

ASSISTANTS, LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

*The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 4 December 2012:*

**Peter John Gerald Addington**  
**Alexander Basil Michael Batanero de Montenegro**  
**Dr Andrew Percival Casebow**  
**Philip Richard Halhead**  
**John Stuart Martin**  
**James Henry O'Mahony**  
**James Samuel Peck**  
**Peter Guy Wakeford**  
**John Allan Wilkinson**  
**James Gerard Williams**

*The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 12 March 2013:*

**Richard Anscombe**  
**Roger Henry Derryman**  
**William Andrew Lindsay Gemmill**

*The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 4 December 2012:*

**Richard David Cooksley**  
 Proposed by Professor J C Alliston  
 Seconded by C D Older

**James Goodson**  
 Proposed by M H Chatterton  
 Seconded by Miss S M C Keene

**John Godfrey Owen**  
 Proposed by L H Hargreaves  
 Seconded by R J Bartleet

*The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 12 March 2013:*

**Leo Roderick Hickish**  
 Proposed by H C Grissell  
 Seconded by J D Courtney

**Mark Peter Hill**  
 Proposed by V R Hedley Lewis  
 Seconded by W R T Crane

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2013

*Please note the new date for the December Livery Luncheon*

**Wednesday 1 May**  
 Agricultural Lecture & Dinner and Course Celebration at Guildhall

**Tuesday 14 May**  
 Master's Address and Luncheon in Hall

**Tuesday 11 June**  
 Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

**Tuesday 2 July**  
 Summer Outing (Rutland)

**Tuesday 16 July**  
 Mistress' Outing (Inner Temple)

**Tuesday 8 October**  
 Court Meeting, Harvest Thanksgiving, Installation with Livery Luncheon in Haberdashers' Hall

**Saturday 9 November**  
 Lord Mayor's Show

**Wednesday 11 December**  
 Court Meeting and Common Hall in Hall with Livery Luncheon in Haberdashers' Hall

**Tuesday 17 December**  
 Tea in Hall and Carols at St Bartholomew the Great

2014

**Tuesday 4 March**  
 Inter-Livery Pancake Race in Guildhall Yard

**Tuesday 11 March**  
 Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

**Tuesday 10 June**  
 Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

**Tuesday 7 October**  
 Court Meeting, Harvest Thanksgiving, Installation and Livery Luncheon in Haberdashers' Hall

**Saturday 8 November**  
 The Lord Mayor's Show

**Tuesday 9 December**  
 Court Meeting and Common Hall in Hall and Livery Luncheon in Haberdashers' Hall



The Worshipful Company of Farmers

# Newsletter

Spring 2013



PAST MASTER ANDREW STREETER AND HIS IMMACULATE 1952 FORDSON



SPRING? WHAT SPRING!



STELLA ROBERTS OUR PIANIST AT THE BANQUET

OBITUARIES

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

Past Master **Michael Herbert Hinton JP** of Beckenham Kent died on 5 December 2012. He was Clothed on 12 March 1964, became a Court Assistant in 1973 and served as Master 1981-1982.

Liveryman **Thomas James Nicholas Duke** of Swanmore, Southampton died on 29 January 2013. He was Clothed on 15 March 1969.

Liveryman **Frederick William Anthony Brogden** of Canwick, Lincoln died on 21 March 2013. He was Clothed on 20 September 1966.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

**The copy date for the Autumn newsletter is October 18th 2013.** This edition covers many of the Companies' activities since November last year including the Lord Mayor's Show where our CLAAS exhibit was the biggest attraction. Many events have also been reported on the web site with new areas for forthcoming events linked to the Company such as the WET 10 activities. Please keep sending news items along with high resolution pictures which will be suitable for printing. My E-mail address is [johnevans740@btinternet.com](mailto:johnevans740@btinternet.com).



The Annual Livery Banquet at Clothworkers' Hall. See pages 6 and 7.

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THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW - 10 NOVEMBER 2012

## The CLAAS Xerion tractor the biggest hit at the Lord Mayor's Parade

2012 was the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty the Queen's coronation but also 60 years since the granting of Livery to the Worshipful Company of Farmers. It was therefore very appropriate for the Company to demonstrate the latest piece of high tech farm equipment, the CLAAS Xerion 5000 tractor, at the Lord Mayor's Show held on November 10th last year. The new Lord Mayor is the Rt Hon. Roger Gifford, the 685th Lord Mayor of the City of London, and the annual parade is the largest civic procession in the world.

