



## MEMBERSHIP

*The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 11 December 2013:*

- Ian Agar Bell OBE
- John Grant Burton
- Leo Roderick Hickish
- Mark Peter Hill
- John Albert Thomas Lee OBE
- Christopher Anthony Monk
- Robert Michael Charles Sears

*The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 11 March 2014:*

- Mrs Mary Anne Courtney
- Richard James Cross
- Timothy Bramwell Graham
- Robert Thomas Moore

*The following transferred from Associate to Freeman in January 2014:*

**Christopher John Leney** (ACABM 2013)

*The following were made Freeman by Redemption at the Court meeting on 11 March 2014:*

**Richard Henry Davies**

Proposed by A J Alston  
Seconded by M R Cooper

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Liveryman Geoff Dodgson and Mrs Jill Willows, presented with the Livery Salver at the Annual Banquet 2014

Liveryman Peter Addington appointed High Sheriff of Wiltshire 2014/15

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2014

#### Tuesday 17 June

Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Saddlers' Hall, 40 Gutter Lane, EC2V 6BR

#### Tuesday 1 July – Wednesday 2 July

The Summer Outing, Westminster Abbey, Dinner on the Thames, Tour of Parliament, Lunch in the House of Lords.

#### Wednesday 10 September

Masters & Clerks Luncheon in Apothecaries' Hall, Blackfriars Lane, EC4V 6EJ

#### Tuesday 14 October

**(Please note new date)**  
Court Meeting, Harvest Thanksgiving, Installation and Livery Luncheon in Haberdashers' Hall

#### Saturday 8 November

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 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

#### Tuesday 9 June

Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon

## DEATHS

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

**Yeoman Harry Grant Buck OBE** of Plovers, Hadstock, Cambridge died on 17 November 2013. He was Clothed on 13 December 1960 and made Yeoman in December 2013.

Liveryman **Richard Crossley Bilborough** of Shepherd's Croft, Farley, By Beauy, Inverness died on 11 January 2014. He was Clothed on 12 December 1972.

**Senior Past Master Emeritus Ronald Stewart Borner OBE VRD** of Faversham Kent died on 2 March 2014. He was Clothed on 15 September 1959, elected to Court in 1964, served as Master 1972-73, appointed Senior Past Master in 1997 and Senior Past Master Emeritus in 2008.

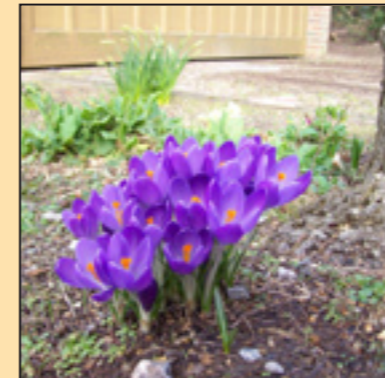
Liveryman **David Standerwick** of St. Peters Port, Guernsey died on 25th March 2014. He was clothed on 12th March 1984.

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

**The copy date for the Autumn newsletter is October 16th 2014.**

This edition of the newsletter covers many of the activities of the Company from last November to April this year. Many of the events have also been reported on our website and I am keen to populate the site with more interesting articles particularly the new younger members' area and the Alumni area. We have added a Farming News section to the website where we can publicise interesting agricultural news and reports on current issues such as CAP reform.

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 web site can include most items. My E-mail address is [johnevans740@btinternet.com](mailto:johnevans740@btinternet.com).



SPRING AT LAST



THE NEW YARD AT SURREY DOCKS FARM



THE RIGHT SORT OF WATER



The Master and Lord Dobbs with the Loving Cup at the banquet.



CITY FOOD LECTURE AND THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW



Charles Wilson

**A**s a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farmers the opportunity arose to go to the 2014 City Food Lecture at Guildhall. This prestigious event is co-ordinated by the seven Livery Companies which are food based, namely: Butchers, Bakers, Poulterers, Fishmongers, Farmers, Fruiterers, and Cooks.

This year the speaker was Charles Wilson, the CEO of Booker plc and the son of Eric Wilson, a former very active Liveryman with the Farmers and a former Past Master of the Woolmen who sadly died last year. Charles has an impressive career starting with Procter & Gamble, then

### The 2014 City Food Lecture

Arcadia and Marks & Spencer before joining Booker as CEO in 2005. Bookers started over 200 years ago as cheese sellers and have now grown into a massive organisation with operations in the UK and India with total sales of £4.7 billion per annum. They supply 340,000 catering businesses, 74,000 independent retailers, 40,000 pubs, 20,000 nursing homes and 2,000 farm shops, which is an interesting fact as everyone thinks they are buying locally sourced products at such places.

