest in becoming Corporate Partners of our Company.

The Court is now pleased to formally welcome four well known organisations as Corporate Partners to the Worshipful Company, who with their charitable support, join in with the fellowship we all derive from a shared interest in farming by encouraging excellence in

her latest missive: 'My lips have been sealed, but I can now tell you for the last five weeks the Farm has been involved in 'Secret Cinema', for screenings of the film 'Back to the Future'. The Secret Cinema hosted our goats, sheep and chickens for the event and built a replica of Peabody Farm which is featured in the film'. The newsletter also gives updates on the state of play of the animals with many new piglets being fattened and two calves born recently. The donkeys are doing well and the eggs from the chickens realize significant income. For those who have visited the farm the tower building, which was

the agricultural industry, promoting business management, educational travel and lectures. The four companies who have agreed to be Corporate Partners so far are: HSBC Bank ForFarmers (Formerly BOCM PAULS) Frontier Agriculture Limited Agrovista UK Limited.

Visitors to our web site have been able to enjoy the regular interesting and detailed financial reports and forecasts produced by Mark Berrisford-Smith of HSBC which can be found in the Farming section of the site. The web

ravaged by fire now is watertight and the team are putting together a fund raising plan to restore the building completely. The annual gift from the Company is targeted at specific projects such as replacing doors or fencing to improve the attraction for the young visitors.

Some of the many regular activities at the farm are:

Education, where Tracey runs farm tours for local primary schools. Cow Pat is a project for people with learning difficulties who want to work with animals.

Farm Produce which is a group of adults with learning difficulties who make use of the farm produce such as apples, vegetables and eggs.

New Leaf, another project for students with learning disabilities to learn all aspects of gardening.

The Green Fingers Club is a very popular Sunday morning gardening club for 8-11 year olds.

The Young Farmers Club is a weekly club for 8-13 year olds to get involved in animal care, gardening, conservation and using produce from the farm.

Piglets Club for 2-5 year olds to get involved with fun outdoor activities on the farm.

The farm does not charge for entry and is dependent on income from produce sales and donations. They are continually looking for more 'Friends' who donate £30 a year or a regular donation of £3 a month. To become a Friend, go to the Surrey Docks Farm page at: www.virginmoneygiving.com and make a donation.

editor would be pleased to receive similar newsletters and information from our other corporate Partners to provide a wide range of informed opinion.

We would be pleased to hear from other organisations in our sector who would like to consider becoming Corporate Partners.



UP-COMING EVENTS

INTER-LIVERY SKI COMPETITION JANUARY 2015



Dear Skiers,

The sixth Inter Livery Ski Championships are to be held in Morzine, France on 23rd and 24th January 2015 and will be bigger and better than ever! With six new Livery Companies joining the thirty five that have previously competed, the competition is going to be fiercely competitive at the top end and very social at the other end. This is the only livery event held overseas and is a splendid occasion for Livery companies to come together and compete in a true Corinthian spirit.

We can enter as many teams as we like for the floodlit slalom and daytime downhill races. All standard of skiers are welcome as are guests of the Livery. There is a party with food and drink provided on each evening where many prizes will be awarded and not always for the fastest skier. The cost of the two competitions and dinner with drinks on both evenings is a very reasonable £125 per competitor and £75 per non-competitor. The times of arrival and departure are flexible to suit individual needs as is the type of accommodation.

For more information contact Liveryman Richard Whitlock on:
Tel: 01767 631382. Mobile: 07860 561520. Email: richard@richardwhitlockltd.co.uk

The Livery Summer Ball

...On Saturday July 25th next year the Company is holding a fabulous Summer Ball at Girton College Cambridge with the proceeds in aid of the WCF Charitable Trust. The event has been organised by Liveryman Karen Mercer and her committee and the advertisement for the ball is below. Book now to avoid disappointment...