The Xerion 5000 tractor, kindly provided by CLAAS UK, highlighted the advances made over the past 60 years when compared with the wonderfully restored 1952 Fordson tractor driven by Past Master Andrew Streeter. The Xerion 5000 is an outstanding example of a very high productivity machine with advanced computerised operating control systems which are needed by farmers to meet the future food demand. The comparative data between the two tractors is staggering:

Fordson vs Xerion  
51 hp vs 525 hp  
2 tons vs 24 tons  
67 lt fuel vs 1,000 lt  
10 acres/day vs 100 acres  
£410 vs £300,000

The half million or so crowd lining the route enjoyed the comparison



The Team



The CLAAS Xerion 5000 at the Lord Mayor's Show

between young and old tractors and were amazed by the size of the Xerion and asked many questions of the Master and Wardens as they walked in front of the machines. To highlight the reliability of the British agricultural machinery the Lord Mayor's old horse-drawn gold coach suffered a mechanical malfunction and he had to be rescued by the Pageant Master.

The Xerion was driven by Frazer Jolly with Alaistair McCallum accompanying him in the cab and the exhibits were orchestrated by Liveryman Nick Padwick whose efforts are much appreciated. The parade was enlivened by Past Master Andrew Streeter, driving his immaculate Fordson, and Liza Bickerton both dressed in authentic period costume.

The Master, John Reynolds, reminded everyone that the population of the world in 1952 was only 2.5 billion

compared with the estimate of 7 billion now and expected to reach 9 billion by 2050 and that feeding the world will require a major leap in farming productivity to be achieved from a shrinking farmed area.



Master and Wardens posing with the tractors

INTER-LIVERY ACTIVITIES

## Reporting on the first ever Farmers Livery ski team entry – Richard Whitlock

*It wasn't until late November that I put feelers out for aspiring ski-racers to represent the Livery in Morzine, France, for the Inter-Livery Ski Competition at the end of January. An enthusiastic foursome was duly pulled together, with no pre-selection assessment required. As long as you could do more than a snow-plough turn you were in the squad. Misfortune hit the team before we departed with John Martin struck down by a severe bug and confined to bed; he assures me it was much worse than man flu.*

Gallantly onward the intrepid threesome register and enter the night-time slalom race to select our places for the giant slalom the following day. Yet again we're struck down with a mysterious bug, with two of us succumbing to overnight sickness. By now we're convinced that the Ironmongers are playing a dastardly trick, spiking our food or drinks in the hope that the talented farmers will be laid low. The next morning Alison Richardson, our

lady guest entry, is still not up to the mark and stays in bed. Yours truly pulls himself out of the comfort of a warm bed to stagger up the mountain and represent the Farmers. Allan Stevenson turns up slightly late, having ensured that Alison is sufficiently recovered to be left on her own. So, down to two competitors, we're ready for the big race. Out of 124 entries Allan came a very credible 26th with me following on well behind at 70th. For our first attempt we thought this was a fair success, but we'll be back next year with better training, fully waxed and edged skis, hopefully no illnesses and an even greater competitive spirit. Morzine is a fantastic resort, part of the huge "Les Portes Du Soleil" region. We had superb snow cover and the three of us extended our long weekend to make a competition into a holiday break. Awards night followed the final races. As you'll gather from the results,



Richard Whitlock and Allan Stevenson

neither of us were in the medals or trophies line-up, but we had a truly great evening meeting and socialising with other Liverymen and women. We even met some very charming Ironmongers, who typically denied that dirty deeds were afoot. So for next year we'll be looking for a larger team to send to Morzine. The competition dates are 24th-25th January 2014, so please make a note in your diaries and let me know by email if you would be interested in more details nearer the time. [richard@richardwhitlockltd.co.uk](mailto:richard@richardwhitlockltd.co.uk)