They operate out of 172 business centres in the UK and £2.8 billion of their products are collected by customers from these. They acquired Aramark in 2013, a company serving 250,000 meals per day and Booker's web sales are now at the £800 million mark. They also have 6 business centres in India, which shows they are looking to go where the growth will be in the future. However they nearly went bust in 2005, but are now in the FTSE top 150.

The world needs 2.5 billion tonnes of cereals each year and we are just a small part of that need in the UK. If you look at growth in the emerging market countries you see that China had 531% change in GDP per person

since 2000 and India had 313% rise whilst the UK had only 64%. We need to be signing trade agreements and business deals with these countries now to protect our future.

It is also predicted that convenience stores will grow 29% over the next five years, whilst supermarkets will stagnate and discounters such as Aldi and Lidl are growing much faster than the big four retailers. Amazon is an interesting business which has been going for only 18 years, but now has a global presence. They are beginning to get into food delivery and have started in the USA and will be looking to do it in other countries as soon as they have the correct business model. The conclusion I came to was that suppliers must go where the growth is by getting closer to the customer. This may be by farm shops or QR codes and smart packaging. This means we need to invest in the consumer and not the supermarket.

The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A with a panel chaired by Adam Leyland, Editor of The Grocer, with the very succinct closing remarks and summary by our Past Master, HRH The Princess Royal.

Liveryman Andrew Brown

### The New Lord Mayor...

Alderman Fiona Woolf, is only the second woman to be appointed to the role in nearly 800 years. It was a wet and miserable day but as usual the Farmers' Company had a stunning display with a massive CLAAS Xerion tractor towing a large trailer manned by Harper Adams University students.

Their exhibit was named '21st Century Farming in Motion' and the trailer carried two huge LED screens running the extended version of the Harper Adams 'Our

World' television advert, a mock teaching scenario with a lecturer and a student working at a microscope and an agricultural robot, kindly provided by ABB, operated by a young engineer.

The Farmers' display was led by the Senior Master Peter Faulkner deputising for the Master, Baroness Byford, who was unable to attend due to the serious ill health of her husband Barrie who sadly died on the day. Peter was accompanied by Senior Warden Tony Alston and Junior Warden Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard both suitably dressed but



Tractor and Trailer with Harper Adams Students

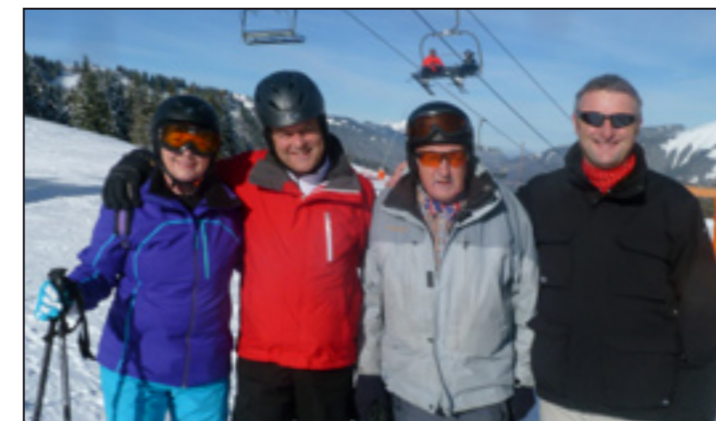
carrying large umbrellas to protect the Company gowns. The Farmers' display is always a big hit with the watching crowd and the huge CLAAS tractor did not disappoint!

INTER-LIVERY ACTIVITIES

### The Inter-livery Ski Challenge - a return to the white stuff

**T**he Farmers Livery ski team was back in action again representing the rural fraternity at the Inter-Livery ski competition in Morzine, France. This year we again fielded two competitors, John Martin and Richard Whitlock with sterling support from Tom and Brenda Copas.

On the Friday evening John achieved some good times on the floodlit night slalom course but we then retired to L'Equipe hotel for wine, local cheese and meat. Copas and Copas were in their usual bon-viveur form, ensuring that all types of food and alcoholic consumption were taken in excess. I am slightly naive in these situations and was inevitably led astray by the senior players, consuming far too much alcohol. The social side of the evening had a real buzz to it, with representatives from other Liveries meeting up again or exchanging views on the races.