Saturday 25th July 2015, Girton College, Cambridge

WCF Spectacular SUMMER BALL

Tickets on sale Now. £120 each

Black tie dinner in the historic refectory
Dancing until midnight to "A Girl called Sue"
Reception drinks and wine with dinner included in your ticket
Tickets strictly limited to 250 - book early

For more information go to www.farmerslivery.org.uk
or email liveryman Karen Mercer on Karen@kjmerc.co.uk
All proceeds in aid of the WCF Charitable Trust



A YEAR IN THE LIFE AS MASTER; HAZEL, BARONESS BYFORD

For Hazel Byford her year as Master turned out to be a very bitter sweet year following the sad death of her husband Barrie not long after her installation. However in true Byford style her daughter Elizabeth (Liz) Green stepped up to the plate and was her consort at many events and relished and flourished in her supporting role. It was also a pleasure to meet the wider Byford family at the Banquet.

It was a very busy and demanding year for the Baroness with many dozens of events to attend alongside her Parliamentary duties and how better to remember the year than in photographs of some of the memorable occasions.



CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

COLLEGE AWARDS

Our Hall at 3 Cloth St

Since Baroness Byford, as our Master, launched her £1million appeal in May for the refurbishment of our Hall, I have given my time and energy, as Charity Coordinator, in helping her achieve this target.

There has been a pleasing response, with £250,000 raised in the first two months and now, five months later, we have about half our target sum. This is achieved by £315,000 in donations and pledges, £50,000 in gift aid and £100,000 from the very generous John Cossins legacy. So we move on to the second phase of our campaign which could be more difficult as the contributions have slowed down and we still have a long way to go, but I am encouraged by the fact that, when I have the opportunity to meet and talk with individuals, they are pleased to be reminded and have responded positively. It is paramount that we achieve our target, as using existing funds could impair our present programme of charitable activities.

The project is well underway, with the Hall stripped out and hopefully, by the time you read this article, a Letter of Intent will have been signed with a preferred contractor and construction planning will be proceeding with a proposed start date of Jan 19th 2015 and completion by May 29th 2015. Our exciting new Hall, beautifully refurbished with every modern facility, and now occupying two floors of 3 Cloth St. should be open for business in June and celebratory opening events are being planned. The Court agreed that there should be naming opportunities provided for benefactors as follows:

- Lower Ground Floor Dining Room £250,000
- Ground Floor Reception Room £100,000
- Court Room £50,000
- Lower Ground Floor Meeting Room £30,000

All donors will be recognised by



name in a suitable leather bound volume.

I wish to express my gratitude to those who have responded to the Appeal and exhort those who have yet to do so to contact me to discuss or donate. At a recent Harvest Service there was a reading I thought appropriate from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians – "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, for God loves a cheerful giver." So do I and may you also be generous! Please bear in mind the tax advantages of donating to the Charity, be it cash, shares or property and it would be advisable to clarify with your advisor. Confidentiality is assured unless you state otherwise. As Baroness Byford said – YOUR COMPANY NEEDS YOU!

Richard Halhead, Norbreck Farm Cockerham, Lancaster LA2 0DY
Tel: 01524 752421, Mob: 07774417087
Email: rthalhead@gmail.com

Recognition of Achievement in Education

Every year the Company gives cash awards to top students at ten agricultural Colleges. The students are recommended by the College principals for their outstanding academic and social performance. 2014 was no exception and here are a few examples.

The Master presented the prize to Kirsty Errington at Harper Adams University.



Kirsty Errington at Harper Adams University

Liveryman Richard Halhead presented the award to Carol Moffat at Myerscough College and Liveryman John Evans presented the award to Ben Gibbons at Plumpton College in Sussex



Ben Gibbons at Plumpton College

Liveryman George Jessel presented the award to Katie Fielder at Hadlow College in Kent. Two other presentations are reported elsewhere in the newsletter, Eleanor Kay at Cirencester and Adam Milner at Bishop Burton.

