

## LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

### The following were clothed as Liverymen at the June Court Meeting:

John Charles Alliston	Genevieve Marie-Blanche Borner
David John Bright	Simon Rowley Butcher
Andrew Steven Counsell	Timothy James Gibbons
Jeremy Paul Moody	Christine Mary Tacon CBE
Howard Leigh Venters	

### The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the June Court Meeting:

Edward Augustus Bishop	Proposed by M E S Dart Seconded by R J Soffe
Antony James Cooke	Proposed by A M Stevenson Seconded by A J L Worth DL
Richard William Davey	Proposed by M E S Dart Seconded by W Cumber
Professor John David Leaver	Proposed by J D Courtney Seconded by T J Calcutt
Mark Richard Leggott	Proposed by A C Ireland JP Seconded by N D S Brown
Mrs Karen Jayne Mercer	Proposed by Lord Plumb DL Seconded by S C R Fell
William David Peck	Proposed by W D Peck Seconded by P M Bolam LVO
Air Commodore Stephen Neil Skinner	Proposed by Gp Capt G P Carson Seconded by W E Wilson CBE
Robert Angus Jack Stovold	Proposed by Sir Graham Wilkinson Bt Seconded by P M Bolam LVO
Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE	Proposed by Baroness Byford DBE Seconded by A J L Worth DL
James Reginald Townshend	Proposed by R H B Malim Seconded by M R Taylor
The Hon Christopher James Oulton Wade	Proposed by Lord Wade of Chorlton Seconded by J D Courtney
Edward Frederick Walters	Proposed by J S Beer OBE JP Seconded by G W Allen

## CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Liveryman Tom Streeter presented with the Livery Salver at the 2008 Annual Banquet

Liveryman Tony Worth appointed Lord Lieutenant for Lincolnshire.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours 2008 an OBE to Liveryman Henry Cator for voluntary service to the community in Norfolk.

## EDITORS NOTE:

This Newsletter is larger than usual to cover Company activities from January until going to print in early October. Copy date for the Spring Newsletter is 16th February 2009. Will any Liveryman with copy please send it with any photographs by that date. E-mail: rosie.came@yara.com or post to Jacobite House, Sancton, York YO43 4QX. *Thank you.*

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 2008

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

**Tuesday 2 December**  
Court Meeting & Christmas Livery Luncheon in Hall

**Wednesday 3 December**  
Visit to Surrey Docks Farm

**Tuesday 9 December**  
Christmas Carols at St Sepulchre's Church and supper in Hall

### 2009

**Monday 19 January**  
Annual Banquet at Grocers' Hall

**Wednesday 28 January**  
City Food Lecture

**Tuesday 24 February**  
Pancake Race

**Tuesday 10 March**  
Court Meeting & Livery Luncheon in Hall

**Tuesday 28 April**  
Agricultural Lecture & Dinner in Hall

**Tuesday 2 June**  
Court Meeting & Livery Luncheon in Hall

**Wednesday 8 & Thursday 9 July**  
Summer Outing

**Tuesday 6 October**  
Court Meeting, Harvest Thanksgiving Service, Installation & Livery Luncheon

Please remember that the Clerk allocates places at Company functions on a 'first come first served basis'.

## OBITUARIES

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

Liveryman Major John David Summers (Retired) of Romney Marsh, Kent. Died 20 January 2008. Clothed 16 March 1954.

J P (Pat) Jackson, Clerk to the Company 1988-1992, died 30 May 2008.

Liveryman Robert Jack Harrison JP of Randswood, West Wrating, Cambridge died on 8 August 2008. He was Clothed on 15 March 1953 and Master from 1979-1980.



The Worshipful Company of Farmers

# Newsletter

Autumn 2008

## John Thorpe OBE installed as Master of Farmers Company



From left to right: The Clerk, Steward Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard, Senior Warden Jeremy Courtney The Master, Junior Warden Follett Balch, The Beadle, Steward Ian Stockley.

