

LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 8 June 2010:

Samuel Peter Bradford  
Elizabeth Brierley  
Andrew Roland Chadwick  
George Elphinstone Jessel  
Adrian Charles Parker Lott

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 8 June 2010:

David William Ashley Burgess  
Proposed by C J H Wilson  
Seconded by H E Upton

Ian Thomas Dalton  
Proposed by H L Venters  
Seconded by A R W Bell

Hugh Charles Drake DL  
Proposed by M J Scott  
Seconded by N D S Brown

Mark Brian Grigg  
Proposed by W E Wilson  
Seconded by A W D Pexton

Caroline Lucie Ratcliff  
Proposed by A C Streeter  
Seconded by Miss B J Young

The following were made Freemen by Servitude at the Court meeting on 8 June 2010:

Edward William Allen  
Thomas Christopher Copas

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 5 October 2010:

Graham John Birch  
By Interview

Richard Thomas Whitlock  
Proposed by J K Reynolds  
Seconded by P G Wynn

Mrs Rosemary Nash  
Proposed by M E S Dart  
Seconded by C J French

Mrs Helen Cossins  
Proposed by J H Cossins  
Seconded by M E S Dart

OBITUARIES

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

Yeoman **Charles Geoffrey Hyde** of Wool, Dorset. Died 5 June 2010. Clothed 8 December 1975.

Yeoman **Richard Anthony Brooke** Winch of Blakeney, Norfolk. Died 6 July 2010. Clothed 17 March 1959.

Liveryman **Richard Arthur Bevan** of Lincoln. Died 4 September 2010. Clothed 27 November 1995. Court Assistant from 2001 to 2009.

EDITORS NOTE:

This Newsletter covers most Company activities from March 2010 up to the 20 October Livery Dinner (the report of the Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management is also included). Copy date for the Spring Newsletter is 15 February 2011. Will any Liverymen with copy please send it to me together with photographs by that date. E-mail: rosie.carne@yara.com or post to the Clerk. *Thank you.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2011

Tuesday 18 January  
City Food Lecture

Tuesday 25 January  
Banquet at Fishmongers' Hall

*A highlight of the Livery Calendar!  
Tickets still available, please  
contact the Clerk*

Tuesday 1 March  
Court Meeting and Livery  
Luncheon in Hall

Tuesday 8 March  
Pancake Race and Lunch at  
Guildhall

Friday 1 April  
United Guilds Service and  
Luncheon at Stationers' Hall

Thursday 14 April  
Agricultural Lecture & Dinner  
at Butchers' Hall

Wednesday 18 May  
Inter-Livery Shoot  
(contact the Senior Warden)

Tuesday 7 June  
Court Meeting and Livery  
Luncheon

Tuesday 12 July  
Summer Outing to Chiswick  
House

Tuesday 11 October  
Harvest Thanksgiving,  
Installation and Luncheon

Saturday 12 November  
Lord Mayor's Show

Tuesday 6 December  
Court Meeting and Livery  
Luncheon



Master Follett Balch – following in father's footsteps



The Master Follett Balch with (on his left) Senior Warden Peter Faulkner and (on his right) Junior Warden John Reynolds

*When Follett Balch donned the robes and chain of office to become the 59th Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers, he was literally following in father's footsteps. Forty years earlier Follett, having just been clothed with the Livery, looked on as his father William (Billy) Balch was installed as Master.*

Follett was no stranger to the Livery having gained his Freedom by servitude, after four years as an apprentice. He recalls, with affection, the archaic articles that restricted how frequently a master should serve his apprentice salmon or oysters- Billy never broke those rules! However, his continued enthusiasm for apprenticeship is not driven by nostalgia, but by a real desire to see the Livery engage with younger people.

Unlike many Past Masters, Follett is not a farmer. However he grew up on a farm in Suffolk. The family gave it up in 1966 and while the farm sale completed on the traditional Michaelmas day, the farmhouse was retained for ten days longer to accommodate Follett's marriage to Suffolk girl Libby.

That love of the countryside and a belief in the role of farmers and the farming industry to both feed the nation and

address crucial food issues facing the world, are key concerns of the new Master.