## Another good Pancake Race performance

*Shrove Tuesday this year saw the Farmers enter a very strong team of four to compete in every category of the inter-livery pancake race held in front of the Guildhall on a very cold day with occasional snow flurries. The team was managed by the Clerk and loudly supported by both Wardens with much photography from the Editor and the Master.*

This year's team consisted of The Master, John Reynolds, and liverymen Belinda Young, Mike Thorpe and Edward Hitchcock, our novelty representative. As always the novelty entries category attracts the weird and wonderful with computers, cellos and walls in evidence but mercifully we were spared the mature, though well proportioned nurse in a leather miniskirt which had caused some



"We was robbed –again!"

alarm amongst non-farming attendees last year. All four runners were dressed appropriately with lime green chefs' hats, aprons, gowns and wearing gloves to carry the pans with the pancakes which they had to toss twice inside a small defined area and any transgressions were penalised. The traditionalists again grumbled about the decision to allow ladies to run in

trousers but rules is rules! Master Reynolds ran a very creditable race with no penalties and came a close second in his heat. The last time our Master won was in 2007 when Past Master Graham Wikinson led the field. We were represented in the Liveryman category by Mike Thorpe who was up against some very fierce competition along with a wayward hat and did not win. However Edward Hitchcock in the novelty category, wearing an interesting hat, designed by Mistress Farmer, won his heat by a huge margin but was pipped in the final. Liveryman Belinda Young had volunteered to run in the ladies race again and won her heat easily. However in the final some livery sprinter beat her into second place. Third time lucky next year? Senior Warden Baroness Byford looked on rather apprehensively and I suspect a political adjustment might be planned.





THE CHALLENGE OF RURAL LEADERSHIP COURSE JANUARY 2013

## Developing Rural Leadership Skills



The attendees at Dartington Hall

**We stand at the dawn of the 3rd Agricultural revolution; the world's population is increasing and needs feeding, costs of living are going up at every stage of the food chain, energy is running out and new forms of power are needed. The weather is increasingly problematic, pollinating insects are in crisis, and many of the 'next generation' are either looking to 'opt out' of farming or make significant changes. Farming has become an integral part of providing a sustainable solution to some of the biggest challenges the world faces and the opportunities are abundant. However, it is a world that is changing at an increasing rate and therefore needs a constant flow of specialists, leaders, influencers and entrepreneurs with the capabilities and networks to help it develop and flourish.**

The Challenge of Rural Leadership course promotes itself as 'providing high-potential managers with the capabilities to grow and thrive in continuously changing conditions'. Each year the Worshipful Company of Farmers hand picks 18 individuals from a variety of vocations across the world to come together and equip them with advanced tools to enable them to become advocates and active ambassadors for agriculture.

Attendees this year included those from government and agricultural related organisations and farmers from every corner of the UK as well as Australia, Poland, Belgium and the Isle of Man, all of whom were already leaders with forward thinking attitudes.

A major objective of the course is to provide the group with an increased understanding and awareness of the strategic issues likely to occur over the next five years. Therefore a wide range of topics were covered including GM Foods, Climate Change, EU CAP, Politics and Finance, as well as mind mapping, dealing with challenging situations and people, social media, psychometrics and media training, amongst others. A diverse range of speakers was involved including Peter Kendall, Lord Don Curry, Jane King and Baroness Byford as well as entrepreneurial farmers. The attendance of such high profile individuals who were without exception incredibly generous with their time, knowledge and honesty, further demonstrated the esteem the course is held in.

A speaker who deserves a particular mention is James Small, a farmer from Somerset, who having been on the course last year, had gone away and put many of his newly acquired

skills into practice alongside his natural entrepreneurialism. He had consequently seen a significant difference to himself and his business in just one year, so for the group to meet and listen to someone who was a living breathing case study was inspirational.

The mirror was very much turned in on oneself in the second week and the focus was on learning how to implement and manage change, the importance of working as a team as much as on your own and understanding how we come across to others. Furthermore the ability to motivate, inspire and communicate with colleagues and those you wish to influence in the outside world are all vital skills to become an effective ambassador in the industry. One of the analogies Richard Soffe introduced to the group near the end of the course was 'getting up on the balcony to look down at oneself on the dance floor'; the idea being it allows one to see the bigger picture. A powerful tool once you get the hang of it!