*John Thorpe OBE is the new Master - the 57th - of the Worshipful Company of Farmers. His installation took place immediately after the Company Service of Harvest Thanksgiving at St Sepulchre-without-Newgate, Smithfield, on 7 October, followed by lunch at nearby Haberdashers' Hall.*

John Thorpe - Northamptonshire born and bred and 69 on October 17 - a lawyer by background, inherited rural interests from both parents. "My father was a miller," he explains, "and my mother's father, uncle and cousins were all farmers, so there's plenty of it in the blood."

"I went into law by whim, after studying A Level English and History at Oundle School. I noted that father had a good friend, a solicitor, who seemed to live quite comfortably. I decided to become one of them."

John became articled to this family friend - "who looked after me very well" - for five years, before qualifying in 1963 and marrying Susan. In 1964 he joined Shoosmiths Solicitors, which when John retired as Senior Partner in 1998, had 70 partners and more than 1,000 staff. With many farming clients, his speciality was building societies

and banks. He remains a trustee of several farming trusts.

John and Susan have three married children. Daughter Joanna, with three children, lives in Tanzania, where she has a school and her husband a safari company. They also have a farm in Devon, to which they intend to return. Son Michael, with two children, is in recruitment and recently married son Roger is manager of the Whitbread Estate, near Bedford.

They live at The Manor House, Everdon (population 300) Daventry, which has a beautiful 10-acre garden, complete with lake and its own cricket pitch, where the village team and also John's old firm, Shoosmiths regularly play. John used to keep wicket, but retired from active playing and now umpires.



John and Susan beside their lake.

"I've been a cricket fanatic since giving up sailing Finns in 1968" he says. "One main reason for buying this house was because of the cricket pitch."

Despite his passion for cricket - and for the Livery Company - John's other interests are rugby, golf and walking. He received an OBE in the 2003 New Year Honours, for his services to the community (but largely, he thinks, for his services to education), is an Honorary Fellow of the University of Northampton; was Chairman of the Governors of Moulton College, 1998 - 2006; High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, 2004 - 2005; Chairman of the Nene Foundation; Chairman of Northamptonshire Chamber of Commerce, Training and Enterprise Council and Business Link, 1996-1998; was a member of other regional bodies such as the CBI and East Midlands Regional Development; and is a member of The Farmers Club (as was his father) and the CLA.

John - whose cousin Henry Ashby is a Liveryman with the Farmers Company, as was his father, John's Uncle Will - became a Liveryman in 1997 - was invited to be the Company's Honorary Solicitor from 1999-2007 - became Junior Warden in 2006 and Senior Warden in 2007.

As Master, he would like to reconnect the Livery with its heritage and the aims of its founders, with the emphasis still very much on education. "The Farmers Company was established in the challenging times of post-war Britain making their achievements all the more impressive. The industry is in challenging times today and I am mindful of the need to present an interesting programme of events whilst keeping down, as far as possible, the cost to Liverymen of attending functions".

**Liveryman Don Gomery**



ADVANCED COURSE IN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT - 13 January to 2 February

## Course to move from Wye

*This was the 58th course organised by the Company since the first held on the Lees at Folkestone in the cold winter of 1963.*

As has become the custom we had allocated one place for an antipodean Nuffield Scholar and two for west European farmers. In the event we had a lady cheese maker from Tasmania and an arable farmer from Germany leaving eighteen places to fill from a strong field at the interviews held on 10 October. Places were offered to two consultants, two bankers, and fourteen to general arable and stock farmers and specialist duck and fish farmers.

Funding for this year's students was a challenge since DEFRA- who provided funds of £34,000 last year - were unable to help. Overseas and 'professional' students are asked to pay the full cost of the course amounting to some £3,000; 'primary producers' were expected to pay a minimum of 1/3 of the fees and more according to ability. In the event we were able to raise £39,450 from external funding, £12,400 from the Company's funds and students paid £9,650. It is generally agreed that students should fund a minimum of 1/3 themselves for courses at this level, and 1/2 for higher-level courses such as the Cranfield Institute of Technology being trialled in 2008/9.