Richard Whitlock, John Martin plus Copas Management

Next morning, after a warm-up tour of the mountains, John and I were ready for action. The weather was cold but the sun shone and the snow conditions were perfect, with the resort receiving 200-300 mm of snow the evening we arrived. Actions stations and ready to go, the Franz Klammer in us was lifting the adrenaline levels and starting to exceed the leftover alcohol levels. And we're off - skis facing the right way - quickly into a racing tuck - centre of gravity low - cutting close to the gates - left and right - minimizing

the impact of the cut-up track - holding the line - a final schuss and the clock stops. I finished in 54th place and John was 58th, about a second slower, which is surprising

because he is a better skier than me. The team of four enjoyed the rest of the day skiing together, although Tom was slightly challenged by the icy red run on the way home. Off to prize giving and awards that evening, more alcohol I'm afraid, but at least it helps the French farmers.

We had a most enjoyable long weekend, so please register your interest for next year by e-mailing me on: richard@richardwhitlockltd.co.uk Liveryman Richard Whitlock

### Pancake Race Performance: Four Silvers - "Not bad"

**A** beautiful sunny Shrove Tuesday saw the Farmers enter another strong team of four to compete in every category of the inter-livery pancake race at Guildhall yard. The team had been assembled by Liveryman Caroline Ratcliff who decided not to attend because she had given birth to a beautiful daughter only two days earlier! Her deputy, Master Hazel Byford, organised the team and was supported by Liverymen and friends with photography by the Editor.



The TEAM

This year's team consisted of Senior Warden Tony Alston, deputising for the Master, Freeman Tom Copas and Stephen Rigden, our novelty representative, and our lady representative was Mary Foster. The editor was very concerned to see new mum Caroline appear in full dress on behalf of the Fruiterers but it turned out

to be her identical twin sister Louise! All the 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 still grumbled about the decision to allow ladies to run in trousers and one winner wore shorts, simply not fair! Senior Warden Alston ran a very creditable race and came a close second in his heat claiming a pulled muscle. We were represented in the Liveryman category by Tom Copas who came a very close second to the winner who should have been heavily penalised. However Stephen Rigden, in the novelty category, wearing wellies and an interesting back pack with controversial words, performed very well but also came second in his heat.

The ladies race was by far the most exciting where Mary Foster was up against some very quick girls, especially a booed Tax Advisor who lost her pancake. Mary came second in her heat but was declared the winner after another 'gal' was disqualified and so had to race in the final. Sadly there was no podium finish for the Farmers but a good time was had by all.



THE 63RD ADVANCED COURSE IN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT - JANUARY 2014

### Business Management for Agricultural Leaders



The Class of 2014 at Cirencester University

**Many people would say they are too busy to take time out of their business for personal development, but after taking part in the 63rd Worshipful Company of Farmers' Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management I would challenge how their business can afford them not to!**

Locked away in your own business you can get stuck in your own work and you risk passing by opportunities to meet new people. But it's imperative for any forward-thinking leader to engage, as it is through other people that you can learn, develop and challenge yourself. For me, the most important element of the three week course at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester was my fellow course members. With delegates from a variety of farming businesses, backgrounds and countries - including Portugal, Germany, Australia and New Zealand - there was always a variety of opinions and perspectives to every issue we discussed. I really enjoyed learning about other people's businesses and the projects they were undertaking, as well as how they approached different issues within their industries and enterprises. We quickly built a strong feeling of trust and camaraderie

within the group and over the three weeks it was fantastic to see the development in people. We were able to share our feelings, ideas, personal triumphs and difficulties and know that we had a support network around us to help us find ways to overcome our problems. As the course developed, people challenged their thinking within their lives and workplace and questioned their direction. But in the end the course helped them to build on their convictions and they were left feeling confident about their businesses' future and were on track with where they were headed. Many of our group debates were prompted by some excellent speakers who covered a wide variety of subjects. As the course operates under Chatham House Rules, speakers really got down to the nitty-gritty of subjects, speaking to us frankly about their experiences and their views. Henry Robinson, George Dunn, Dr. Alistair Leake and Peter Kendall all gave fascinating insights into different aspects of the agricultural sector, while after dinner speakers including Baroness Byford and Professor David Hughes prompted much thought and discussion. While we didn't necessarily agree with everything over the course of the three weeks, the speakers' contributions created conversations within the group which