ASSISTANTS, LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 17 June 2014:

Mrs Erica Bargman

Proposed by C A Strawson
Seconded by J K Reynolds

Gerald Bonner

Proposed by J D Courtney
Seconded by J L Evans

Michael Gordon Chennells

Proposed by C A Strawson
Seconded by P G Wynn

Frederick Samuel Moreton

Proposed by T A Copas
Seconded by J F Thorpe

Mrs Hilary Ann Russell

Proposed by W R T Crane
Seconded by H E Upton

Richard Edward Beckett Squire

Proposed by A M Slack
Seconded by R T Whitlock

Ms Rachel Margaret Watkins

Proposed by R J Soffe
Seconded by A P Dyke

Hugh Donald Wykes

Proposed by M C M Anyan
Seconded by R C Butler

The following was bound Apprentice at the Court meeting on 17 June 2014:

George Harry Padwick

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 17 June 2014:

Miss Alice Cecilia Hawkes

Commander Peter Lee Staley RN

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Anne Kelaart, awarded OBE in the Birthday Honours for services to the rural community in Oxfordshire.

Peter Clarke, awarded MBE in the Birthday Honours for service to farmers and the community in Cornwall.

The following, awarded Honorary Fellowships for 2014 by RAU Cirencester:

Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP

Henry Cator OBE FRICS DL

James Townshend

Professor John Nix FRAGS, awarded the Farmers' Weekly Lifetime Achievement Award 2014.

Mark Hudson, appointed Chairman of the Council of the Duchy of Lancaster from 1 January 2015.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2014

Saturday 8 November

The Lord Mayor's Show

Tuesday 9 December

Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Carpenters' Hall, 1 Throgmorton Avenue, EC2N 2JJ

2015

Tuesday 20 January

The Banquet in Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, EC2N 2DQ

Tuesday 10 February

The City Food Lecture at Guildhall

Tuesday 17 February

Inter-Livery Pancake Race, Guildhall Yard

Tuesday 10 March

Court Meeting, Common Hall and Livery Luncheon in Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, EC4M 7DD

Wednesday 15 April

The Agricultural Lecture & Dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall, 30 Threadneedle Street, EC2R 8JB

Tuesday 9 June

Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Ironmongers' Hall, Barbican, EC2Y 8AA

Saturday 25 July

Summer Ball
Girton College, Cambridge

Details of events in Farmers Fletchers' Hall following re-opening will be posted on the website.

Tuesday 13 October

Court Meeting, Harvest Thanksgiving in Haberdashers' Hall, 18 West S, Installation and Livery Luncheon in Mithfield, EC1A 9HQ

Saturday 14 November

Lord Mayor's Show

Tuesday 8 December

Court Meeting and Christmas Luncheon

2016

Wednesday 20 January

The Banquet in Clothworkers' Hall, Mincing Lane, EC3R 7AH

DEATHS

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

Liveryman **Philip Metcalf Bolam LVO FRAGS** of 9 Steeple Close, London died on 12 April 2014. He was Clothed on 23 March 1976.

Liveryman **William Read Young** of Lower Hardres, Canterbury, Kent died on 15 May 2014. He was Clothed on 30 November 1998.

Liveryman **Robert Steven** of Feddinch, St Andrews, Fife died on 4 June 2014. He was Clothed on 21 September 1987.

Liveryman **Rex Hamilton Hudson** of Haselton, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire died on 22 July 2014. He was clothed on 16 September 1975.

Liveryman **Nicholas Angell Lane MBE** of Binham, Fakenham, Norfolk died on 31 July 2014. He was Clothed on 1 March 1993.

Liveryman **John Graven Stevens**, of Fordham, Ely, Cambridgeshire died on 8 August 2014. He was Clothed on 26 September 1988.

Liveryman **William Henry Strawson CBE DL FRAGS** of Little Blyborough, Lincs. died on 9 September 2014. He was clothed on 2 December 1991.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This edition of the newsletter includes stories about some of the activities of the Company from last April this year as well as information on forthcoming events. Many of the events are reported on our website and I am keen to populate the site with more interesting articles particularly the new younger members' area. Please keep sending news and information along with original, high resolution photographs, with a minimum size of 1Mb for printing. Not all the photographs can be used in the newsletter but the website can include most items. My E-mail address is johnevens740@btinternet.com.

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