Again an exceptional line up of students produced the now expected synergism for original resolution of the challenges put to them by the Course Director Nigel Williams and his team. It is always gratifying, but still surprising, to see the closeness of the bonding that develops between course participants. It is not unusual to be told 'I have made friends to whom I can turn in any situation, be it business or personal'. Farming is a



Presentation to Sara Harden by The Master with Liveryman Tim Calcutt

lonely job and it may be that bonding is one of the most valuable outcomes of the course.

All students were asked to complete a questionnaire about the course. Many had not known what to expect, all felt the course content had exceeded their expectations. Some speakers and projects were the subject of adverse comment, others enthusiastically supported. Typical comments were 'it was a privilege to be on the course..that taught me to stand back and look at my business'. 'I was lucky to have my business pulled apart...' 'I learned new skills...and to produce that which will sell rather than what I thought should sell'.

The Master, Wardens, several members of the Education Committee and some local Liverymen joined the course for the concluding session and 'Presentation Dinner' at which certificates and Company ties were presented. As usual this was a lively joyous occasion with impromptu presentations from the delegates recalling memorable moments from their three-week course. Following the presentations to the delegates, Sara Harden, the Course Administrator for eleven years -who was always highly commended by the Students for her attention to their welfare during the course - was presented with a rose

bowl and thanked by the Master on the occasion of her retirement.

The unexpected decision by Imperial College to close the CEAS facility at Withersdane in July 2008 caught us unprepared and left without a venue for the 2009 course. The lack of student accommodation and teaching facilities at the University of Kent at Canterbury removed that option. The old campus at Wye would have been possible as a teaching venue, but the financial and logistical difficulties of finding student accommodation were such that, with great reluctance, the Education Committee decided not to risk putting on a course for 2009. A sub-committee has made a reconnaissance of six alternative venues / course providers.

Three selected potential course providers have been asked to make a presentation to the Education Committee on October 29th, when one will be invited to mount the course from 2010.

Further details of the 2010 course will be given in the next Newsletter.

### Liveryman Tim Calcutt

*Tim Calcutt is Vice Chairman of the Education Committee with executive responsibility for the Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management. Tim is a 'graduate' of the first Course in 1963.*

CITY FOOD LECTURE

## "Are the Malthusian chickens coming home to roost?"



*Speaker Lord Haskin with an impressively well-balanced approach, explored with finite resources what needs to be done to meet the needs of the world's growing population, increased and western-based food demand and climate change. The task looks pretty daunting and he suggested political and technical genius-including GM- will be needed to avoid a major disaster in the coming decades.*

Speaking authoritatively with his background as a farmer and food processor, he praised the technological developments in farming to produce increased yields (five fold) and food manufacturing to improve the variety, distribution and reduced food prices, balanced with the acknowledged problems of pesticides, surplus production and pollution. 50% of all food produced is wasted he said, with 30% of food wasted in our own homes-castigating 'conservative sell by dates' and our inability to use leftovers.

He suggested supermarkets encourage over consumption contributing to the obesity problems in Britain today. Controversially-for the Farmers, Butchers, Poulterers and probably the Cooks Companies- he said meat was not 'a nutritional essential' and highlighted the less efficient use of land and grains in animal systems.

The panel discussion lead by brilliant Chairman Sir Stuart Hampson expanded the subject leaving us with the conclusion we can take personal choice actions to help mitigate the looming crisis.

The 2008 City Food Lecture was the first to be sponsored directly by the seven food-related Livery Companies with support from hospitality sponsors. The 2009 event will be on 28 January.

3 JUNE LUNCHEON

## Church and farming misunderstood

Before giving his talk at the June luncheon the Bishop thanked the Livery Company for the kindness and hospitality shown to him during his year as the Masters' Chaplain. He described himself as the eldest son who decided not to farm but join the Church. He has lived in a number of parishes and had a number of interesting jobs including being religious advisor to the Archers-but not recently for those who currently listen! Ely is in the Cambridge delta between three rivers and is a "thinking diocese" with close ties with three Cambridge Colleges. He talked about the 1947 Marshall Plan being a social rather than an agricultural document and its subsequent effects on rural areas and activities. The Church and farming he told us share the common feature of being *seriously misunderstood* by society-a major misconception being that all rural areas and community groups are similar so the differing needs of the various groups are not being addressed. He highlighted the requirement to address the real problems of rural poverty.