helped us form our own opinions and conclusions. The RAU was a fantastic setting for the course and was an excellent place to spend three weeks away from home. The accommodation and meals were excellent, so much so that you could see people's live-weight gains as much as their personal growth. The course was also incredibly well-run by Professor John Alliston, Naomi, Rhonda and Rita, who made a huge contribution to changing people's lives with this course. Stepping back from your business for any length of time can seem daunting, but the course made us realise that we can drive our businesses further by taking the time to develop ourselves. What's more, it has confirmed to me that you are only as good as the people your surround yourself with. I have gained 21 new friends in my course-mates, many of whom I would never have met if it wasn't for the course. I have learnt something from each of them and I know we can all count on each other from now on as a support group. Those kinds of contacts are the ones which are vital for personal and business development. We came away feeling part of something and those kinds of bonds do not break once they are formed.

James Peck, Liveryman

THE CHALLENGE OF RURAL LEADERSHIP COURSE - JANUARY 2014

### Developing Rural Leadership Skills



The attendees with the Master at The Duchy Course 2014

**The 18th Challenge of Rural Leadership Course, held from 12-25 January at Dartington Hall in Devon, saw delegates from across the British Isles, Australia, Romania and Poland come together to find out how they could improve the success of their farming-related businesses. The course, which is sponsored by the Worshipful Company, is run by the Duchy College under the direction of Richard Soffe.**

On my way to Dorset that Sunday at the start of the course, I was anticipating a mountain of information about leadership techniques and people management over the following two weeks. So it was very unexpected over the next fortnight to find myself inspired by the experiences of Baroness Byford, resolving difficult situations I am facing in my business with the help of professional actors, sitting through a harrowing case study of decision-making during the Bosnian war, and even walking through the woods five metres above the ground on a wire! The course brought together 18 amazing people, very determined to take forward all the tools necessary

to succeed in leading their own businesses. We found ourselves being very open about our work and private lives as the time went on, as a unique aspect was that rather than focusing on what we were all good at, it encouraged us to unveil these fears, problems, challenges and limitations we face every day.

Having recognised them for what they were, we could finally see the solutions - the changes that we needed to make in ourselves in order to succeed in leadership. The course helped each and every one of us to take a 'view from the balcony' of ourselves so that we could understand ourselves better and then develop the business side of our lives.

Last but not least, the training was enriched by the invited speakers, who taught us just how important it is to lead by the power of example.

Now back in Romania and everyday life managing the business, I am giving myself more planning and thinking time. I am looking at how I can improve motivation in my

teams and using creative thinking techniques. The course has planned a reunion in July and I am looking forward to sharing my progress and finding out how everyone else is succeeding.

I would like to thank the Worshipful Company of Farmers and all the sponsors who supported us in this experience. The different backgrounds and cultures of the other delegates only served to widen my experience. It also proved that regardless of the size of the business and where it is, we are all dealing with similar problems. The course brought together all these aspects and we found many of our own answers in others' experiences.

Greta Lupu

A very strong contingent from the 18th course attended the annual Agriculture Lecture on April 2nd and highlighted the 'bonding' effect that the courses have. Unfortunately Greta was not able to attend but all raised their glasses to her and her impact on the course.



The Master with the Cadets



Liveryman Olive Clarke and friends



The battle of the 'Horns'

# THE LIVERY BANQUET at MANSION HOUSE



The Master, Wardens and their consorts



Mr & Mrs Jan Boomaars



The Beadle at work



Diners in the Hall

**The annual Livery banquet this year was held at The Mansion House in the heart of the city and was a resounding success and voted by many Liverymen as one of the best ever!**

On arrival the guests were greeted by an immaculately turned out contingent of our affiliate Air Cadets from the 120 (Hendon) squadron before being ushered up the stairs to the grand reception area at Mansion House. This year there were nearly three hundred Liverymen and guests

attending who were welcomed by the Master and her daughter The Hon Elizabeth Green and the Wardens and their wives, nearly 2,000 formal handshakes even before the evening started!

At the reception we were entertained by a trio of musicians and singer and enjoyed a glass at least of champagne before being called to dinner in the Egyptian Hall by a very busy Beadle. The Master's chaplain, Rev Dr Stuart Burgess, blessed the occasion in his usual pithy and entertaining style. In the Hall we were enthralled by the

two horn blowers battling it out from opposite balconies. The meal itself was a triumph consisting of cured Scottish Salmon, Beef Wellington and a trio of delicious British puddings lubricated by a smooth Sauvignon Blanc and a fine Rioja.

