

ASSISTANTS, LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 12 June 2012:

Robert Collison Alston
Hugh Charles Drake
Arthur Goddard
Mark Brian Grigg
Peter Walter Wiggins-Davies

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 12 June 2012:

Eric Dixon Drummond
 Proposed by J W Pugh JP
 Seconded by R H B Malim
John Albert Thomas Lee OBE
 Proposed by W E Wilson CBE
 Seconded by Baroness Byford DBE DL
Peter Guy Wakeford
 Proposed by J F Thorpe OBE
 Seconded by J K Reynolds

We are pleased to record the following nominations as High Sheriff for 2012/13

Freeman Michael Bax for Kent
Liveryman Henry Cator OBE DL for Norfolk

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 9 October 2012:

Richard Anscombe
 Proposed by J D Courtney
 Seconded by A J Alston
Ian Agar Bell
 Proposed by H L Venters
 Seconded by W E Wilson CBE
Robert Michael Charles Sears
 Proposed V R Hedley Lewis
 Seconded by A Goddard
David Henry Tupper DL
 Proposed by J W Hodge
 Seconded by R G L Haydon OBE

Election to Court:

Mrs K J Mercer wef October 2012

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2012

Tuesday 4 December
 Court Meeting and Common Hall at Farmers Fletchers' Hall
 Livery Luncheon at Butchers' Hall

Tuesday 18 December
 Carols at St Bartholomew the Great
 Buffet Supper at Haberdashers' Hall

2013

Tuesday 22 January
 Banquet at Clothworkers' Hall

Tuesday 12 February
 Inter-Livery Pancake Race in Guildhall Yard

Monday 25 February
 City Food Lecture at Guildhall

Tuesday 12 March
 Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

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

Tuesday 11 June
 Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

Tuesday 2 July
 Summer Outing (Rutland)

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

Saturday 9 November
 Lord Mayor's Show

Tuesday 3 December
 Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Butchers' Hall

OBITUARIES

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

Liveryman **Robert Bryan Keatley TD** of Bonjedward Hill, Jedburgh, Roxburghshire died on 2 March 2012. Clothed on 10 September 1979.

Liveryman **Dr Darien Lott** of Walcote, Lutterworth, Leicestershire died on 7 May 2012. She was Clothed on 6 December 1999.

Past Master **Michael Charles Foreman** of Street Court, Ulcombe, Maidstone, Kent died on 21 September 2012. He was Clothed on 13 December 1977, became a Court Assistant in 1988 and served as Master 1994-1995.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The copy date for the Spring newsletter is March 1st 2013.

This edition of the newsletter covers many of the activities of the Company from April to October 2012. Many of the events have been reported on our website and I am keen to populate the site with more interesting articles particularly the new younger members' area where you can find information on Inter-Livery events.

We have recently added a Forthcoming Events section to the website where we can publicise happenings such as WET 10 meetings and the World Hunger Summit in November. Please keep sending news and information along with original high resolution photographs for printing. Not all can be used in the newsletter but the website can include most items. My E-mail address is johnevans740@btinternet.com

The Worshipful Company of Farmers publishes the Newsletter. Clerk: Colonel David King OBE, Red Copse End, Red Copse Lane, Boars Hill, Oxford, OX1 5ER Tel: 01865 321580 E-mail: clerk@farmerslivery.org.uk www.farmerslivery.org.uk



The Worshipful Company of Farmers

Newsletter

Autumn 2012

John Reynolds installed as Master



The Master John Reynolds with Senior Warden Hazel Baroness Byford and Junior Warden Tony Alston

On October 9th John Reynolds was installed as Master of the Company and he intends to make Education and Research the central focus of the programme for the coming Golden Anniversary year.

Born in Cannock, Staffordshire, John is the son of a family butcher and the youngest of a family of seven. From an early age, he spent his spare time either working in the shop, or helping on his sister's farm. Having lost both parents by the age of fourteen, he moved to the farm and it was there that his affinity with agriculture took root.

His farming education began at the local institute at Rodbaston, followed by an NDA course at Harper Adams College. John began his career as a farm manager, before joining ICI's Agricultural Division, initially to work as a technical salesman. Even then he had a view to the bigger picture and quickly moved into management. Retrospectively, John describes his career strategy as: "cheerfully accepting any opportunity that presented itself."