During a successful career as a Chartered Surveyor he was responsible for the management of some significant estates on behalf of major investors and institutions. A career highlight was being responsible for a large part of Whitehall including Downing Street, the Foreign Office and the Treasury.

Early in his career, Follett recognised the importance of fellowship – which he hopes to foster within the Livery. He became involved in the then Junior Organisation of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors eventually becoming its national chairman. He says this was a wonderful experience and good training for later professional life and now the Master's role.

Follett spent 36 years with Chestertons, becoming a partner in the early 1970's. He left in 1999 to join Cluttons where he spent seven years before retiring in 2006. For many years Follett and Libby have lived in Hammersmith where they raised three daughters – Philippa, Sophie and Alexandra all of whom now continue to live in London. However, an important part of the work: life balance has been their other home

back in Suffolk at Aldeburgh, where Follett enjoys sailing and playing golf. He regrets having failed to get golf off the ground for the Company during his time as Warden but is hopeful that Liveryman Martin Taylor, who has taken this on, will be more successful.



Follett and Libby Balch

Like every Master, Follett has ambitions for what he would like to achieve in his year. For instance, he will continue the engagement with young people begun by Immediate Past Master Jeremy Courtney. He is looking forward to hearing Liveryman Belinda Canham, Headmistress of the Gateway School in Islington, who will speak at the December Court Luncheon, on the educational needs of children in the Inner City about food and farming issues.

He also hopes to be able to encourage the Livery to take some longer term views of its role and the challenges that lie ahead. He highlights the development of the Company's brand and its contribution to agricultural education and research perhaps beyond the courses run so successfully at The Duchy College and the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester. It is also necessary to ensure continuity of funding at a time of financial stringency.

"A purposeful Livery with challenging but appropriate aims and objectives will be a more rewarding Livery," he says recognising that this requires a continuity of approach through successive Masters.

Liveryman Geoff Dodgson



ADVANCED COURSE IN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT – 18 January to 5 February

## A new lease of energy and confidence from 59th Course



Worshipful Company of Farmers Advanced Business Management 59th Course

*On the 7th October I caught a train to London for my interview for the 59th Worshipful Company of Farmers Course and I can recall feeling somewhat apprehensive at the prospect. The last time I had an interview was 25 years ago and even considering it was a successful one, I was still very nervous. For many weeks building up to the interview I had searched for the many questions I required answering for my ongoing farming career, and I was hoping to be successful obtaining a place so hopefully these many questions could be answered. When I arrived it soon became obvious that this was an opportunity not to be missed, and thankfully I was one of the candidates selected for the course.*

The course started on the 17th of January at the Royal College of Agriculture at Cirencester. All the candidates assembled, and before long we were all whisked off to our lecture room and bang in to a psychometric test. From this moment on we knew that the next three weeks were going to be informative and very thought provoking. The skill of putting 20 people together cannot be underestimated, and without a doubt the WCF and Cirencester certainly achieved a very good mix of people and skills which produced in my opinion an incredibly

well balanced group. I'm sure that for many years to come we all have a list of contacts that we will find invaluable at times, a true asset in itself.

The course itself was very demanding, especially considering that for most of us we had not been in a classroom for 20 years! Over the next three weeks we were to be totally spoilt with superb speakers involved in many different aspects of Agriculture. The quality of presentations was exceptional and the content matter delivered very professionally. The course content was very extensive and delved at some depth into many aspects of agriculture that will have significant implications for the future of our businesses. One can easily become somewhat stagnant in your approach to farming and a reality check of this nature I would recommend



The Royal College of Agriculture at Cirencester

to anyone considering taking this course. To take three weeks away from your family and your business is a huge undertaking, but having done so it really is so beneficial because not only do you learn a lot about yourself and the way you react to different challenges presented to you, you become very alert to your own business issues that you must act upon.



Out on the farm

On arriving home from the course I have resisted from trying to change anything until I have properly analysed all areas of my business. I now have in place a framework of change that I intend to implement over the next five years. The course most certainly answered all my questions and has given me a new lease of energy and confidence to go out and achieve my aspirations for the future as will all the other 19 delegates. The future for UK agriculture will always be challenging but having undergone this course I feel well prepared.