As usual the proceedings included Sung Grace, led by Liveryman Andrew Brown, followed by the traditional ceremony of the Loving Cup, frequently the source of confusion and merriment especially amongst the novices. This very traditional ceremony signifies the vital

element of fellowship of the Livery. Again Andrew Brown was in action leading the singing of 'The Farmer's Boy'.

Senior Warden Tony Alston introduced this year's principal guest, Lord Michael Dobbs who gave an amusing and relaxed speech in keeping with his reputation as a fine script writer and author, though dubbed as 'Westminster's baby-faced hit man' by the Guardian in 1987. Following his speech he presented the Livery Salver to this year's joint

winners, Liverymen Jill Willows and Geoff Dodgson.

Following the presentation of the salver the Master proposed a toast to The Lord Mayor and the City of London Corporation which was responded to by a former Sheriff and Chief Commoner of the City, Mrs Pauline Halliday OBE who wished the Company good fortune. The whole event was a triumph of detailed organisation and congratulations must go to our gallant Clerk on another notable success.



The Handsome Stewards



AN INTERVIEW WITH PAST MASTER ARNOLD HITCHCOCK CBE

# The Views of an 'Old Master'



Arnold Hitchcock enjoying retirement

*During its 60 years existence The Company has been blessed by having so many talented and entrepreneurial Masters and one of the 'greats' is Past Master Arnold Hitchcock. Now a very sprightly octogenarian, Arnold is still very much in touch with his family's farming activities in Hertfordshire and with the world of agriculture in general.*

Born in the county, he and his younger brother went to St. Faith's School in Cambridge which was evacuated to Ashburton in Devon in 1942, then returned to school at Gresham's in Norfolk. National Service in the Army, based in Germany followed, before starting a degree course in agriculture at Cambridge. However during a routine mass X-ray session he was diagnosed with TB and spent the next months at a sanatorium in Midhurst during which time he became an Apprentice to the Company. He went back to complete his degree before returning to the farm which at the time had 1,900 acres and specialised in growing potatoes alongside sheep and beef cattle.

Arnold's future was shaped by his father Edward (Ted) who started life as a fish buyer for Mac Fisheries before coming into farming. Ted was introduced to the Farmers Company by Richard Haddon, then editor of Farmers Weekly, and became Master in 1967 but sadly died aged 67 in 1975. Very early in Ted's tenure three Liverymen, Geoffrey Parsons, Stephen Cheverley and Derek Pearce came up with the idea of supporting management education for farmers and the first course was held at Wye College in 1963. Arnold attended the second course a year later. The original plan was for attendees to visit progressive farms to learn from their experiences. Naturally his father's involvement with the company resulted in Arnold becoming the first apprentice, bound in June 1955, becoming the first apprentice to be clothed as a Liveryman in December 1959 and was elected to Court in 1968, very fast promotion. During this time Arnold became very active with the NFU in Essex and was elected a member of the PMB, one of the bodies set up under the 1933

Agricultural Marketing Act to operate a supply management system for potato production. He became vice-chairman of the PMB in 1983 and chairman two years later. Other agricultural interests included vice chairmanship of the NFU Mutual, President of the Perry Foundation which supports the Company's charity and President of the Federation of Agricultural Co-operatives. Not surprisingly the profile of the farm changed quite dramatically from being focussed on potatoes to its present structure having 6,000 acres in a joint venture with two neighbours plus a further 1,500 acres under contract. Whereas the farm was selling some 40 tons of potatoes a day they now concentrate on combinable arable crops only.

At the same time Arnold was very active with the Company and was appointed Master in 1978, a youngster at only 43 years old! During his period on Court a number of 'controversial' changes were introduced including the election of women to the Livery which caused much anguish and debate. He was Senior Past Master to Ronald Borner our centurion former Master who sadly passed away in March of this year. Another major development was the very significant increase in the number of Liverymen, a move welcomed by the Court of Aldermen.

When asked what he thought were the key attributes of a successful Master he felt that 'a warm personality' alone was not enough, the ability to chair meetings well is key and that Masters should take a long term view rather than short term gains. He also remembered that during his time as Master the Farmers Livery was barred for four years from visiting the Mansion House because of the 'hooligan' behaviour of some of the Liverymen at a function. Arnold sees an exciting future for the Livery movement as a whole and believes that the Worshipful Company of Farmers should continue to play a leading role.