This strategy paid off and John rose through the ranks of ICI to become Director of the Fertilizer Business. From this position, John began to get an understanding of the bigger picture, serving as President of the UK's Fertilizer Manufacturers' Association and, in due course, becoming the first Convener of the External Affairs Committee of the

International Fertilizer Association. John ended his career at ICI as a member of the Petrochemicals Board. However, the food and farming industry had never been far from his mind and, on taking early retirement, he was appointed to a number of consultancy and non-executive roles in the agricultural industry. These roles have been diverse. They have ranged from developing e-commerce facilities for the agricultural supply industry to engaging with emerging biofuel initiatives and even now John still serves on a Defra Research Programme Advisory Committee.

So what can we expect from our new Master's year?

John believes that the Company should co-operate and collaborate with other organisations to continue to raise the profile of British Agriculture. Since his year will take in the Golden Anniversary celebrations of the Company's education courses, he plans to make education and research central to his programme. "I value the social aspects and fellowship of our Company," he says. "But the Company's original purpose should remain pivotal. We exist to 'encourage and foster Agriculture and its ancillary occupations and by conference and co-operation to bring about maximum production and by scholarships and prizes, to promote research and generally foster good husbandry.' That is our focus and we do it well."

As with everything the new Master has engaged in, the Company can expect a spirited commitment.

"The review of our Governance, begun by Past Master Follett Balch and continued by our Immediate Past Master has now been completed and we are implementing the changes agreed by the Court. As part of this, we shall see the introduction of Common Hall where rank and file Members of the Company can make their voices heard. Our priority will then be the '2020 Commission Report' on the future of the Worshipful Company of Farmers. These are really important times in our development as a Modern Livery Company and we should always be thankful to those people, past and present, who have given so much to get us to this point in our history."



John and Janet Reynolds

John and his wife Janet live in Rutland and between them they have four daughters, three sons-in-law and four grandchildren.

Liveryman Geoff Dodgson



OUT AND ABOUT

The Beadle



When liverymen attend any of our official functions there is one regular attendee, the Beadle, who makes his presence known loudly!

Did you know that the role of Beadle was around in Anglo-Saxon times when he would summon the householders to Council. In earlier times the Beadle was employed by wealthy Livery companies as an assistant to the Clerk but now the role as master of ceremonies is carried out by a few highly trained individuals who look after many Liveries.

In the case of the Farmers Livery our regular Beadle is Peter Thompson who takes charge of the announcements in a very clear and stentorian voice and manages the logistics of the events. He is also in charge of the 'Cart' as it passes through the assembled liverymen and guests and is fully aware of the contributors of stray Drachmas.

Peter is a man of Kent having been educated at Rochester Grammar then joined the Police Cadet force before starting a 30 year career with the real police force. He served the early years with the firearms unit, the diving unit and then as a firearms instructor.

After leaving the Force Peter obtained a BA degree from the Open University, then pursued a career teaching a range of sub-aqua courses around the world. Peter still lives in Kent and enjoys working with the many Livery companies especially the Farmers and looks forward to continuing his association with us, but as he says, 'until the Clerk finds him out'.

INTER LIVERY CLAY SHOOT & GOLF

On May 16th this year the quiet countryside in North West London was again shattered by the sound of nearly 500 guns competing in the annual inter-livery clay shoot competition held at Holland and Holland's very impressive professional circuit in Northwood. Some 70 livery companies competed with a total of 116 teams and Farmers were represented by two teams, a Pinkerton led team and a 'Cornish' team of four brothers from East Anglia. This was the first time ever that a Livery company had been represented by four siblings.

May this year has seen a succession of heavy rain showers but the sun shone on the Liveries and the car park was in remarkably good condition. This time we started with last year's winning Court team captain, Tony Alston, handing back a relatively undamaged Horners Past Masters Cup which we won in great style in 2011.

The competition starts with a bacon roll breakfast from 7.30 with shooting at 8.30 onwards. The turnout this year equalled last year's record with 464 guns and 116 teams of four which led to some congestion but the weather was very favourable and the waiting allowed much inter-livery banter and fascinating conversations.

The Farmers team was led by Alistair Pinkerton supported by Daniel Bone, Jimmy Hunter and Niels Olesen and they returned an excellent score of 272 which put them in the top quartile. However the star team of the event was the four brothers Cornish, Daniel, Marcus, Nelson and young Oliver. This was the first time in the history of the event that a Livery had been represented by four siblings.

The two teams were given plenty of vocal support by liverymen Tony Alston and John Evans and the Master joined in the fun and also stayed for lunch!



GOLF MATCH AGAINST THE FARMERS' CLUB

On September 13th the Company golf side played against a strong Farmers Club team at Badgemore Park golf club, Henley on Thames and went down by 3 games to 1 thus reversing the result of the previous encounter.