*The Rt Revd Dr Anthony Russell, Bishop of Ely is one of the senior Diocesan Bishops with a seat in the Upper House and is the Church of England's spokesman on farming and countryside matters. Dr Russell was President of the RASE in 2004/05.*



THE AGRICULTURAL LECTURE - 15 April

# “Too Much Short Term Thinking And Not Enough Co-operation”

*The inaugural Livery Lecture was held in 1957, and the Agricultural Lecture is now firmly established as a key event in the Company's calendar. A 'full house' of 119 including 59 attendees from 32 of our courses were present in our Hall to listen to the 2008 Agricultural Lecture given by Mike Keeble. It was a challenging and, at times, uncomfortable assessment of where he sees the industry today and the consequences of not addressing its problems.*



After commending the work of the Commercial Farmers Group (one of its founders Henry Fell gave the 2006 Agricultural Lecture) and calling for them to be listened to and acknowledged, he called for a Federation of British Agriculture, which could speak with one authoritative voice to replace the fragmented number of organizations we have today,

Warming to his theme he said: “The appearing world food shortages will lead to increasing conflict. In 1945 a global population of 3 billion could

survive organically, but now with 6 billion + we need to make use of all resources with the figure rising to 9 billion+ by 2050. *There is too much short and medium term thinking when the long-term global position should be driving government and EU policy. United we stand and divided (devolution bad) we fall. Democracy does not work.*”

He regretted the number of farmers-particularly in the uplands- leaving the land creating a generation gap and shortage of enthusiasm and talent- so essential for future success. A Federation of Farming will need young people with charisma and communication skills to bring food and fuel production back to the top of the National agenda.

After commending the Worshipful Company of Farmers for the leadership it has taken with its business and leadership courses he called for more action in promoting the many good messages about farming. 70% of the UK landmass is agricultural and forestry land that could be a ‘factory floor showcase’ open to the general public with information boards explaining what is going on in the fields, forests and buildings.

He criticised show organizations for allowing dogs and horse to replace farming exhibits and believes the RASE should return to its original role of supporting ‘Practice with Science’, calling for the Council to make radical attitudinal changes.

Calling for *co-operation*, he felt the northern counties should forge links between the livestock sectors in the central and western uplands with the

east coast arable plain. Despite the aims of the Red Meat Industry Forum-part of the Curry Commission for whom he had worked until its closure in March- the red meat sector still resists production cost analysis, largely clings to tradition and resists the huge potential for *co-operation*.

Taking questions from the floor, Mike recognized the role LEAF had played with its “Speak Out “ campaign and farm information boards. He called for a post mortem on the cost effectiveness of the “Year of Food and Farming “ which he perceived as a wasted opportunity to get farming messages in to schools.

Unsurprisingly, he was not in favour of the government proposal for cost sharing on disease control.

*Mike Keeble's background is in farm management. He and his wife have a tenanted farm in Wensleydale with a herd of Limousin cattle which they have had since Mike was one of the original group that introduced the breed in 1971. The herd is run on a “park system”, it is not recorded with the majority of bulls sold as prime beef the main aim being to produce top quality females.*

*Up to 2001 Mike spent 15 years working for Strutt and Parker on their promotion and development activities covering their conferences and outside events. He is a well-known journalist in all medias; with a regular column in Farmers Guardian and regional press. He also fills around 40 days a year as a commentator at various shows. He has just completed his second book, based on the life and times of John Rymer, taking the on-coming World Food crisis as its theme.*

MILITARY AFFILIATIONS WITH THE ROYAL NAVY AND THE ARMY

*Affiliation with the Royal Navy is with HMS York and follows a visit to the Warship during the summer visit to Portsmouth in 2007. The Worshipful Company of Farmers Leadership Perpetual Trophy will be presented annually, with the name of the recipient engraved on the silver salver.*