MILITARY AFFILIATIONS

## RAF Waddington

We welcome this report from our latest military affiliation and plays a key role in the defence of our country and the new station commander is Group Captain Richard Barrow OBE. Royal Air Force Waddington opened as a flying training station in November 1916 and is one of the RAF's busiest operational airfields now home to six Squadrons. No 5 (Army Cooperation) Squadron operate the Sentinel radar surveillance system which delivers wide area, all weather, tactical, theatre and national surveillance information in near real time. The aircraft was deployed domestically to assist in mapping UK flood areas for the environment agency. 8 Squadron operate the E-3D, an Airborne Battle Management and

Control platform with a wide area air surveillance capability. Its tasks can range from air surveillance to the battle management of full-scale aerial activity. The E-3D has been involved in conflicts ranging from the Balkans and Iraq to exercises in the Falklands and on to Afghanistan and Libya. 13 Squadron is the first Remotely Piloted Air System (RPAS) squadron to be based in the UK. The Squadron using Ground Control Stations controls via satellite Reaper MQ-9 aircraft based in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The aircraft is operated by a pilot and a sensor operator, supported by a mission intelligence coordinator. 14 Squadron is a new unit in the ISRAR role. They operate the Beechcraft Shadow R1 aircraft. The aircraft have been procured to provide support to UK forces

on operations. 51 Squadron personnel began Conversion Training at Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska, USA in 2011. Since then qualified UK personnel have been flying alongside their US counterparts on Rivet Joint operational missions. The first Rivet Joint was delivered to Waddington on 12 November 2013. 54(R) Squadron is the ISTAR Operational Conversion Unit. The instructional staff maintain their Combat Ready categories and regularly undertake deployments to operational theatres to augment the front-line Squadrons. The Station maintains a high profile in the local community, not least by delivering a record-breaking Air Show which attracts some 140,000 visitors and raises thousands of pounds for charity.

## Westminster Dragoons

On a rain blasted night in January, three Liverymen set out to Fulham House, the HQ of The Westminster Dragoons. George Jessel, Stuart Burgess and Howard Venters were invited to celebrate this important occasion as guests of Major Andrew Alderson, his fellow officers and the Mayor of Hammersmith and Fulham. Sadly the haggis arrived without the traditional piper (due to military cuts?) however, the fine wines and excellent company more than made up for this lack of ceremony. It was the first time that Liverymen from The Worshipful Company of Farmers had attended a Burns Night at this Mess and it was an honour for us Liverymen to spend time with the Westminster Dragoons, many

of whom had just returned from active service in Afghanistan. The good news is that this Squadron has recently been equipped with Wimics, fast moving heavily armoured Land Rovers, adapted to cope with desert conditions and carrying a crew of three, which can be deployed very quickly in combat situations. Our next engagement with The Westminster Dragoons is the presentation by The Master, The Clerk and Liveryman George Jessel of The Worshipful Company of Farmers' Trophy. This will be awarded to the best soldier (all ranks) who has contributed the most to the Squadron and who has also achieved all the mandatory training. The soldier will also receive a plaque to keep commemorating the occasion.



Liveryman George Jessel at work

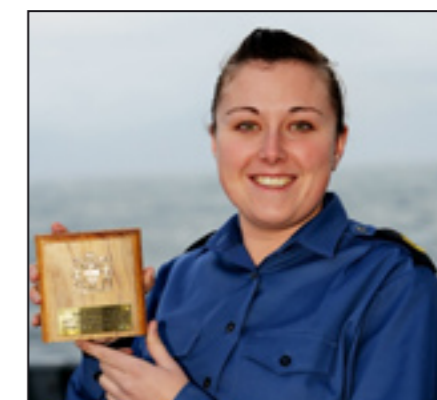
## HMS Defender

Since her commissioning in March 2013 HMS Defender has been undergoing intensive sea trials gearing up for her full deployment for a very wide range of operations such as anti-piracy, anti-smuggling activities, disaster relief work as well as high intensity war fighting.