Here is Liveryman Martin Taylor's match report. Jeremy Courtney led us off playing with his partner David Browning pitted against The Farmers Club Golf Captain Norman Bagley and his partner. The Company lost this tough match 3 and 2. Match 2 between Jeremy Hitcham and Martin Taylor against John Parker/Bob Iles resulted in

a 2 and 1 win for The Company. However, Robin Malim and Jon Hurley could not cope with The Farmers Club Deputy Secretary Robert Buckolt (playing off 10) and his partner losing 5 and 4.

The match was played in sunny conditions rounded off with a convivial dinner. However at present the number of Liverymen on the playing list is very limited and Martin would like to hear from any member or their partner who would be interested in representing the Company.

THE 2012 AGRICULTURAL DINNER - 18 APRIL

The impact of energy demands on agricultural commodities



Sam Dart and the Master

The 2012 Agricultural Dinner was held on April 18th at Butchers' Hall and was addressed by Dr Samantha Dart who heads the Commodities Research Team at Goldman Sachs. As usual the event was a complete sell out with many former students from our prime educational courses.

In any large scale developments, particularly globally, there are two main phases:

The investment cycle, which can typically take ten years or more requires significant availability of cash to get the infrastructure ready. It is the high cost stage in the evolution and requires a fairly free flow of capital. If this flow is interrupted by events such as the recent recession then the investment cycle can take longer and is more costly. The cost is also influenced by fluctuating commodity prices, short and long term, linked to changes in the forecasted demand.

The utilisation cycle which follows requires far less capital but commodity prices are relatively stable. For instance the investment in North Sea oil and gas extraction was enormous when compared with the cost of production and prices have stayed fairly level. In some sectors industries are able to implement substitution as a method of keeping prices steady. One example is

the electricity generating world where there are numerous options, Coal, Oil, Gas, Wind Turbine and Nuclear where the investment cycle is very expensive but can be achieved. Another example is switching between wheat for human and animal feeding purposes which carries a low investment cost but requires detailed forecasting and planning at the farm level and a danger of an alternative use becoming more attractive for the commodity such as bio-fuels.

The overall demand for energy keeps growing with no signs of slowing. Whilst some efficiencies may be implemented such as vehicle engine performance other areas of high energy demand such as the production of aluminium are growing rapidly. To meet this demand there is a need to have a free flow of capital but in recent years many political obstacles have arisen where Governments have sought to protect national interests by the imposition of environmental regulations, tariff barriers and taxation. Also the sources of energy have become more difficult to exploit requiring new and expensive technical solutions such as the extraction of oil in the South Atlantic.

These supply growth constraints have had an impact on agricultural production where crops are now valued as 'Barrel per Acre' rather than simply food commodity pricing, eg wheat vs maize. This leads to the three 'Fs' scenario: FOOD - FEED - FUEL. Food demand for human consumption is quite stable and it moves with population growth. But feed and fuel demand are growing rapidly. Feed demand for animal consumption is the most sensitive to GDP growth fluctuations, since countries tend to consume more protein as they get wealthier. Fuel demand growth has come from the increased production of bio-fuels, which became economical after oil prices increased significantly. As a result, productivity growth is no longer sufficient to satisfy demand growth and acreage growth has become necessary.

Land which had been fallow in the USA is now being brought back into production but the amount available is limited. In the UK there is very little

scope for increasing the acreage for crops and the only way of increasing output is through generating higher yields possibly using GM varieties. In farming there is also the inexorable link between the cost of fertilizers, some made directly from oil and the nitrogen fertilizers which are made from natural gas, both sources linked to the price per barrel.

Today, most commodity prices are high with oil trading around the \$120 a barrel mark. Political upheaval can occur at any time but the recent disruption in Libya, a relatively small producer, was counteracted by a modest OPEC increase. However the total OPEC supply is running close to maximum with little spare capacity and the largest producer, Saudi Arabia, is operating at close to its limit. Some 15 years ago the G3 countries accounted for 60% of the total demand but by 2011 this had reduced to 30% with China alone taking 30% of the output.

Another factor which influences commodity prices is that of inflation where there is a huge disparity between its impact in developed countries such as Northern Europe and the USA and developing countries such as China and Brazil. The global structure is in a delicate position where countries are trying to initiate an upturn in economic activity but there is very little spare capacity from conventional energy sources, especially oil. At present Goldman Sachs forecast only moderate risk to energy price inflation though political upheavals could affect that forecast.

Part of the solution is the substitution of one form of energy for another such as the use of gas rather than oil to power vehicles. However such a change would require major infrastructure investment as would a significant shift to electric cars even though electricity can be generated from many sources, gas, nuclear etc. Much of this change will only come about through global negotiation between the demands of stronger growth and probable higher commodity prices.