Undoubtedly one of the key things gained on the course were the friendships and contacts made. The group walked away with a lifelong group of friends and mentors they could implicitly trust. The course was a cleverly and beautifully crafted beast created to carry one forward equipped with saddlebags bulging with tools, ideas, motivation and confidence to make a difference to the future. In the words of Lord Curry "if your vision doesn't scare you, it's not big enough!" CRL certainly provided the challenge; it took us out of our comfort zones and encouraged us to 'get up on to the balcony' to maintain perspective. Together with my fellow course members, I would highly recommend this course to other potential industry leaders.

Martha Harley

THE 62ND ADVANCED COURSE IN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT - FEBRUARY 2013

## Future Agricultural Managers learn about business



The attendees at The Royal Agricultural College Cirencester

**And quite an emotional end it was too, which must be a good sign of just how successful the course was. Three weeks away from our loved ones and yet we were saddened to find ourselves at the end of the experience. Listening to the speakers during our last supper, I am having to 'compose myself', only to look round to see quite a few glassy eyes in the house - and that was before the Master's donation of port.**

The Worshipful Company of Farmers' Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management focused on supporting and developing us as managers, equipping us with the necessary tools, network and invigoration to progress our own businesses and have a positive and lasting impact in the wider industry within which we thrive and contribute.

The delegate list of this 62nd course was diverse with a Kiwi, 2 Aussies, 2 Scots and 13 English, although it was commented that a mainland European delegate and more women should be targeted in future. There was also a great diversity of professions: farm managers, renewable energy consultants, bankers and agents and this diversity, coupled with the extreme and complimentary characters within the group provided a wonderful opportunity for

knowledge transfer, professional development and building a solid support network.

The Royal Agricultural College (RAC) at Cirencester is an inspirational setting and a great host for the course. Prof. John Alliston's 'black book' proved impressive and this was reflected in the quality of the course delivery. John and Rita Walsh's experience and knowledge in the sector was openly shared and we all learned a great deal from them, further supported by Rhonda Thompson we were in very capable hands.

The course content was equally diverse, from CAP reform to capital investment appraisal, marketing to time management. As well as the great sessions led by John, Rita and Rhonda, a high calibre of speakers joined us not only to impart their own knowledge but also to embark on healthy debates with us. In fact the panel and discussion sessions were noted to be of the greatest impact. Those we found of most particular value included Sir Jim Paice, Prof David Hughes, Rob Napier, John Alvis, John Wibbely, Allan Wilkinson, Caroline Drummond and Alastair Leake.

This is all before mentioning the Worshipful Company of Farmers.

We valued the 'prestige' of their ownership of the course and their commitment to creating, maintaining and enhancing an excellent vocational course, which has and will continue to have a significant and lasting impact on the delegates who attended.

Between the speaker sessions we were given a group case study each week. These included our own businesses, Waitrose red meat supply and the Butler family owned arable and beef farm and would like to thank them for their openness and trust in inviting us into the intimate understandings of their businesses and allowing us to analyse and critique them.

Having the opportunity to work in different groups forming professional and social relationships with each delegate over the course of the formal teaching sessions, field trips, indulgent dinners and of course in the bar....created the perfect informed, open, trusting environment within which each delegate could tailor the course to achieve the greatest benefit.

Whilst the learning never stopped, I am also delighted to report that a huge amount of fun was had by all. From 'Buddy Buddy' sessions, trips to the races, nights out organised by the college, weekend trips around our own businesses and 'tea parties' into the early hours! This insightful, challenging and thoroughly enjoyable course has had a lasting impression and I am sure we are yet to reap many of the benefits it will bring to us over the course of our professional careers. I know I have developed a professional network for the long haul and some lifelong friends, not to mention 17 surrogate big brothers!

I think I speak for all of this year's delegates when I say we would strongly recommend this course to other Managers wanting to make their mark. The course delivered and exceeded expectations.