*Affiliation with the Army is with W (Westminster Dragoons) Squadron Royal Yeomanry, London's only Territorial Army Cavalry Unit. This affiliation came about through the Clerk who has links with Headquarters London District. The Worshipful Company of Farmers*

*Perpetual Trophy will be presented annually to the winning troop at the Squadron inter-troop competition. The silver Rose Water Dish remains Company property.*

## HMS York

Past Master Sir Graham Wilkinson and Clerk David King were well received and entertained by HMS York on Wednesday 9 January. The WCF Leadership Trophy was presented to POMA (Petty Officer Medical Assistant) Nicholson in front of the Ship's Company and the Chief of Staff (Capability), Rear Admiral Philip Wilcocks CB DSC followed by a small

lunch in the Commanding Officer's Cabin.

HMS York is undergoing a major refit with most of the crew transferred elsewhere. Commander Andrew Price has assumed command from September as they start to develop a new crew with the target of her being re-dedicated in April 2009. Commander Tim Cryar has moved to the Ministry of Defence in London.

The expectation is that HMS York will remain in service until 2014 / 2015 and that the Type 45 Destroyer HMS Diamond, which will take on her affiliations, will replace her.



## The Westminster Dragoons

The Master and Clerk visited the Westminster Dragoons on Sunday 27 July at the Pirbright Training Area and both took an active part in the exercise, which involved being ambushed and shot at! The Master presented the WCF Trophy to Sergeant Miranda Underwood of the winning Troop. Sergeant Underwood was a guest at the October installation lunch at Haberdashers Hall.



Susan Thorpe, Senior Warden, John Thorpe, Brenda Copas, The Master Tom Copas, Anne Courtney and Junior Warden Jeremy Courtney.

The Carpenters' Hall

# ANNUAL LIVERY BANQUET - 22 January

*219 Liverymen and their guests gathered at Carpenters' Hall for the Annual Banquet. Master Tom Copas and Mrs Brenda Copas had planned this carefully, with two tastings to select the caterer and a tour of Halls to select the venue. The Master even invited as a guest Mr Fred Holloway, in order that his fine voice could lead us in The Farmers Boy.*



Liveryman Tom Streeter receiving The Livery Salver from The Master

Carpenters' Hall has a splendid reception area and the opportunity was taken to make more of this part of the evening. To complement the Master's Champagne Reception our caterers, Inn or Out, served canapés of duck, crab, tuna and goats cheese. A smart carpet guard from our affiliated TA Squadron, the Westminster Dragoons, marked the route to the Reception Line.

As the Master's procession made its way into the Banqueting Hall, a Band from the Royal Yeomanry played the traditional Scipio. The room looked stunning with the ivory table covers and beautiful flower arrangements by Brenda. Guests were Major General Bill Cubitt CBE, General Officer Commanding London District and a farmer; the Chairman of the Farmers' Club Liveryman Julian Sayers; and Meurig Raymond MBE representing the NFU. The Master's guest and speaker was Julian Cook, a farmer/banker and Fellow of the Royal Agricultural Societies from East Yorkshire. He proposed the Toast to

the Company. The Senior Warden John Thorpe OBE proposed the Toast to the Guests.

The menu and the food and wine partnerships were a feature of this Banquet with the traditional ceremony of the Loving Cup together with a number of surprises. As a guest wrote afterwards, "it was a truly magical occasion with great splendour, a fantastic attendance, excellent speeches and fascinating company."

The Carpenters Company are Number 26, founded in 1333 with a medieval responsibility for all timber-framed buildings in the City of London. It was one of the earliest Livery Companies to possess a Hall of any size. The Hall, opened in 1960 is the third on the site, the first having been burned down in 1849 and the second bombed in 1941. Our Banquet was held in the magnificent Banqueting Hall that is a showcase for the craft of carpentry and employs 18 different woods.

**David King- Clerk**



Fred Holloway leading the singing of The Farmers Boy



Carpet guard provided by The Westminster Dragoons



## Treasures of the Mansion House



**B**renda Copas invited all Lady Members of the Company and Members' Ladies to join her for a guided tour of the Mansion House followed by a luncheon at our hall.