However not all is gloom and doom as the world has always adapted to change and the Stone Age did not end because of a shortage of stone!



2012 DIAMOND JUBILEE

2012 Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee



The Farmers Table at Westminster Hall with Beefeaters standing guard

2012 is the year of celebration of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the Company has played a full part in the activities

One of the highlights of the year was our participation in the Diamond Jubilee Lunch which was held at Westminster Hall on June 5th where we joined other Livery Companies. This was a glittering affair with some 700 guests representing all aspects of society and the armed forces along with senior members of the Royal Family. The sumptuous lunch, prepared by Anton Mossiman, included smoked Scottish Salmon, Welsh lamb and English bread and butter pudding with English sparkling wine from Nyetimber in Sussex.

The guests invited to join the Farmers' table represented many of the charities and educational establishments which the Livery supports. The table of ten was hosted by the Master, supported by The Clerk and Liveryman Kate Hall. The guests at the table were Apprentice Andrew Dart, Matthew Hill, a Henman Scholar in 2010, Claire Elson who runs the Surrey Docks inner-city farm and Nicholas Vincent nominated by the farm support charity RABI. There were representatives from the Company's two sponsored courses, James Small from the 2012 Challenge of Rural Leadership

course and Simon Thompson from the 2012 Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management. However the other guest, Michael Lawrence, was selected by the Palace to sit at the top table next to HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. Unfortunately The Duke was indisposed so Michael was flanked at the top table by Baroness De'Souza, the Speaker of the House of Lords and by the Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, Lieutenant General Arundell David Leakey. Michael was awarded a scholarship by The Worshipful Company of Farmers whilst at Harper Adams University College. He graduated from Harper Adams with a first class honours degree in Agriculture and now works on the family farm in Grange-over-Sands. It was only the second time that Michael had visited London and he sat some 10 feet from Her Majesty and thoroughly enjoyed his day in the glittering surroundings. The Principal of Harper Adams, Dr David Llewellyn, praised the Company for its support and Past Master Richard Brooks spoke of Michael being a credit to the College and the students the Company supports every year.



THE DIAMOND JUBILEE SMALL SHIPS RACE



The Company sponsored Air Cadet Tom Evans to take part in the Diamond Jubilee London to Portland Small Ships Race which took place from June 11th to June 15th.

Tom, who parades at 398 (Staines and Egham) Squadron, had been selected to represent the Air Cadets by the CO of Middlesex Wing. Tom is 18 years old and has recently completed the International Baccalaureate at Windsor Boys' School. He started at Bristol University in September studying Aeronautical Engineering. The Company secured a berth for Tom on the 62ft ketch, The Morning Star of Revelation, which has two masts and up to eight sails and carries a crew of 14. The voyage had been estimated to take between three and four days to complete and started from Southend Pier. The Ketch made strong progress, crossing the Dover Straits, following

the South Coast and navigating around the Isle of Wight, before sailing into Portland harbour in under 48 hours. They were the 5th yacht to arrive. When all the boats had finished, handicaps were considered and they were awarded 2nd place, a mere 7 seconds behind first place, a fantastic achievement. Tom wrote a full report on his experience and this extract sums up his thoughts: "Looking back on the trip, the Company gave me an opportunity that I believe will change my life. Sailing a traditional boat was a new experience, and living aboard for 8 days in a limited space has developed my people skills; teamwork and communication were crucial. I cannot thank the Company enough."

SUMMER OUTING 2012 - 17 JULY

The Summer Outing to Englefield House July 17th



The party at Englefield House awaiting carriages

This year's Summer outing visited Englefield House near Newbury in Berkshire, a stunning building, originating in the eighth century which came into prominence during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and is now home to Richard Benyon MP.

The party of nearly 70 Liverymen and guests enjoyed a dry and often sunny day at Englefield House and were treated to a very warm welcome and a very interesting tour of the estate which extends to some 14,000 acres of prime Berkshire countryside.

The house has a long and chequered history with a long list of eminent residents but a very confusing family line with the first Benyon appearing in the mid 18th century. The house has



Lunching in the Long Gallery

been much modified and extended, particularly in Victorian times, but has a beautiful sloping woodland garden with a huge variety of shrubs and maples with a recently designed lower terrace with many colourful plants.