Cara Gelati





The Master with the Dragoons



The Magnificent Clothworkers' Hall



The Master with the Cadets

# ANNUAL LIVERY BANQUET – 22 January 2013



Andrew Dyke receiving the Livery Salver from the Master



Beautiful Floral displays at the Banquet



The Master greets Stella Roberts



Liveryman Rosie Carne flanked by high ranking officers

**The Livery held its showpiece event of the year, The Livery Banquet, on a wintery Tuesday 22nd January 2013. Liverymen and their guests found their way to the splendid and spacious Clothworkers' Hall in Mincing Lane.**

The evening showed a strong military presence with precision timing as always organised by our Gallant Clerk, Colonel David King. Our Affiliates, the Air Cadets, were on duty in the entry hall before diners

made their way up the grand, tapestried staircase to be welcomed by the Master, Wardens and their Spouses, guarded by more Affiliates, the Westminster Dragoons.

All enjoyed a champagne reception before the 224 diners entered the main Hall for the Master's Chaplain to bless the ensuing Game Terrine, Scotch Beef and Apple and Blackberry Jelly! The Sung Grace, followed by 'The Farmers Boy' were most admirably sung, the latter during the traditional Loving Cup Ceremony, led by Liverymen

Julian Sayers and Andrew Brown. The Master proposed the Loyal Toasts, 'The Lord Mayor' and 'The Guests' before Lt. Gen. Sir Andrew Ridgway, Honorary Colonel of The Westminster Dragoons spoke about the Armed Forces. Gen. Ridgway reviewed how our Forces had shrunk from 260,000 to 180,000, with further shrinkage of the regular Force to be countered by an increase from 18,000 to 30,000 in the Reserves. This would be difficult for a voluntary force, in the light of business commitments of most

of those concerned. Gen Ridgway thanked the Livery for its support of our Affiliates, those on duty that evening, and HMS Defender and RAF Waddington and proposed the Toast to the Armed Forces and Cadets. Liveryman and Scotsman Sir Bertie Ross, as Secretary to the Duchy of Cornwall, reviewed its colourful history, started during the reign of Edward III and having its 500th anniversary when Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837. However, the Estate was now looking forward

in its progression of farming, in the Community and with the Community, particularly with share farming and marketing of brands. Sir Bertie concluded by toasting the Livery. The musical Finale was delightfully played on the piano by a young and brightly dressed Stella Roberts before the company rose.

Tony Alston, Junior Warden



The Mistress receiving the Loving Cup from Liveryman Stewart Houston, Chairman of The Farmers' Club





THE ANNUAL CITY WATER DEBATE - MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>

# The City Water Debate

*Sponsored by the Wet 10 Livery Companies*



Weir Wood Reservoir at capacity

**This year's City Water Debate was held at Glaziers' Hall on March 4th with the topic, 'Droughts and Floods: What's happening to our weather?' The debate was led by two eminent gentlemen, John Hirst, the Chief Executive of the Met Office and Dr Paul Leinster, the Chief Executive of the Environment Agency.**

This year invitations had been sent to a much wider audience including the Masters of all the Livery Companies and as a result some 140 attendees listened to the two speakers before a long and interesting question and answer

session followed by a delicious canapés and drinks reception overlooking the Thames. John Hirst spoke first and believed that the UK was unique in having forecasting and climate responsibilities under one roof and they worked very closely with the Environment Agency. On an average day the Met Office issues 4.5 million weather forecasts and because they use much smaller geographic areas than previously their ability to provide accurate 5 day forecasts now is equivalent to their one day forecasts of a decade ago. In 2012 we enjoyed sunshine equivalent to 99% of the last 30 year average despite having the wettest year on record and the declaration of drought conditions came on the same day that the rains started! He believes that Climate Change is a real phenomenon that will result in more extremes of climate and a possible cause of the very wet Summer was a shift southwards by the Jet Stream as the result of significant thinning of the Arctic ice cap raising the temperature at the Pole.

Paul Leinster quoted a number of statistics relating to 2012 such as 11 major flood events, 17 serious flood warnings, 6,000 flood alerts and 4,000 flood warnings, far higher than normal. Their flood alert centres were open for 72 days in the year and the flooding was very widespread. 8,000 properties were flooded but to counter that 200,000 properties were protected as the result of new defences. 2012 was reported as the WETTEST DROUGHT EVER! Paul continued by suggesting some mitigating measures that might be employed to enable the UK to cope with the forecasted population growth such as the installation of multi pipe water systems in all new buildings to utilise grey water and dirty water alongside the traditional two pipe approach of clean in dirty out with no recycling. Another proposal was the introduction of flow based water abstraction rather than the present seasonal based approach and the use of more effective irrigation systems. The country needs more reservoirs!