**Course delegate Robert Garner**

## “We need a second green revolution and we need it now if we are to stave off food shortages”

AGRICULTURAL DINNER AND LECTURE - 27 APRIL



Picture of cucumber mosaic virus, courtesy of Mr Derek Hargreaves

*The 2010 Agricultural Dinner was addressed by Sir David Baulcombe FRS, Regius Professor of Botany at Cambridge University and recently Chair of the Royal Society report entitled “Reaping the Benefits: Towards a Sustainable Intensification of Global Agriculture”, which was published in October 2009.*

Sir David began by describing his twenty-five year involvement working with GM plants and crops as a “truly amazing experience”. It had given him, he said, the opportunity to participate in the development of some highly important advances in both agriculture and medicine.

However, there remained a lingering frustration, as he believed the real potential of the science had yet to be realised. We need, he said, a second green revolution if we are to stave off food shortages in twenty or thirty years’ time. We need to increase food production as rapidly as we have done since the war but with the additional challenges of using methods with lower environmental impact and climate change.

Sir David advocated progress on two fronts – the development of new methods of crop management including crop protection chemistry and the genetic improvement of crops by breeding and genetic modification.

Recalling his early experiments in 1985, on cucumber mosaic virus, the Professor explained how scientists had quickly progressed to develop methods that could confer resistance against any virus. Experimentation had revealed useful plant traits that could be capitalized on - and now DNA sequencing technology was revealing the make up of the genome sequence of the major crops, allowing the identification of genes, “The genetic engineer’s tool box “he told us” is now massively more complete”. We can also think of using it to introduce radical new traits and, from research, we can see ways to increase the efficiency so that yield potential is increased by 50%.”

Already, the technology had been successfully utilized to increase insect resistance and herbicide tolerance. However, Sir David advised caution, “I do worry about wide spread application. Pests and disease have a nasty way of fighting back (through) natural selection and an inevitable consequence is that they will evolve to overcome.”

He also had concerns that the technology was owned by only a few companies, describing it as ‘not a healthy situation’. Co-operation should be a priority as our emphasis must now be on translating research into applicable technologies.

Yet it was to scientists that Sir David issued his greatest challenge. He urged them to become ‘more political’. “We cannot on the one hand say that we are delivering a technology that has the potential to be transformative, and on the other hand stand back from thinking and speaking about application. We need to link our view about the science and technology with thinking about

how it is used or what its effects might be on society and the environment. “

Finally, Professor Baulcombe turned to the GM debate as a whole. He, unlike some of his colleagues, felt that the controversy over GM had been useful and that it will contribute to constructive application of the technology. Professor Baulcombe also stated it is appropriate to give consumers the choice as to whether they use GM. He pointed out that at present they do not have that choice because the products are not stocked in supermarkets or other retail outlets.

**The evening concluded with questions.**

**Janet Reynolds**



The Master thanking Professor Sir David Baulcombe FRS



MILITARY AFFILIATIONS

# HMS YORK celebrates 25 years of operational service



HMS YORK on deployment in the South Atlantic

*It is always hugely uplifting to visit "our warship" HMS YORK and Thursday 26 August offered a particularly special occasion as we were invited to join her Silver Jubilee celebration. 65 liverymen and guests together with her current crew and 17 of her commanders - since she was launched at Rosyth on 25th March 1985 - joined the ship whilst berthed at Portsmouth Naval Base.*

The current commander, Commander Simon Staley, began his address by welcoming the Farmers' Company and telling the whole audience how the Ship's Company valued the relationship we have built over the last three years - our claret jug is proudly displayed in the trophy cabinet and presented annually to the crew member recognised for the qualities of leadership and initiative. The 2010 recipient was presented with the trophy by the Master on board ship on 20 July. YORK he told us was the 12th ship since 1864 to bear that name and the current HMS YORK is the last Type 42 destroyer to be built. Commander Staley took command in May 2009 following a refit and he described the rededication event in Hull and York in June which was featured in the Autumn 2009 Livery Newsletter. In November 2009 HMS York was deployed to the South Atlantic and whilst "in theatre" the announcement of the discovery of oil off the Falkland Islands had caused some excitement in the press. HMS YORK came across an Argentinian ship