The estate encompasses Englefield village which has a church a school, a village shop and a social club. In addition to Home Farm there are 23 let farms many of which are diversified activities with a carpenter, a French polisher, a blacksmith, gunsmith and stone mason employing local labour. There are field sports held on the estate, a home shoot, let shots and coarse fishing. There are seven acres of pleasure gardens which are open to the public and two parks supporting 400 fallow deer. The parks are also used for sporting activities including cricket, equestrian events and two polo fields.

To start the day we enjoyed a tasty breakfast served in the Long Gallery, built c. 1558, and were given a brief history of the house and details of our tour of the estate which we made in two very comfortable coaches. Both

coaches had guides who talked us through the various aspects of the estate varying from the Home Farm with magnificent organic beef cattle, the restored gravel extraction pits and extensive woodlands where we saw a demonstration of modern automated tree felling. Some Liverymen wished that they could have driven the equipment but were persuaded to rejoin the party with the promise of food!

The delicious lunch was again served in the Long Gallery and included beef that seemed to melt in the mouth. As always there was a reluctance to leave the lunch hall but we were encouraged to 'walk off' any excesses and wandered through the beautiful gardens and were given some interesting insight into the wonders of the place by a curiously well-informed senior lady gardener who seemed rather well-connected!

After stretching legs we were given a tour of the house including the private residence and admired the two storey entrance hall, the first floor gallery, the study with its neo-classical ceiling and the wonderful dining room with its white marble chimneypiece and the striking wall brackets supporting the collection of porcelain.

Naturally, as befitting the Farmers' Company, we had tea in the Long Gallery before departing country wide. Another very enjoyable day out and thanks to the Master and Clerk for all their organisation.



The tree logger felling, stripping and stacking the pines



The Master presenting the Company goblet to leading logistician Richard George



HMS York in harbour



The Master presenting the Company Shield to Commander Phil Nash



HMS Defender on her sea trials

Farewell YORK...

On September 27th a large number of Liverymen and guests attended the decommissioning ceremony of the Company's affiliate Type 42 destroyer HMS York in Portsmouth dockyard after 27 years of active service. The service included a speech from Lady Gosling who had carried out the launching ceremony in 1982 at Swan Hunter Shipyard in Wallsend and all the ship's crew were on parade along with the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines. It was a sad and poignant occasion to see the White Ensign lowered for the last time but the happy news was that we now have a new affiliate ship, a Type 45 destroyer, HMS Defender.

Our affiliation with HMS York is a recent one dating from June 4th 2007 when 50 Liverymen visited the ship in Portsmouth. The affiliation was cemented at dinner that evening on HMS Victory between our then Master, Sir Graham Wilkinson Bt., and Commanding Officer Cdr Tim Cryar and was later recorded on an



Sir Graham Wilkinson with Mrs. Rex Cox



HMS York shadowing the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov

illuminated scroll outlining the nature of the affiliation now displayed in the Hall. The first commitment was that the Commanding Officer would be pleased to invite the Master of the Company and Liverymen to sea on occasion that deployments allow. The second commitment was that the Master of the Company would be pleased to invite each Commanding



The Master at the helm - "What iceberg?"

Officer to a Livery Luncheon when deployments allow. The third commitment was that the Company would present a silver presentation piece as the Worshipful Company of Farmer's Leadership Trophy to a member of the Ship's Company nominated by the Commanding Officer for his or her contribution in the previous twelve months. The Leadership Trophy, donated by Sir Graham Wilkinson, carries the Company's Coat of Arms and is a silver jug in the style of an 18th Century Beer Ewer standing ten inches high. The 2012 award was made to Leading Logistician Richard George. Over the years there has been frequent and regular contact with HMS York and the Ship's activities are reported in the Company's newsletter. In June 2009

...Welcome DEFENDER



The party of Liverymen aboard HMS York prior to her decommissioning

representatives of the Company joined the Ship for a Service of Rededication in Hull followed by a parade by the Ship's Company in its home City of York. In August 2010 The Master and Commanding Officer Cdr Simon Staley jointly hosted a 25th birthday party aboard the Ship in Portsmouth and in April 2012 the Master visited the Ship in Portsmouth to present the Trophy and in



Commander Phil Nash

July twelve liverymen enjoyed a day at sea which was mercifully calm! In the last two years HMS York has been involved in many hazardous deployments under her commanding officers Simon Staley and latterly Rex Cox. The Company has followed the activities of the Ship with great interest from the recent shadowing of the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov North of Scotland, the assistance given to evacuees from Benghazi in Libya to the deployment in the Falklands and subsequent Caribbean 'adventures' culminating in assisting the US navy in a drugs 'bust'. During her lifetime York spent 57,461 hours of active service covering 676,379 nautical miles and was involved in both Gulf conflicts but survived unscathed. It is always a sad affair when a noble

vessel is retired but after 27 years active service York will be in Portsmouth and her gun removed and other equipment transferred to new ships. We wish her crew well in their new assignments and look forward to a close friendship with HMS Defender a 'state of the art' Type 45 destroyer and some of the photographs above illustrate the huge differences between the vessels.