Defender is a Type 45 destroyer, has a Ship's Company of 190 officers and sailors and was launched by her sponsor, Lady Massey, on Trafalgar Day 2009. Each year The Company presents a leadership award to our affiliated warship's most deserving sailor. The first recipient from Defender was Chief

Petty Officer Samantha Johns, known to her shipmates as Sam who is responsible for the workings of the ship's computer and communications systems. The Master, Baroness Byford, presented Sam with her award in Portsmouth last November and the photograph is of her with the plaque which is made from HMS Victory timber and is the gift of Past Master Sir Graham Wilkinson. In reply Sam wrote "I would like to thank Baroness Byford for the Worshipful Company of Farmers' Leadership Award. It was an honour to have met her and to have even been considered for the award. Everyone on board has worked hard over the past year and the support of the Worshipful Company is

something the ship is proud of".



Chief Petty Officer Johns with her award



## Ronald Borner OBE, VRD, FCA, ACMA 1913 – 2014



Past Master Ronald Borner with his son being clothed

**Ronald Borner was probably more knowledgeable about the Worshipful Company and its constitution than any other Liveryman. He made the Livery his hobby and loved his involvement.**

He was born in India in 1913 whilst his father was a Royal Naval Officer but all his schooling was in England and it was at Hailebury that he developed his other all absorbing passion, that of cricket. He not only played for Hailebury but also for the Young Amateurs of Kent. After school he qualified as a Chartered Accountant and joined Peat Marwick where he remained until the war. Having joined the RNVR in 1934 he was called up in 1939 and was awarded the VRD in 1947 with a bar in 1957. He served in France, Greece, the UK and in India.

After the war he gained another qualification, that of ACMA, and took on the job of Bursar at Taunton School. Following this appointment in 1947 he became the Chief Executive of the Chartered Land Agents Society and then in 1957 of the Chartered Auctioneers and Estate Agents Institute. He later received the OBE for services to the profession. His last move was in 1970 when he accepted the post of Director of Administration with Savills and remained with them

until 1980 and for two years was a consultant to Humberts, finally retiring in 1982. Ronald joined the Livery in 1959 and became Master in 1972. He has remained absorbed by the Livery and in 1988 wrote the full Ordinances and Procedures booklet, the 'bible' of our Company. He was appointed Senior Past Master in 1997 and subsequently Senior Past Master Emeritus. In 1994 he wrote the administrative handbook for the Farmers Fletchers Hall Ltd and was a member of the sub-committee involved in the building of the Hall. In the West Crypt of the Guildhall is a stained glass window depicting the history and objectives of the Company which was a gift by Ronald to commemorate his year in office.

During his career he was Governor of the College of Estate Management from 1953 to 1972, Governor of the Royal Star and Garter Home from 1972 to 1985 and later Vice President. He was a member of Council of the International Real Estate Federation 1961 to 1976. He was also a member of the Appeal Committee for the Centre for European Studies at Wye. He and his wife Margaret lived in Faversham, Kent. Margaret sadly died in 2000 and tragically their only son John, who was also Master of the Livery in 1995 died in 2002 aged only 55. John's widow Genevieve is a Liveryman as is Ronald's only granddaughter Catherine.

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Agricultural Lecture April 2nd

This year's lecture, sponsored by HSBC Agriculture, was held at Merchant Taylors' Hall, a splendid venue in the heart of the City. The speaker was Mark Lynas who has gradually converted from being an active opponent and destroyer of GM crops to one of passionate supporter and he highlighted how much mis-information has been used to denigrate GM products. The event was attended by more than 200 liverymen, guests and Course alumni renewing old friendships.

#### The City Water Debate

This annual event is sponsored the WET 10 Group of Livery Companies and was held on February 24th at Glaziers Hall. The principal speakers were Professor Adel Sharif, Director of the Centre for Osmosis Research at the University of Surrey and Professor Jeni Colbourne MBE Chief Inspector, drinking water. Professor Sharif's talk focussed on the potential new affordable techniques for high volume desalination which could greatly reduce the concerns about water security world wide. His full presentation can be found on our website.

#### Common Hall

Some 50 Liverymen attended Common Hall at Plaisterers' Hall before the Christmas luncheon. Ten questions were tabled, many relating to the refurbishment of our hall in Cloth Street, others regarding improving communication within the Livery. Questions also regarding progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the 2020 commission and why "Once a Liveryman always a Liveryman".

#### Plough Sunday service

This annual service was held at Coventry Cathedral on January 11th and the photograph is of the Master with the Bishop of Warwick, the Right Rev John Stroyan, in front of a vintage Ferguson tractor.