"The Drummond" in illegal waters, and after what the Commander described as a "short and frank discussion", she apologised and left. This led to a Newspaper headline "Navy sends Argy warship packing"! We learned of further activities with other British forces and something of the life in today's navy. We then divided into small groups and had tours and demonstrations to gain an appreciation of an operational warship and the role she fulfils. HMS YORK has 5 main decks sub divided into water-tight compartments, connected by a network of corridors with access between decks achieved by ladders.

We were all impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism of the Ship's Company, and wish her 'God Speed' as in January 2011 HMS YORK will once again be deployed to the South Atlantic.



Presentation of the 2010 Leadership Award aboard the Ship on 20 July. The recipient, Petty Officer Francis Saunders, is third from the right holding the Jug with his wife Lisa

# Dinner at the Royal Yacht Squadron

Past Master Sir Graham Wilkinson sponsored a Livery Dinner the previous evening at the Royal Yacht Squadron on the Isle of Wight. Commander and Mrs Staley and other members of the Royal Navy attended the dinner making it a wonderful start to the Livery celebrations of HMS YORK's 25th anniversary celebrations.



George "Engines" Adams - HMS York's special correspondent to the Worshipful Company of Farmers with Assistant Rosie Carne and Liveryman Richard Halhead



Commander Simon Staley

THE MASTERS AND CLERKS LUNCHEON - 15 SEPTEMBER

# A snapshot of farming today

*Introduced by the Master, Liveryman Christine Tacon CBE gave the address before the Masters and Clerks luncheon where we entertained 68 Masters and Clerks to lunch at our hall.*

Christine began by describing the origins of her company: The Co-operative Farms, which is owned by the same Co-op known for food stores, funeral parlours, banks and travel shops, and is Britain's largest farmer.

The Co-op bought its first farm in 1896 and bought more between the world wars, in order to guarantee security of supply to the Co-op stores. There used to be vertically integrated supply chains for example from farm to flour mill to bakery to store, all owned by the Co-op movement. Nowadays that chain is gone.

The main crops are cereals (wheat, barley and oil seed rape), apples, potatoes, onions, strawberries, broccoli and peas but also 'fun projects' such as a premium cider from ancient apple tree varieties unique to their farms, honey production and a newly planted vineyard. Christine brought bottles of cider and apple juice for our guests to sample.

She described how the branding of 'commodity products', and selling them in Co-op stores, gives the Co-operative food business a difference over their competitors. The Co-op has a commitment to invest a proportion of profits back into the local community, with the Farms business supporting their 'From Farm to Fork' education project through which over 25000 children have spent a day on a farm learning where their food comes from and how to cook it.

Christine was not a farmer when she took the helm of The Co-operative Farms business ten years ago, but now has many roles and responsibilities within the food and farming industry and is chair of the 2011 Oxford Farming Conference.

She described how the farmer is right at the bottom of the food chain and a "price taker" - as the price on the day



Liveryman Christine Tacon CBE addressing the Masters & Clerks Luncheon

the crop/ animal is mature is the price earned - a contributing factor to the exodus from farming, for example around 1,000 dairy farmers are lost each year.

This is why, Christine said, farmers get excited when people talk about population growth and food security, because they can see the opportunity to get value for what they grow. Farming is a high risk industry (often weather driven) with low rewards and that, in theory, is not sustainable. However farmers are masters at surviving, investing in the good years and tightening their belts, probably not just proverbially, in the bad ones. A particular problem for the smaller farmers.

How to break the cycle is the issue, particularly when food has been interfered with by governments since the time of the Pharaohs!

So what are the big issues facing British farmers today?

- Poor profitability
- Lack of investment in research and development
- Lack of GM technology - UK farmers are not united in wanting GM, but to compete with other countries, they do need to be able to take advantage of the scientific solutions they have brought
- GHG emission reductions
- Lack of young people choosing careers in the farming industry
- Subsidies- essential to make a profit. Farmers don't like being dependent on them, but they in turn are reducing

the price they get paid and therefore the price of food.