30 of us had a super day entertained by the very charming John Davis, an enthusiastic Welshman from the Mansion House staff, who gave us an insight into the busy life of the building and the hectic diary of the Lord Mayor- Mansion House is the only private residence in England with its own Court of Justice, a reminder that the Lord Mayor is chief magistrate of the City during his year in office- as well as guiding us through the state rooms and showing us all the plate and other treasures.

A highlight - certainly memorable - was visiting the gentlemen's loo with its 'contraption' for misdemeanours...

### MASTERS & CLERKS LUNCHEON - 23 SEPTEMBER

## NFU President Says Why Farming Matters

*26 Masters - and 1 Prime Warden - together with 23 Clerks were hosted at this event at our Hall by The Master, Clerk, Wardens and 23 Liverymen from the Farmers Company.*

After welcoming our guests, The Master introduced the guest speaker, the NFU President Peter Kendall who gave a masterly description of the increasing importance of our industry to global issues of population increase, water shortage, climate change and food security, and with great enthusiasm explained why *farming matters* - The NFU campaign slogan.

Bringing the subject back to the UK, he talked of the recent weather causing a difficult harvest and an early start to winter feeding of livestock, and the challenges of high commodity prices with falling crop prices.

To the surprise of some of our guests, he stressed that British farmers do not

want handouts and subsidies and to be seen as being 'feather bedded, but want to be allowed to be competitive and efficient versus the rest of the world. He said "Recent suggestions from DEFRA of re-introducing set-aside, failing to implement TB control measures against infected badgers and controlling migrant labour is making the industry nervous as these measures restrict our competitiveness".

Following lunch, Immediate Past Master Sir Graham Wilkinson thanked Peter Kendall and endorsed the comments he made before congratulating the NFU in their centenary year for the essential role they play.

Returning to our Livery Company guests, he said what a privilege it had been for the Farmers Company to return the hospitality the Company had enjoyed with all of them.

## Walking the talk!

Master Tom Copas and Junior Warden Jeremy Courtney took part in The Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners Sponsored Walk to 40 Livery Halls on Thursday 18th September 2008 in aid of the Lord Mayors Appeal for the Charities: Wellbeing of Women, & ORBIS.



**Jeremy Courtney - Junior Warden 2007/08**

## Farmers Company Wins Livery Olympics!

**The Fourth Pancake Race was opened by The Rt. Hon The Lord Mayor Mr David Lewis and hosted by the Master of the Poulterers Company, John Nokes in Guildhall Yard on Shrove Tuesday. Thirty-two Livery Companies attended.**

Rain had fallen overnight leaving the cobblestones wet and slippery but the adrenalin was running amongst the competitors as they donned gowns, chefs' hats and aprons and laced their running shoes. Master Farmer Tom Copas was there giving his team - consisting of the Immediate Past Master and Livery Members Lindsay Hargreaves, Sarah Keene and Master's daughter Sarah Waymouth - every encouragement to stride out for the Company in the Masters, Liverymen, Ladies and Novelty (dressed to promote the Lord Mayor's chosen charity ORBIS- "saving sight worldwide") races. Pancake tossing was practised across the Yard and muscles were flexed for the great challenges ahead.

Every race consisted of a two-length sprint in Guildhall Yard with frying-pan in hand and a toss of the pancake on the way out and on the way back to the finish- a win meant another heat!



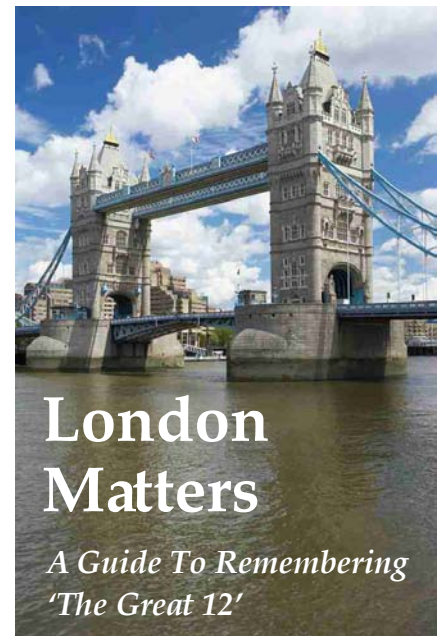
Finally the waiting was over and the Farmers Company were placed in Lane One for the first Masters' heat. The Gunmakers fired a resonant, black powder cannon to signal the start.