The Master with the Bishop of Warwick

### CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

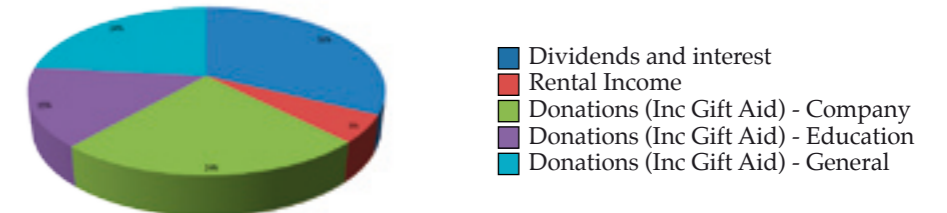
## It is easy to sit up and take notice but more difficult to get up and take action!

*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.*

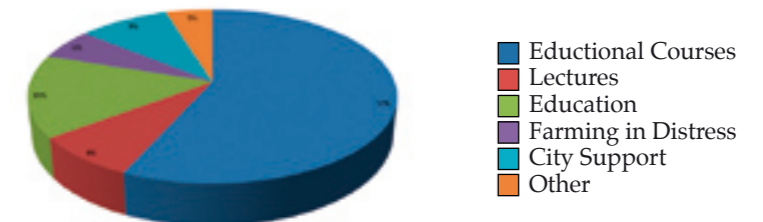
Hopefully, you will all have read our Gallant Clerk's leaflet TO BE A LIVERYMAN; it is an excellent document pointing out the great privilege of becoming a Liveryman and what it should mean for the individual and his/her Company.

We swear to be true and faithful to the Company, to the Lord Mayor and the City and Her Majesty the Queen in the understanding of "Once a Liveryman always a Liveryman." Our Livery nurtures excellence within agriculture, exercises a duty of social care and participates fully within the City of London. We give thanks for the fellowship and service of the Livery Companies; for the customs which carry the memory of times past into the future with confidence and hope; for the skills and talents which they represent and promote in each generation and for the generosity of their charitable work. We continue to maintain and improve the quality of our educational offering and charitable giving despite the fall in rental income from 3 Cloth St. When I was appointed in 2011 I used pie charts to give you all an illustration of the income and expenditure of the Charitable Fund for the financial year ending Sept 2010 and I have now updated these to reflect the position at Sept 2013. It is pleasing to see that, despite the rental income from the Hall falling from 28% to 7% we have more than made up for this with your voluntary donations in response to my previous appeals, the charity levy we pay with quarterage, gift aid, the sterling work of Past Master Jeremy Courtney in sourcing money to support our courses from outside bodies and the Liverymen who sponsor individual course attendees.

#### Analysis of Income for the Year Ended September 2013



#### Charitable Fund Charitable Giving 2012-13



In order to generate further income, the Court has established a Funding Committee under the chairmanship of Immediate Past Master John Reynolds and on which I am happy to serve. I shall continue to encourage you all to consider a legacy to the Company when you draw up your last will and testament but the Funding Committee has a much wider remit. We shall be promoting Corporate Partnerships for companies that are engaged in agriculture and I encourage those of you who know of one that might be interested to contact the Chairman in order that he can make the approach. We are also fostering sponsorship, within which organisations or individuals are able to finance specific activities or events in return for some form of attribution – and again I would ask you to get in touch with ideas and information. We are entering an exciting phase in the saga of 3 Cloth St now that all the agreements are in place after long, tortuous and stressful negotiations. We all owe a debt of gratitude to those Liverymen who have given unstintingly of their time and expertise in bringing it to the brink of fruition. We will have an enhanced Hall for our enjoyment but, importantly, one that will better appeal to the letting market with the up to date

decor and technical facilities required in today's market in the fastest growing area of the City with the coming of the Crossrail link. You will receive a letter from the Master explaining the development of the Hall and the funding we require to achieve our objectives. I exhort you all to read the appeal, study the plans and then, hopefully, you will feel able to help with a donation however large or small which will then secure a Hall at 3 Cloth St. which we can be proud of for generations to come and we will have secured the legacy of our earlier benefactors. I am greatly heartened by the fact that before the appeal was launched we received donations ranging from £15,000 up to £75,000 and I am deeply grateful to these Liverymen who have given us such a flying start. It is worth pointing out that one of these gifts were in the form of shareholdings which will mitigate Capital Gains Tax for the donor. Whilst other Livery Companies complain of falling membership and lack of interest we are fortunate to be a vibrant Company with high calibre people of disparate ages anxious to join us. Email: rthalhead@gmail.com Mob: 07774417087 Liveryman Richard Hallhead