Elaborating, Christine said "We are always concerned when it comes to CAP reform lest the English government goes it alone and reduces subsidies. Clearly they are reflecting the views of the public in doing this, but most of us hope that the views of other EU countries, including the French and the Scots, will prevail and argue for a common policy so we can compete".

Concerning the lack of young people wanting to join the industry, she described the "Young Advocates for Agriculture" debating competition which the Farmers Company has supported. Described further on page 8.

She concluded by saying "It is a wonderful industry, with a responsibility to feed you, provide the environment you find in the countryside and to protect our wildlife. Our industry has no doubt been in existence longer than yours, as who do you think planted the tree from which Eve plucked her apple? And however difficult business may seem sometimes, we will be an industry that exists so long as we are on the planet".

Immediate Past Master John Thorpe then welcomed our guests, thanking them for the hospitality shown to Masters of the Farmers Company over the last two years and reminding them they were seated with Liveryman from the Company able to continue the discussion on the points Christine had raised.



The Kitchen on "Christ Church time"



Luncheon in "Hogwarts Dining Room"



The Senior Warden and the Master with our lunch speaker Professor Alan Chapman FRAS

# THE SUMMER OUTING – 28 June 2010

**Did you know that Christ Church, Oxford is a unique joint foundation of College and Cathedral? That "Christ Church time" is five minutes behind the rest of the UK? That Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll) modelled many of the characters in his famous "Alice" books on Christ Church people and objects?**

Well the sixty five Liverymen, partners and guests learned all of the above and much more during the day we spent in Oxford, firstly at Christ Church and then after lunch from the tours of the City and other colleges. It was whilst in the splendid kitchens we learnt that when the UK agreed to accept one time zone, that Christ Church had retained the fact that Oxford was 5 minutes behind London, lunch is therefore at 1.05pm and lectures start at 9.05 am and not 9.00am.

We then visited Christ Church Cathedral, one of the smallest Anglican cathedrals and the only church in the world to be both a cathedral – the Bishop of Oxford's throne is here - and a college chapel. Many famous people are Christ Church graduates; amongst them in the 1720's were brothers John and Charles Wesley who not only studied at Christ Church but were both ordained in the cathedral. One of the oldest buildings in Oxford, it was constructed as a monastery church in the 12th century having previously been a



Off to see Oxford "past and present"

church dedicated to St Frideswide, the patron saint of Oxford who died in 727AD.

Before having lunch in the Great Hall – more recently known for being the dining room at Hogwarts School in the Harry Potter films – we enjoyed drinks in the sunshine in the Masters garden. In the Great Hall we sat below stain glass windows depicting creatures from the Lewis Carroll's book "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland". We learned that the White Rabbit was based

on Alice's father Dean Henry Liddle who disappeared from High Table after dinner through a hidden door in the panelling and down a spiral staircase (like a rabbit hole), and the Red Queen who shouted "off with her head" was inspired by the portrait hanging above the High Table of the college's founder King Henry VIII who had executed two of his wives. After lunch Professor Alan Chapman FRAS told us of the many connections between Christ Church, agriculture, wealth and medicine. Christ Church student Thomas Willis

was a medical student and son of a farmer who recognised the relationship between heat and fever from his observations of dung beetle activity and from the fortune he made bought land. Music to our ears, he suggested the best agricultural practise comes from land in private hands concerned with making a profit! In 1824 the Rev. William Buckland, Regis Professor of Geology and canon of the cathedral had started lecturing in Agricultural Chemistry following his passion for the land and

recognition of the role of nitrates to soil chemistry and crop growth. As a result of this activity many farmers – often sons of Dukes - had been educated at Christ Church.

Following lunch the party was divided in to groups to tour "Oxford past and present", guided through the historic city centre to enjoy its history, architecture and traditions of its famous buildings and institutions.

Some Liverymen ask me why I go on the summer visit. It is because the Master traditionally has a special connection with the venue and is able to arrange a special and privileged experience, not available on other occasions. This tradition was certainly upheld at Christ Church.