The happy crew

HMS Defender

This modern Type 45 destroyer, following sea trials under a Blue Ensign, has now been officially handed over to the Royal Navy. Her sister ship HMS Dragon was moored in Portsmouth on the day and highlighted the streamlining needed for modern defence and warfare. Her first commanding officer is Commander Phil Nash and the photograph above shows him receiving the Worshipful Company Shield from the Master. We look forward to a long and happy association with her and her crew.



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The Worshipful Company of Farmers in 2020

All organisations, large or small, can rejoice in the glories of the past but also need to look forward and plan for the demands of the future. For instance there may be members who shudder at the thought of using a computer or using a mobile telephone but farming has always embraced changes as our exhibits in this year's Lord Mayor's Show highlight progress from a 1952 FORDSON tractor to a 2012 CLAAS Xerion.

To prepare for the future Past Master Peter Faulkner posed the question 'What should be the size and shape of the Company in 2020?' and wrote the following letter.

"2012 is the Diamond Anniversary of the Grant of Livery to the Company. Much has been achieved in those 60 years and the Worshipful Company of Farmers is thriving. We fully embrace the livery company virtues of charitable giving, good fellowship and support for the Queen, Armed Forces and the City. We have a Hall and, although few of us live in or near London, we are active in the Lord Mayor's Show and many inter-livery events. Our Master and Clerk are in the City almost every week of the year.

Success brings challenges however. We are growing fast, well beyond the capacity of our Hall if this trend continues. Our charity is under-resourced to do all the things we want. We are asking what should be our role in the industry and where our priorities lie. How in the future will we administer the livery, provide an excellent level of service and maintain good fellowship? The answer to this question will govern our strategy as we plan for the medium and long term.

I am calling the group to take this on 'The 2020 Commission' – a group of nine liverymen mixed in age, gender, background and interests. We will start with a day of briefings and Q&A, and then I will invite the Commission under its chairman to spend six months preparing a report with conclusions and recommendations. Those who



CLAAS Xerion Tractor

serve on the Commission will be strong supporters of the Company and willing to put in time and study to achieve the best outcome."

The Commission has now produced their very wide ranging report and here is a summary of their thoughts about the Company's direction of travel over the next eight years:

1. We propose creating a new category of Livery Membership 'Journeymen', many recruited as they graduate from one of our courses and representing the first step to progression to Freeman then Liverymen. We expect Journeymen in time to number 500 and include other young people who hold significant positions within our industry or are deemed to have the potential so to do.
2. A more formal nomination and appointment scheme is proposed, that not only enables the Company to evaluate whether an applicant is suitable for membership; but also provides far more scope for applicants to assess the Company and decide if they wish to commit to becoming a Liveryman.
3. The Company will expand up to 600 Liverymen and Freeman plus the 500 Journeymen as above.
4. Regional and industry stewards to be appointed to promote fellowship and membership in their region and greater sector activity.
5. Regional activity will be expanded to take the Company out of town on occasions. Specific activities are not proscribed, as they will depend on the focus of stewards and the needs of each region.

6. Sector activity will provide more opportunities for the Company to provide adequate numbers of events for the growing membership.
7. The administration to comprise a full-time clerk plus assistant to help with events, PR and database using IT to its best effect. The administrative centre to be based at the Company's City base.
8. Committees to be simplified both in terms of numbers, membership and frequency of meetings. Activities of Court and Committees to be communicated more widely to ensure the Company rank and file understand what is being done on its behalf.
9. Court membership to be reduced to 15 (Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden, four past masters, four committee chairmen (or their alternate) and vice chairmen. We note the recent Governance paper has made progress on restructuring.
10. Charitable activity to be simplified with a focus on fewer charities.
11. Worshipful Company Courses to be developed to be 'best in class' post-graduate qualification for the agricultural sector, with increased engagement between the Company and educationalists to develop course content.
12. The future vision exercise be repeated within the next five years but with a time horizon set further into the future, eg Commission 2050 or even 2100.

The recommendations have been discussed at length at the Master's Committee with very positive feedback and will be on the agenda for approval at the next Court meeting in December. When approved, their implementation will become the responsibility of the Management Team comprising the Master and Wardens, the Immediate Past Master, the nominated Junior Warden and the Clerk.