## The City Food Lecture

**This year's City Food Lecture was held on February 25th at the Guildhall in London and was given by Paul Bulcke, the Chief Executive Officer of Nestlé, with the title "Water-the linchpin of food security". The City Food Lecture is organised by seven Livery Companies, including the Farmers, and attracted an audience of some 800. They were welcomed by Sir David Lewis on behalf of the Lord Mayor Rt. Hon Roger Gifford.**



The speaker Paul Bulcke CEO Nestlé SA

Before Paul Bulcke began his lecture on water issues he said a few words about the problem that is very much high on the headlines and news and that is horsemeat. He stated that "The entire industry is affected. It is widespread fraud being committed by a few across Europe. The success of the food industry in general, and of companies

such as mine, Nestlé, is built on trust. What our industry is facing today is a trust issue. It is wrong and unacceptable that a minority has put our entire industry and all the people involved in doing a good job in such a bad light." He then continued with the lecture on water and its vital role in the overall food security scenario and quoted a number of key facts. Water withdrawals are already in excess of sustainable supply and this gap continues to widen. By 2030, the demand for water

is forecast to be 50% higher than today, withdrawals could exceed natural renewal by over 60%, resulting in water scarcity for a third of the world's population. The risk is increasing for the largest water user, namely agriculture (70% of freshwater). Water supply crises are not just considered to be an environmental risk but they are definitely a very big social risk. Paul had a number of suggestions on how to conserve water and gave examples under five headings: Water efficiency in the entire value chain, Efficiency in the food supply chain, Working together (public policy & collective action), Reducing distortions and Valuing water. His emphasis was on giving water the value it deserves as the key natural resource. His lecture was followed by a question and answer session to a panel of five eminent experts succinctly summed up by Past Master HRH The Princess Royal in her vote of thanks.

MILITARY AFFILIATIONS

## RAF Waddington



Group Captain Al Gillespie

*The Company's military affiliations is expanding and now includes RAF Waddington as the latest member. The luncheon on March 12th was addressed by the Station Commander, Group Captain Al Gillespie who confirmed the affiliation.*

"I am delighted that the affiliation between Royal Air Force Waddington and the Worshipful Company of Farmers was formally announced by the Master at the Livery Luncheon. Given the importance of farming to Lincolnshire it is a most appropriate association that I am confident will be to the significant benefit of us all. I very much look forward to hosting a number of you on Station this year and also taking the opportunity to better understand the challenges and rewards experienced by those in farming. RAF Waddington has a very proud history stretching back to WWI, when the Station was established as a Royal Flying Corps airfield in 1916. We are similarly proud of our role as a Bomber Command Station

during WWII with many Waddington based squadrons operating the highly respected Lancaster Bomber. During the Cold War, Waddington was host to the Vulcan bomber and in 1982 the daring Black Buck missions were launched from Waddington to the Falkland Islands. RAF Waddington has changed significantly since 1916 and I am proud to be in command of one of the RAF's busiest operational airfields and, today, our squadrons and personnel are involved in supporting operations all around the world. The station has a long and bright future in front of it as a key component of an agile and adaptable Royal Air Force and I look forward to sharing more with you in the very near future."

## Westminster Dragoons



The Westminster Dragoons training exercise January 27th

*An important aspect of our affiliation with the Westminster Dragoons (more officially Headquarters Squadron of the Royal Yeomanry) is the annual presentation of the trophy we award to the "Best Troop".*

The trophy, which is on loan to the Dragoons, is the splendid silver Rosewater Bowl presented by the late Past Master Peter Taylor TD, JP, DL to commemorate his year of office, 1965-66. Note, Past Master Taylor held the TD – the Territorial Decoration – making the Rosewater Bowl a most appropriate trophy for a unit of the Territorial Army. Every time the Dragoons see the bowl in their trophy cupboard they are reminded of the affiliation because it carries in the centre our Arms in coloured enamels and has wheat ears and sheaves around the border. At 07.30 hours precisely on Sunday 27 January, the Master reported to an R.V. on a training area at Crowborough in East Sussex. The soldiers had

been competing on Saturday (when it snowed) and had slept "in the field" overnight (when it rained). The Master observed the training during the morning and at lunchtime, after totting up the scores, it was announced that Second Troop was the winner. Robed and badged the Master presented the trophy at a parade of tired soldiers in the middle of the training area under the command of Major Charlie Field. Accompanying the Master were Past Master Jeremy Courtney, their wives, and the Clerk who braved the cold, rain and the very early start though Past Master Courtney only had 8 miles to reach the Crowborough training camp, not a problem for a dairy farmer!