*It was a super day!*



Drinks in the Masters garden on a glorious summer day.



## LIVERY MATTERS

### Identifying young advocates for agriculture



Finalists in the Young Advocates for Agriculture competition held at Cereals 2010. Winners Angharad Evans and Jess Saunders from the RAC with NFU Deputy President Meurig Raymond and runners - up Kate Ockelton and Philip Banham from Easton College. Photograph courtesy of Tim Scrivener: Farmers Weekly

**F**arming issues are regularly aired in mainstream media by people who know little about the countryside and less about farms and farming. Everyone has an opinion about food - accurate or otherwise. Issues such as food security, animal welfare, bio-technology, bio-diversity, the Common Agricultural Policy, the strength of the currency, crop protection - and not to mention the appropriate size of dairy units in Lincolnshire - are all cases in point!

The National Farm Research Unit (NFRU) (run by Freeman Jim Williams) and David Bolton Partners pioneered an idea to select and train voices from within the student body coming into the UK agri-food industry so they could stand up and be confident and effective in debate. The Worshipful Company of Farmers award made possible the first round. In a marquee provided by Haymarket at the Cereals Event in 2010, Liveryman Christine Tacon, Assistant David Bolton and Jane Craigie judged the final debate, which took place between Easton College and the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester.

An annual trophy was presented by Meurig Raymond, Deputy NFU President (see photo) to bear the winners names and, more significantly, a days media training to be provided by Tom Heap, who co-ordinates the BBC Panorama programmes and was once their Rural Affairs Correspondent.

The competition provides a visible national platform for the Worshipful Company of Farmers linking it with youth and education as well as (hopefully) UK society as a whole. One of this year's winners, Angharad Evans, is now to participate in the famous Oxford Union during the Oxford Farming Conference - 4th - 6th January 2011 - partnering Jonathan Porritt CBE against Sir Paul Judge and Young Farmer, Richard Thomas, giving further recognition to the Livery. Furthermore Barclays Bank plc have agreed to provide a free community bank account through which to manage this project in future.

Assistant David Bolton



Matilde Wallevik from Love Opera

### City University Award - presented at the Livery Luncheon 8 June



The Worshipful Company of Farmers presents an annual prize for Agriculture and Food Policy to a student at the City University. Cheron Constance won the 2010 prize for her thesis on "Urban Agriculture in the Developing World".

She was to have been accompanied at the presentation by her tutor Professor Tim Lang who is well known to many as a broadcaster (and he has been on the Panel at the City Food Lecture). Tim Lang is keen to develop projects that might be of interest to the Company. He was unable to attend so Cheron was instead accompanied by Dr David Barling, Reader in Food Policy at City.

## LIVERY DINNER - 20 OCTOBER

### Love Opera set pulses racing at the Livery Dinner

*Once glasses were charged Liverymen and their guests were led into dinner with the Drinking Song from La Traviata sung by Matilde Wallevik and Chloe Wright accompanied by Stephen Moore who together perform as Love Opera.*

The Livery Dinner held on Wednesday 20th October replaced the Ladies Dinner for Court and Committees. The Hall was transformed for the evening into a more intimate setting with round tables. Each of the tables was musically themed; The Magic Flute, The Yeoman of the Guard, Der Rosenkavalier, Rigoletto, La Traviata, Don Giovanni, Così fan tutte and Il Travatore.

During a wonderful seven course dinner matched with fine wines, Matilde

and Chloe moved amongst the tables performing well known arias. Stephen Moore the pianist introduced one of the arias, Ebben, ne andro lontana as being from a rarely performed opera La Wally by Alfredo Catalini. He explained that the opera features one of the most memorable operatic deaths but that it is rarely performed because of the staging difficulties of having the heroine throw herself into an avalanche!

"Ruffling a few feathers" and setting the pulses racing Matilde and Chloe sang the famous aria from Bizet's Carmen, Habanera (Love is a rebellious bird) and Barcarolle from Tales of Hoffman by Offenbach.

With the duet "I will choose the handsome dark one" from Così fan

tutte there was much anticipation within the room amongst the Liverymen until the red rose finally fell into the lap of Richard Halhead.