By the time the smoke had cleared the Masters were well on the way with the Clockmakers watches ticking. Graham Wilkinson, running on behalf of the Master, progressed to win the Masters Final. Lindsay Hargreaves, Sarah Waymouth and Sarah Keene- wearing a splendidly rural, straw hat decorated with spectacles- competed strongly in their respective races.

The event concluded with a splendid Pancake Song from the Musicians Company before the Chief Commoner Pauline Halliday presented the prizes- the four Trophy Copper Frying-pans. Mark Grove of 'The Cook & The Butler' ensured that all were sustained with pancakes and the event concluded with an excellent buffet lunch in Guildhall. In short, the Company were enormously privileged to be invited to this enjoyable and amusing event, which in a short space of time has become a highlight of the Livery Year.

- The Winners for 2008 were:
- Masters Race – The Farmers
  - Liverymen Race – The Farriers
  - Ladies Race – The Curriers
  - Novelty Race – The Remembrancer's Department
  - Best Hat in the Novelty Race- The Farriers
  - Wooden Spoon – The Launderers

**Past Master Sir Graham Wilkinson**



## London Matters

*A Guide To Remembering 'The Great 12'*

*My Goodness Darling, For Goodness Sake Make Haste, Suddenly I'm Very Cold*

- |            |                  |
|------------|------------------|
| 1 My       | MERCERS          |
| 2 Goodness | GROCERS          |
| 3 Darling  | DRAPERS          |
| 4 For      | FISHMONGERS      |
| 5 Goodness | GOLDSMITHS       |
| 6* Sake    | SKINNERS         |
| 7* Make    | MERCHANT TAYLORS |
| 8 Haste    | HABERDASHERS     |
| 9 Suddenly | SALTERS          |
| 10 I'm     | IRONMONGERS      |
| 11 Very    | VINTNERS         |
| 12 Cold    | CLOTHMAKERS      |

\*Alternating years

**Tom Copas - Our Master 2007/08**

## Lord Mayor's Show 2008

The Master, Wardens and Assistant Lindsay Hargreaves will again be marching in the Modern Livery Companies exhibit on Saturday 8th November 11.am-2.30pm. The LMS is the BBC's longest continuously broadcast event, so if not in London please set your video!



SUMMER OUTING 6 - 7 JULY

## Three Henley Veterans And Sir Steve Redgrave Recall Regatta Races

*The Master and Brenda were the most marvellous hosts at the Temple Island Enclosure on Sunday 6 July at the summer outing at Henley Royal Regatta. The Farmers Company boasts at least three 'Veterans' of Henley - Past Masters Creighton Redman and John Cossins and Liveryman John Brooks- all brought into play on the day. Messrs Redman and Brooks with reminiscences of fifty years ago and John Cossins of sixty years ago!*

After morning coffee in the marquee, tractors and trailers took the whole party to cruise along the Regatta course whilst Creighton entertained us with some of his experiences and recollections of Henley Royal Regatta, first informing that:

"Wherever you start in the rowing world you very quickly realize two things. Firstly that while the Cathedral of tennis is the Centre Court of Wimbledon, the Cathedral of rowing is the Henley Course, and secondly the ambition of all oarsmen is to become a member of Leander Club".



The Master and Mistress Farmer

He regaled us with his stories of racing at Henley in 1957 and 1958, describing races he had won and lost and brought alive 'the Henley experience' whilst telling us of high profile people in the rowing world. Fifty years ago- in 1958- his boat (from the National Provincial Bank) had won the trials to represent England in the Commonwealth Games and Great Britain in the World Championships.