However everyone is cordially invited to feed back comments, criticisms and any additional proposals to the Clerk by November 29th. A copy of the full report can be found on the website in Our Aims and Objectives area of the About Us section.

MESSAGE FROM THE NFU PRESIDENT PETER KENDALL

Update on the state of British farming from the NFU



Peter Kendall

Everyone involved in the farming industry over the past year would acknowledge it's been a year of both big challenges and of some resounding success. I write this as farmers in the north of the country are still struggling to finish an already poor harvest after the spring drought was followed by the worst storms in a decade.

On the other side of the Atlantic, drought in the US will result in the lowest level of US corn production since 2006/7 and the US agri-food supply chain is facing the prospect of at least 100m tonnes less corn than anticipated just three months ago. Adverse weather situations in Russia also have led to lower wheat forecasts of 43 million tonnes. Grain yields so far are some 27.5% lower than last year.

But there is still a lot for British farmers to be positive about.

Against a backdrop of economic austerity the NFU was proud to launch its new campaign Farming Delivers for Britain. Agriculture's contribution to the economy increased to £8.85 bn in 2011, a year on year increase of 24.6%. 10,000 new jobs were created in agriculture between 2010 and 2011. Britain's farmers and growers supply 60% of the nation's food. Not to mention the clean electricity coming from Britain's farms and the environmental benefits that farmers have brought by improving water quality, reducing pollution and protecting soils.

The fact that farming and food security is so important to Britain was one of the reasons that our recent SOS dairy campaign had impact and delivered results over the summer. In the Spring milk processors announced they were cutting the price they paid to farmers, with a further cut planned

for August. This left many dairy farmers making a loss on every litre of milk they sold. A coalition of dairy organisations, led by the NFU, mounted a campaign which captured the public's attention and imagination and shamed those processors and retailers who weren't paying even the cost of production for liquid milk. The majority of processors and retailers have now rescinded and scrapped the price cuts and are committed to a new voluntary code ensuring a fair deal for dairy farmers. I hope this is the start of a fairer deal for dairy farmers which enables them to invest in the future for their businesses.

It's a shame that some animal rights lobby groups are pushing for something which could permanently and irreparably damage British cattle and dairy farming. The cull of badgers to control TB in wildlife and in cattle is unpalatable to some but vital if the spread of TB is ever going to be controlled and ultimately eradicated. The whole farming industry needs to come together and speak out about the need to tackle this disease in wildlife. We need to get over the message that this disease is wrecking lives and decimating herds. Look at tbfreeengland.co.uk for the real facts behind the need for the cull and if you tweet, the hashtag is #tbfree.

Above all we must keep reminding everyone what farming delivers for Britain. I am proud to be a farmer and proud, as President of the NFU, to keep delivering that message to politicians, the media, consumers. We should be proud to be in farming, we continue to deliver a great deal for Britain in tough times.



Past Master Michael Foreman



Past Master Michael Foreman

Michael Foreman, who died on September 21st 2012, was very much a Man of Kent, having been born in Headcorn in 1931 and lived and worked there all his life. He was the eldest child of Jack and Vivian Foreman and he went to Cranbrook school where he was later a Governor for over 30 years and Vice Chair for 17 of these.

After school he was commissioned in the Parachute Regiment for National Service and then did 5 years with the Para TA. Courses at Wye and the RAC Cirencester gave him a formal agricultural background before returning to the family business of Agricultural Merchants, started by his great-grandfather in 1873.

His interest in committee work led to his election to the Council of the UK Agricultural Supply Trade Association and he spent 5 years as its Treasurer. From 1992 he became Honorary Finance Director of Kent Agricultural Show and also took on the role of Honorary Director from 1999 to 2005. One of his initiatives was to arrange visits to the Kent Show by parties of London schoolchildren.

Having spent several years on Court of the Worshipful Company of Farmers he was elected Master

in 1994. He was a popular Master, a very committed chairman of the Education committee and he worked closely with Michael Berlin during the preparation of the History of the Company. He remained a strong and involved Past Master with a good sense of humour and he will certainly be missed by his many friends.

He leaves a widow Susan, a son Charles and daughter Tracey together with five grandchildren.

CITY FARM NEWS



Gary Jones and Claire Elson at Plumpton College

2012 has been a very eventful year for the City Farm with many new activities and, despite the poor weather, has attracted even more visitors to look at and touch the animals. In fact the Farm produced a small surplus in the previous year from innovative fund raising schemes including corporate 'days out' where employees set about the everyday tasks on the farm including cleaning out the sties!