The finale was a suitably moving performance of the Flower Duet. The performers then joined the tables and Liverymen and their guests had an opportunity to learn more about Love Opera. Their billing promised that they would "entertain, thrill and amuse". They did all three in spades!

The vision for the evening was that of the Master Follett Balch and his wife Libby, guests will attest that it was a memorable evening and a great success.

Liveryman Christopher Day

### Fascinating Walk with the Master

*On a sunny day in September some 50 liverymen and their families enjoyed a fascinating walk around the Master's 850 acre dairy farm, Crouch's Farm, in East Hoathly in East Sussex followed by a very enjoyable meal at a local hostelry.*

The afternoon started with a delicious tea and cakes at the farmhouse hosted by Anne Courtney ably assisted by their daughter Charlotte.

In common with many farmers the Master has diversified into a number of activities alongside the core farming business and we looked at the major enterprises including a very successful bakery, Chef's Pantry, where the visitors were given a 'cooks' tour of the production line with lip smacking cakes and pastries but no-one was allowed to sample, much to the dismay of many. The bakery is housed in four redundant buildings, employs more than 20 local people and has been on site for 8 years.

Another interesting diversification is the open air caravan storage area where some 200 vans are kept in a secure compound with access strictly controlled. Caravan owners take their pride and joy away for the summer months before returning them in the Autumn. However not everyone takes their caravan out of the field but visit at



The Master describing the complex operation at Crouch's Farm

weekends to admire their property and picnic alongside it!

We then looked at all aspects of the real farm where the herd of 200 Friesians and 130 followers is central and a newly installed computer controlling system keeps a close watch on every animal's performance and as a result the yields have improved considerably over the past year. We then visited Anne Courtney's pride and joy, the calving compound, where many very healthy and happy specimens entertained us all.

Everyone was having such an interesting time that departure for the pub was a bit delayed but compensated for by tasty pints of Harvey's ales and a beautifully prepared three course meal at the White Hart in Waldron. After dinner we were treated to brief talks

by three Company sponsored former students, Dale Burden who attended our Rural Leadership course in 2008 and now works with a major John Deere franchise, Richard Garner from Cheshire who attended the first Advanced Farm Management Course in Cirencester and Liveryman Lindsay Hargreaves who is the Chair elect of our Education Committee who spoke on WET 10. All the speakers praised the support that they had received from the Company and recommended the educational efforts to prospective candidates.

Unfortunately the very enjoyable day had to be brought to a fairly sober end with heart-felt thanks to Jeremy and Anne for their welcome and hospitality.

Liveryman John Evans



LONDON MATTERS - Livery Halls Walk

# Lucy came to London



Lucy chews the cud with the Master of the Constructors, Christine Rigden, and Barrie Torbett, Master of the Environmental Cleaners.

The Master's call preceded a seductive e-mail directing me to the Armourers Hall at an unearthly hour for the 2010 Inter-Livery Walk. Walk – dictionary says is a short journey made on foot at moderate pace (whilst friends give money – synonyms include "fun run"). Marches like Hargroves' whilst a Colombian hostage, Wiseman's as an escaped PoW and even Mao Zedong flashed through my mind. The Chinese covered 6,000 miles between 1934 and 1936. We managed almost nine miles in seven-and-a-half hours. Marching numbers were restricted to 40 Masters, Clerks and Assistants with five photographers, supervisors, guides and medics – any more and the City constabulary would describe the gathering as a "riot".

The colourful Master and Deputy Master of the Cooks Company blamed their late arrival on the loss of paperwork and standing orders in a fire (until it was pointed out that the fire had been during the blitz in 1940). The Farmers Master-Elect commenced a thinly supported rendition of "To Be a Farmers Boy" as we flashed past first the Butchers, then the Information Technologists and then the Founders Halls, towards our own. Brian Wadsworth, Master of the Carmen, made an impressive sight in gown, bonnet and badge adjacent to Master Fueller John Bainbridge, whose gown was an early reminder for 5 November

yet to come. The Tobacco Pipe Makers & Blenders' scarlet hats worn by Master Julian Keevil and Senior Warden Fiona Adler were amongst the brightest, though removed as we sipped water whilst admiring the Hall of the Drapers – purchased from Henry VIII in 1543.