That year they were to row in the Stewards event against Trud Club, the Domestic and European champions from Leningrad, clearly the favourites to win. Reliving the race he recalled, "We drew level at the mile and managed to get home half a length up to win one second outside the record. 1958 being the height of The Cold War, our boat was seen as a representative of a Capitalist Institution that beat a Communist idol." It was the only time Creighton's Grandmother came to see him row at Henley and his father had to bring her round with a glass of brandy!

We returned to the marquee for a splendid lunch, followed by guest speaker *Sir Steve Redgrave* who described many fascinating rowing experiences. A Starter Steward at Henley that day, *Sir Steve* explained the old fashioned system of mirrors with string which gives an accurate method of ensuring bows are level at the start of racing.



Enjoying the occasion



Braving the elements to cruise on the river

Following his address, the second of our *three 'rowing Veterans'*, Past Master John Cossins, rose to thank Sir Steve and to introduce John Brooks first informing us that it was sixty years to the day that he had rowed at Henley for Bryanston School having been entered for both the Ladies Challenge Plate- a race for schools and colleges- and the Princess Elizabeth Challenge Cup for schools. 1948 was a unique occasion as it was the only time two schools have been in the Ladies Challenge Plate. Unfortunately Bryanston were narrowly beaten by Eton College in the final.

John Brooks resplendent in his rowing blazer told us he had been at Henley in 1958 rowing in the Ladies Plate for Gonville and Caius College Cambridge who were beaten in the preliminary rounds by the narrow margin of only four feet!

He endorsed Creighton Redman's story having been there to watch the race against the Russians. John Brooks then proposed the vote of thanks to the Master and Brenda coupled with the name of Company.

It had rained solidly all day- *Sir Steve* had told us they had had to suspend racing for the first time ever due to lightning - and little rowing was watched, though Past Master Sir Graham Wilkinson braved the elements to watch Christ Church race, but the weather did not affect the splendid day. We had had a flavour of Henley and its unique traditions, setting, organization and culture.

Attention to detail has been a constant feature of Master Tom Copas's year, together with stylish hospitality and stunning, fragrant arrangements courtesy of Brenda. Our day at Henley was a testament to the Copas Partnership's way of doing things!

*Further pictures of Henley can be viewed at:*  
[www.raymondthatcher.co.uk](http://www.raymondthatcher.co.uk)

## Windsor

50 of us stayed on for a special visit to St George's Chapel and Windsor Castle hosted by Military Knight Colonel David Axson who lives in the Lower Ward of Windsor Castle.

The Chapel is within the curtilage of the Castle and is one of the acknowledged masterpieces of late Medieval European architecture and home to the prestigious chivalric Order of the Garter. Colonel Axson had arranged for us to have private tours of the Albert Memorial Chapel, the choir stalls, and to see the priceless plate and vestments.

After lunch and an afternoon spent visiting the castle, the party returned to attend Evensong in St George's Chapel where the name of the Company was mentioned in the prayers.

## The Masters Reflections

*Elsewhere in this omnibus newsletter you will have read reports of the recent activities we have enjoyed together. However now my year has come to an end I would like to take the opportunity to share some memories with you all:*

The honour of being Master of a London Livery Company is an experience like no other. You are treated quite differently and to say you cannot prepare for it is quite true.

For a start everybody calls you Master and your partner Mistress Farmer. We experienced new acquaintances unsure if Brenda would be happy to be addressed as Mistress Farmer when first introduced. The wife of a Liveryman is reported to have declared on seeing the seating plan of the Master and Clerks lunch. "I would love to be known as Mistress Farmer".

During your early days in office, you find yourself being recognised by your badge rather than your face, with the badge giving you instant introduction to other Masters - just like a 'Master Key' it opens all doors. High points of my year include attending the great city occasions such as the elections of The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs- when all Masters are gowned, chained and badged- occasions open to all Liverymen and usually followed by a jolly lunch at our hall, I thoroughly recommend attending.

However my overwhelming memory is of the friendship and comradeship that Brenda and I have received which we will treasure for years to come, along with thanks to the Livery for allowing us to Master and Mistress for a wonderful year.

**Tom Copas - Our Master 2007/08**