As part of the Company's Diamond Jubilee celebrations Claire attended the luncheon at Westminster Hall

and had a wonderful time without wearing her usual working Jeans! She has overseen the birth of yet another litter of piglets and is looking forward to having a new sow to look after in the Autumn. Claire and Gary came to Sussex in April and visited Oat Hall School in Haywards Heath, where they have a small mixed farm, and then to Plumpton College where they were shown the full range of small animal care facilities and the farm including the new dairy unit with 300 cows and the piggery with some 1,000 inhabitants of all ages.

The farm is a little oasis in the middle of Southwark with a superb view of the Thames and saw the full Royal flotilla pass by in June. They now regularly get 1,000 visitors a week and sell all kinds of produce from meat to eggs and provide meaningful occupations to many disadvantaged children and adults.

The big project currently being investigated is the resurfacing of the animal yard, renewing the drainage system and replacing the fencing which divides the area where children and adults mingle with the animals from the main yard.

This work is necessary to satisfy recent Environmental Health reports to avoid the risk of closure of the petting area. They are in the throes of applying for a grant towards the cost estimated, at £50,000, and are hopeful of being successful but the grant has to be match funded by 10%. Is there a liveryman or company able to donate £5,000 to enable the work to proceed?



The children's favourites

CHARITY MATTERS

DO NOT LET WHAT YOU CANNOT DO INTERFERE WITH WHAT YOU CAN DO!!

Some of you have intimated that it is difficult, at this time of uncertainty to commit to a legacy, but I am pleased to say that an increasing number of you are doing what you can and coming forward with cheques of £500- £1,000 which can be gift aided. One Liveryman gave us £1000 last year and this year doubled it to £2,000 and we are very grateful to him and other donors for their generosity and hope this form of support will gather momentum.

I cannot help thinking that if we all gave £500 the Company could benefit, with gift aid, by £250,000 and, if we gave £1,000 it would be £500,000 – wishful thinking indeed but food for thought. When I first served on the Education Committee in 2005 I think the cost per scholar on our courses was around £2,000 and now next year it will be over £4,000. This gives an idea of the importance of boosting the Charitable Fund.

The Finance Committee is predicting a deficit of circa £40,000 for the year ending Sept 2013 and this is entirely due to the fall in income from our Hall at Cloth St. as the offices are now vacant and the revenue from hire of the hall has dropped due to the economic downturn. We are also faced with high professional fees as we try to resolve the long term future of the building.

In discussion with Assistant Graham Shooter he told me that he had talks with the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and that despite only being 20 years old they have many millions invested for charitable purposes. I suggested that I should enquire as to how they achieved such voluntary giving but, before doing so, I checked their website and who are the Liverymen mentioned – Bill Gates,

Tim Berners-Lee and a Dame who founded XANSA and she herself gave £5 million. Do we have a BILL GATES of the farming world in our Company?

Our Charitable Fund has been the focus of my requests for your generosity, but we must not lose sight of the friendship and fellowship we all enjoy, and the success of our Company in terms of numbers wishing to join is true testimony to that.

Leaving a legacy is a poignant testament to who we are and what we value and a gift to the Livery in your will can help ensure that this same fellowship and education can be shared by future generations. There are several tax advantages enjoyed by gifts to charities so it is most important to discuss your intentions with your professional advisers.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime if you wish to make some form of contribution.

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Richard Halhead

NEWS BRIEFS

The Company sponsored two young farmers to attend the Oxford Conference and we received very informative letters of thanks from both Helen Reeve and James Williams.

The 'Farm Cart' collection box, with which Liverymen are very familiar, is being restored to its original glory by David Leggett of the Plumbers' Company.

On April 18th the Master hosted a luncheon for new Liverymen and the event was graced by the presence of the Lord Mayor, Alderman David Wootton, who gave a very interesting speech about the role of the Liveries in The City.

The Harvest Basket dedicated at the Installation service this year was donated by Liveryman Teresa Wickham.



The Company supported this year's London Festival Community project to the tune of £500 and the highlight was the cheese rolling event, pictured above, where the large rinded cheese was provided by Liveryman John Beckett of Belton Cheese.

Congratulations to Patrick Streeter who has been appointed City Auditor with the mandate to seek modernisation of the City accounts. On October 16th the Company launched a report on the issue of Large Housed Livestock Units at the Hall and it was very well received and a full copy can be found on the website.

Useful information:

In 2010 32% of farmers were aged 65 or over compared with 25% in 2000. In 2010 there were 1.8 million cows in the UK, a continuing decline, 4.4 million pigs and 31.6 million sheep and lambs.