## HMS Defender

*In Portsmouth on Thursday March 21st HMS Defender, our affiliate destroyer, was officially commissioned into service with the Royal Navy. The service was attended by many dignitaries, families of the ship's company and from the two affiliate cities Exeter and Glasgow. The Farmers' Company was represented by the Master and Mistress, the Senior Warden, the Clerk and Past Master Sir Graham Wilkinson.*

Defender was built by BAE Systems at Govan in Glasgow and is the fifth of six Type 45 destroyers to be commissioned and the sixth vessel, HMS Duncan,

arrived at Portsmouth the following day to start her sea trials. This Defender is the eighth HMS Defender, the first being a brig in 1797. The fifth HMS Defender won honours in the Second World War and she was capable of travelling at 37 knots whilst the present vessels can travel at 30 knots but can get to that speed in 2 minutes from a standing start. HMS Defender's Commanding Officer, Commander Philip Nash, addressed the visitors and crew and said "The commissioning of HMS Defender marks the point at which building and testing the ship finishes and front line service in the fleet begins. For the 180 men and women that make up the ship's

company, commissioning represents the culmination of months and years of training, trials and practice".



Commander Philip Nash





## Past Master Michael Herbert Hinton



Past Master Michael Herbert Hinton

**Michael Hinton died on 5th December 2012 after a long illness. He was educated at Ardingly College in Sussex where he developed a great love of cricket. His son, Timothy, in a moving address at his funeral, said that a scorecard would read: "M H Hinton, caught flu, bowled Parkinsons, 78"**

Michael's long connection with the Company predates his admission to the livery in 1964. He had served as

assistant clerk to his then father-in-law Oliver Sunderland in whose offices he was articled and then Michael practised as a chartered accountant in the City for fifty years.

He was elected an Alderman when only thirty-six and was the first Alderman to be described "Citizen and Farmer". He served as Aldermanic Sheriff in 1977-78 and was a very generous host to many in the Company who were invited to the Old Bailey for lunch and the gift of his Shrieval Badge to the Company is treasured.

He fostered the Company's link with the City and, in particular, provided important advice over the admission of women to the livery, the City's view about constructing our own Hall and the creation of Honorary Assistants. He was a member of the Hall (Property Management) Committee from 1976. Following his Mastership in 1981-82 he served as the Company's first Deputy Master from 1989-1991.

Subsequently he went through a tough patch but with his wife Jane whom he married in 1984 got his life back on track. They travelled widely until the onset of his final illness. His contribution to the Company was unique as he forged enduring links between the City and the Company. He was a kind and gentle man and we extend our sympathy to his wife Jane, his son Timothy, who was admitted to the Company by servitude in 1990, and his daughters Katherine and Jane.



Past Master Ronald Borner

## 100 not Out!

**On Feb 18th Past Master Ronald Borner reached his 100th birthday and was presented by the Master with an illuminated scroll, signed by other Past Masters, at a luncheon for friends and family held at Reads. Ronald Borner was Master of the Company in 1972/73 and is now the Senior Past Master Emeritus.**

The photograph is of Master John Reynolds presenting the scroll to Past Master Borner and was taken by his daughter in law, Liveryman Genevieve Borner. Naturally he received the customary telegram of congratulations from Her Majesty and everyone celebrated the happy event with excellent red wine and congratulatory speeches. We look forward to celebrating many more Borner birthdays.

## THE ALMONERS COMMITTEE

Following the recent meeting of the Almoners Committee Past Master Richard Brooks gave an update on the plans for the coming year where the main thrust is now on the help for younger individuals in leadership and education. The Company continues to support Young Advocates for Agriculture and sponsored the Chair of NFYFC, Milly Wastie, to attend the Oxford Conference which she thoroughly enjoyed and wrote a glowing letter of thanks.