We accelerated up St Mary's Hill, pausing briefly to be photographed next to the Watermens & Lightermens Hall (still rumoured to be the source of the best City lunch). Established by Act of Parliament in 1555 (the only London Livery Company to be so) it is still home to the oldest rowing race in the world – from London Bridge to Chelsea in 1715 – for a suit and silver badge.

A meeting with Lucy, a Friesian cow from Plumpton Agricultural College whose attendance had been arranged by our Master, provided a distraction from the practical – if un-photogenic – trainers worn by Master-Elect Balch and Assistant Bolton whilst she sought

to chew the cud with the Master of the Constructors, Christine Rigden, and Lord Strathalmond, Master of the Girdlers. Lunch and rest was achieved at the Bakers Hall whilst Lucy posed for photographs, particularly with Venetia Howes and Ruth Campbell – respectively Masters of the Marketors and Scriveners Companies.

After the Fishmongers Hall (we did not see the dagger that slew Wat Tyler in 1381 but we did see Annigoni's portrait) and a re-fuelling point whilst passing the Vintners, we started out past the Painter Stainers Hall and along the Embankment to HQS Wellington, leaving Lucy behind as she would not manage the gangway on a falling tide. Time keeping on board was poor and our arrival crisp, so we missed tea and returned parched towards the Stationers, Cutlers & Saddlers Halls whilst occasionally beaming for the inevitable tourist photo shoots. Having caught the Master Mariners napping, we learned the accuracy of the Scriveners. Ruth Campbell advised that the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, is titular Head to the Scriveners' profession - who continue to examine, admit and regulate all Scrivener Notaries today.

In total 40 Halls were visited on a sunny, informative and enjoyable day. Little has been said so far of the Environmental Cleaners (motto Tergere est Servare) led by their smiling Master Barrie Torbett and Clerk Neil Morley, responsible for the preparation and highly successful execution of the walk following its institution by their Past Master Emeritus Stephen Wright. His was a brilliant idea and a gauntlet has been laid down (or alternatively the bar lifted?) in respect of promotional aids for 2011 after Lucy's personal contribution to the pavements.

Assistant David Bolton



The Inter-Livery Walkers

LONDON MATTERS

# City of London Courses to learn more about Livery History



Readers may be interested to know that the City of London runs two courses for Liverymen across the city. The first course the 'City Briefing' is for new Liverymen to provide an introduction and a further course 'City Management' for members of the company approaching a stage where they are likely to take on a leadership role.

As a relatively new Liveryman (clothed March 2009) I was interested to know more of the history of the Livery Companies and their role within the City of London. I therefore booked onto a course running in February some time ago and would flag up that the courses do get very booked up so would advocate booking early to avoid disappointment!

The courses are hosted by the Innholders Company at their splendid hall in College Street and the evening starts, as all civilized evenings should, with a glass of wine and a chance to mingle with fellow attendees.

We were then welcomed to the Hall and told a little of the history of the host company. There was an informative video presentation which gave a visual history of the City of London and the place of the Livery Companies within this, bringing into sharp focus the juxtaposition of the long tradition of the companies with the very modern operation of the City.

I would thoroughly recommend the event as a good way to gain a better understanding of the City and the Liveries, as well as being a thoroughly enjoyable evening!

For more information, please visit the City of London website - <http://www.liverycommitteecourses.org.uk/city-briefings.php>

Liveryman Belinda Young

OFFICE – BEARERS OF THE COMPANY

**THE MASTER**

W F Balch, FRICS

**THE SENIOR WARDEN**

P R Faulkner, FRICS

**THE JUNIOR WARDEN**

J K Reynolds

**DEPUTY MASTER**

N J Fiske

**THE IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER**

J D Courtney, FRAGS

**THE SENIOR PAST MASTER**

A Q Hitchcock, CBE, FRAGS

**THE CLERK**

Colonel D E King, OBE

**THE MASTER'S CHAPLAIN**

The Revd. Canon John Record

**COMPANY STEWARDS**

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