Despite straightened financial times the Company continues to support

FACE and the City Farm along with extending the prizes to top students at Agricultural Colleges. At the other end of the scale the Company is making donations to the Addington Trust and the Farm Crisis Network.

## Freeman John Lee OBE

We are pleased to record the nomination of Freeman John Lee as High Sheriff for Devon for 2013/14

## CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

## YOUR COMPANY NEEDS YOU!

**Since I was appointed Charity Co-ordinator the main thrust of my activities has been to keep you all aware of the necessity and desirability of securing the future activities of our Company by legacies and bequests in your wills.**

A result of this has been that several of you, who have said you cannot commit to a sum in your will at this time, have forwarded cheques ranging from £500 to £2,000 to help with our immediate charitable funding. The most generous has been £2,000 a year for the last two years with the promise of at least £1,000 a year going forward and one of our Liverymen has committed £5,000 a year for five years commencing in 2014 to provide scholarships for our ACABM at Cirencester.

In thanking you for this wonderful generosity in the last newsletter, I pointed out that if we could all give £1,000 gift aided our charitable fund would benefit by £400-500,000 and our situation would be transformed; this prompted yet more cheques to arrive and others promised and I find this tremendously heartening.

My plea to you all is to join those who have already done so and step up to the plate to be part of securing our financial situation. I am aware that there will always be those who for different reasons cannot help at this time but, I submit that, for the majority of us, £1,000 is affordable – after all, what is it? – a spot of fishing or shooting or a weekend break with a loved one!! The reasons for my appeal are well documented; with costs constantly rising whilst our income from investments and letting of the Hall has fallen and the rental from 3 Cloth St is drastically reduced until new leases are agreed; a situation not sustainable beyond the short term.

The Court and Committees are being most prudent in the governance of the Company and in husbanding our resources to best advantage. Recently the disbursements of the Almoners Committee were trimmed back, particularly to agricultural charities just when they are reporting

increased demand, to address our new circumstances. Our Master, John Reynolds, despite his ongoing busy schedule is very aware and determined to tackle the situation during his year of office. He has formed a sub-committee to look at the possibility of sponsorship from companies in the agricultural industry and to organise money raising events. I am happy to serve on this committee and help with his endeavours but I am convinced that the most effective and certain way to achieve our aims is for all of us to open our hearts and purses at this time, remembering all that the Livery means to us and the pleasure and fellowship we draw from it now and into the future.

We are in the process of designing a brochure outlining the attractions of remembering the Company in your legacy and this will be ready in time for the Agricultural Lecture and Dinner which this year is being held at the Guildhall with many of our education courses alumni present. J.F.K. said to America at a time of crisis : If not us – who? If not now – when?

Legacies can be for the future. Please forward your cheques to the Clerk at the usual address.

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The latest arrivals

## SURREY DOCKS CITY FARM

*For many years the Company has been associated with the Surrey Docks City Farm based on the banks of the Thames facing Canary Wharf. It is a little oasis of countryside in the heart of urban dwellings and the Livery contact for many years has been Jill Willows and she has now handed over the reins to Edward Hitchcock.*

From time to time the farm needs to restock and freshen the livestock and last Spring they were looking for geese to keep their ganders happy. Last Autumn they needed a young sow and an anonymous liveryman donated Nessie from the healthy stock at Plumpton College and the photograph is of her happy first litter of eight piglets.

The project to resurface the animal yard is making slow progress and a major grant application for a £50K Biffa Award has been completed with a decision expected in April. This work would create a much improved visitor area where children are able to pet and feed some of the animals and rebuild the tired drainage system which is under surveillance by the Environmental Health officials.

Despite the very wet conditions last year the farm recorded a modest surplus and has introduced a number of innovative fund raising activities coupled with on-going produce sales. Gary and Claire run a very tight ship at the farm and even on wet days the local residents turn up in numbers to look at the animals and use the café facilities. It is a very interesting location and Liverymen are more than welcome to visit and give it the support it deserves. Visit [www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk](http://www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk)