



Hazel Byford installed as Master



The Master, Hazel, Baroness Byford with Senior Warden Tony Alston and Junior Warden Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard

On October 8th Hazel, Baroness Byford was installed as the 62nd Master of the Company and the third 'Lady' Master following in the footsteps of the late Mrs Wheatley-Hubbard and HRH The Princess Royal. Due to Barrie's ill health she was accompanied by her daughter, The Hon Elizabeth Green.

Hazel is a Leicestershire girl through and through having been born in the village of Rothley. After marriage to Barrie they moved to the nearby village of Quorn, before moving back to Rothley in 1977. Her father, Sir Cyril Osborne, was a stockbroker and businessman and served for 24 years as the Member of Parliament for Louth. Husband Barrie comes from Suffolk farming stock and still takes an active interest in their arable farm near Lavenham. By profession he was a hosiery manufacturer and later became a stockbroker. He was awarded a CBE for his services to political and public services and is a Past Master Emeritus of the Worshipful Company of Framework Knitters.

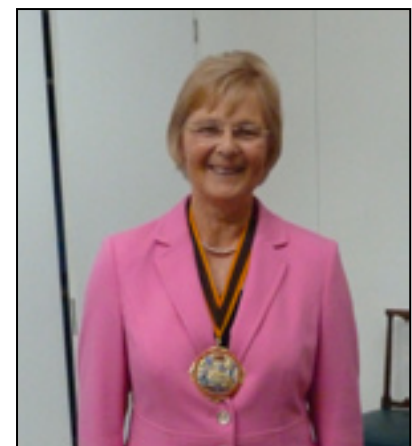
Hazel grew up with animals including chickens, ducks, horses and rabbits. She was educated at St Leonards School, Scotland and on leaving school she attended Moulton Agricultural College in Northamptonshire. Hazel

was then able to pursue her love for animals and ran a poultry farm producing parent stock for the breeders Thornbers. She and Barrie married in 1962 and had two children, Elizabeth and Charles (deceased) and have three grandchildren.

In 1961 she joined the Women's Royal Voluntary Service as a member of the County Staff and was the County Organiser for Leicestershire from 1972-76. The WRVS is an organisation responding to social needs who instigated a variety of schemes such as Meals on Wheels and Hospital Shops which are now an important part of community care. Today Hazel continues her commitment to rural charities and organisations and is currently President of LEAF and Patron of the Women's Farming Union.

Having a father in the 'House' meant that Hazel grew up in a political family and it came as no surprise that she became involved with Conservative activities in Leicestershire alongside her WRVS work. She chaired the East Midlands Women's Conservative Committee from 1986-89, was elected Women's National Vice Chairman 1989-90 and Chairman from 1990-93. She was Vice President of the National Union in 1993-95, President in 1996 and chaired the Conservative Conference in Bournemouth that year.

In 1996 she was created a Life Peer and was appointed Shadow Minister in the Lords with responsibilities for MAFF then DEFRA, an office she held for 10 years. During that time Hazel participated in many Bills, including the Animal Health Bill and the Hunting Bill. She is now a backbencher and a member of the European Union Agriculture Select Committee. For Hazel the key areas to focus on are much better use of innovation and scientific research and its practical implementation on farms. She believes that we should protect and enhance natural resources such as soil and water, which could be used much more efficiently to increase yields whilst at the same time reducing pollution of the land. Whilst there is a need to increase food production it should not be to the detriment of the environment. During her year as Master, Hazel will continue to promote our role as a City Livery Company and do all she can to support the City and Lord Mayor, beginning with our float at the Lord Mayor's Show. The Farmers' Company places great emphasis on education and training through its two courses at Duchy and Cirencester and continues to support farming charities. Due to the current closure of the Hall and resulting loss of income for our Charitable work, Hazel would like to host a special charity event during her year to raise funds in support of the Company's charitable work.



Our new Master



OUT AND ABOUT

News on Farmers Fletchers' Hall

As you are probably aware our hall at 3 Cloth Street is closed for the time being whilst we are in discussions as to how best to refurbish it and provide us with a modern Livery facility as well as generating substantial rental income. This temporary loss of use of the hall is a major blow to our finances and has created a big hole in our charitable income. However:

On October 16th the Master issued the following very positive letter to all Liverymen:

Dear Liveryman,
I am writing to give you some very exciting news about our Hall. Last Monday we, the Farmers and Fletchers Companies, exchanged contracts to secure the ground floor of our building, enabling us to enlarge our Hall quite significantly. The plans, which at this stage are in outline only, will include installing much needed disabled lift access, a new Court Room and larger Reception area both with daylight, designing more comfortably sized toilets, and creating an improved cloakroom and entrance lobby area. Completion of legal formalities is expected by Christmas and as soon as the necessary planning consents have been obtained we will be working up detailed designs. We shall keep the Livery fully informed with the proposals as the project proceeds. I thought you would like to know immediately about the opportunities which now present themselves to create

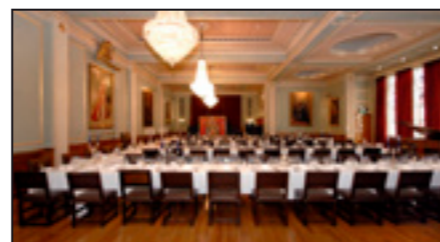
a Hall of which we and the generations who follow us will be justly proud. With my best wishes,
Hazel Byford
MASTER

A Joint Project Board has appointed Cushman & Wakefield to manage the project and much important preliminary work has been undertaken including the selection of interior design consultants. It is intended that the building will project the character of a vibrant City Livery Company in the 21st century. Because of the closure we are having to use the facilities of other Liveries, in particular Founders' Hall at Number One Cloth Fair, some 200 yards from our Hall, for our routine committee meetings etc. The refurbishment is a major exercise and is unlikely to be completed before the end of 2014 but be assured all our silver, 'treasures' and paintings have been placed in secure storage.

However the closure means that we have to hold our luncheons in other halls, most of which are larger than our own so there will be no restriction on the number of guests. The downside is that the cost of luncheon will be slightly more as we have to pay for the hire of these halls but it will give us an insight into other historic halls. The luncheon venues for the next nine months are as follows: Please note that this year's Christmas luncheon is not at Haberdashers' as originally intended. December 11th 2013, Plaisterers' Hall, One London Wall. EC2Y 5JU. Nearest



Plaisterers' Hall



Painters' Hall



Saddlers' Hall

tube station St. Paul's but also only 400 yards South of Barbican Station. March 11th 2014, Painters' Hall, 9 Little Trinity Lane, EC4V 2AD. Nearest tube station Mansion House. June 17th 2014, Saddlers' Hall, 40 Gutter Lane, EC2V 6BR. Nearest tube station St. Paul's. As always the Clerk will notify everyone of the dates and venues, so invite guests to enjoy new surroundings.

INTER-LIVERY SHOOT MAY 22ND 2013



Piggies in the Middle

The following anonymous report of the shoot has been received by the editor

along with incriminating photographs of one of the Farmers' teams. The three Worshipful Company of Farmers teams came in the middle order of results at the Inter Livery Clay Shoot at the Holland and Holland Ground in North London on 22nd May.

Farmers A, the Pinkerton team, turned up a man short and although starting well, faded towards the end. Farmers B was led by Past Master Marcus Cornish again, but dropped one of the family in favour of Liveryman David Tullie. However, their creditable

score was topped by the C team of Junior Warden Tony Alston, Assistant Thomas Wheatley- Hubbard, and Liverymen Niels Olesen and Robert Alston with Niels Olesen leading the scoring. The teams were supported and encouraged by Liveryman John Evans who shot with his camera but retired for lunch before taking any action photos during the 80 bird Flurry.

The photograph is of the identity parade of the 'Cornish' team just before the police arrived to investigate the car crash!

THE 2013 AGRICULTURAL LECTURE AND DINNER - 1st MAY



2013 marked 50 years since the first Worshipful Company Advanced Course in Agricultural Business management (ACABM) was held at Wye College in Kent. The course is now run at the Royal Agricultural University in Cirencester and the 2013 course was number 62. The companion course, The Worshipful Company's Challenge of Rural Leadership Course is now run by Duchy College (previously Seale Hayne) and reaches course 18 in 2014. To celebrate

this landmark all course alumni were invited to the Company's annual Agricultural Lecture and Dinner, along with Liverymen, which this year was held at the Guildhall. The evening's proceedings opened at 6.00 pm with a champagne reception followed by the lecture and dinner programme at 7.00. To mark the special occasion the three course dinner was a black tie event and the main speakers were the President of the NFU, Peter Kendall, and George Freeman

MP, the chairman of the All-Party Group on Science and Technology in Agriculture. The event had generous financial support from HSBC Bank through the auspices of the Bank's Head of Agriculture, Liveryman Allan Wilkinson.

The event was a huge success with some 200 course alumni present along with 100 liverymen. The alumni ranged from eight members of the fifth ACABM course run in 1967 to sixteen from the 62nd course run in 2013 along with Liveryman Professor John Alliston and his team. Similarly the Rural Leadership course contingent ranged from four who attended the first one in 1996 to eight from the 2013 event and of course Liveryman Richard Soffe the director of CRLC. The meal was followed by the two lectures and then by a meaty question and answer session. The event was a massive re-union of alumni from the courses many of whom are friends for life and outstanding ambassadors for the Company, the courses and the Colleges.

Our website now has an 'Alumni' section in which a number of former students have contributed short profiles on how the courses helped them in their careers and the editor would welcome more 'cameos' which should encourage more talented people to apply.

On Sunday September 29th The Worshipful Company of Farmers.....

along with some 25 other Livery Companies exercised the traditional right of Freemen to drive their sheep across London Bridge into the City of London. This mediaeval right is based

on the way Guilds controlled standards of work of all trades and Freemen had the right to carry their tools into the City and of course the 'tools' of the Woolmen were their sheep.

Naturally the Farmers' wished to exercise their rights so Head Drover, Past Master John Reynolds, organised for a team of ten Liverymen plus numerous supporters to shepherd a small, docile flock northwards across the bridge. As the photograph shows the costumes were very rustic and crooks to the fore with sackcloth aprons provided by Senior Warden Tony Alston. Both shepherdesses seemed in complete command of the situation and the drive was completed without serious difficulties though the extent of the animal welfare presence seemed a bit 'over the top' to the farmers present. I understand that some light refreshment was partaken before and after the event.

Naturally the Drive was organised by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen and helped to raise funds for the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the Woolmen's Charitable Trust. Maybe the Farmers could organise something another year?





MESSAGE FROM THE LORD MAYOR ELECT



Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE

I am honoured to be promoting the City of London this year as the 686th Lord Mayor (and only the second woman since 1189). I have been overwhelmed by the support I have received from the Livery and am looking forward to seeing you all in the coming year.

The Energy to Transform Lives
I shall be continuing with the theme of The City in Society but my focus will be on "The Energy to Transform Lives", which reflects my long association with the City as an energy lawyer specialising in global electricity industry reforms to bring cheaper and cleaner energy to more people. The title refers to my conviction that the City of London has the energy and talent for innovation necessary to serve the needs of society and the environment at a time that I call the "new normal". All of my mayoral programmes are based on three themes which I feel are critical to our resource-constrained society: sustainability, diversity and charity. If I have a single objective, it would be inclusiveness and Liverymen have so much to bring to the party.

Tomorrow's City
"Tomorrow's City" is a programme of events and dialogue which focuses on how the City can best ensure its future success as a "city of cities" and

a "city for cities" by enabling long-term value creation for an increasing urban population that is conscious of the environment more than ever before. Through a series of evening and breakfast events, Tomorrow's City focuses on a number of topics including regulation for the long term, infrastructure and energy, integrated reporting of financial, social and environmental outcomes, sustainable urban development, taxation and the attraction of investment in the UK.

Charity Leadership and Social Investment

My husband Nicholas, past Master of the Worshipful Company of Tax Advisers, is heading The Lord Mayor's Charity Leadership Programme, shining a light on charity chairmen and how they can be better supported. The programme starts with two lectures, one by William Shawcross, Chairman of the Charity Commission and the other by Sir Ronald Cohen, the founding-Chairman of Big Society Capital. There will be a one-day conference to connect leaders from the City with charities to gain better understanding of the non-profit sector and how they can support it.

Diversity and Inclusion

Now, more than ever, the City depends upon being able to draw the best talent from an increasingly diverse and inclusive pool for the innovation that society now needs. I have put together a programme of breakfast seminars and two large conferences, titled "The Power of Diversity", to highlight and discuss the critical steps that businesses must take to maximise the energy that diversity can bring to business. All proceeds from the programme will go to The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2014.

A New Approach to the Lord Mayor's Appeal

We have abolished the "shut down and start up from scratch approach" to the Lord Mayor's Appeal by the creation of a permanent charity to provide a long-running platform for the Appeal. This will enable us to accept contributions in cash and in kind over more than one year and to promote giving to a wider audience. It also enables us to support smaller charities, particularly those that punch above the weight that their size might imply in terms of their impact and outcomes.

The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2014 is supporting four community-based charities that all have "the energy to transform lives":

- Beating Bowel Cancer greatly improves awareness and early diagnosis of the second biggest and yet highly treatable cancer killer and works to support all those affected by it.
- Princess Alice Hospice is developing a new model of hospice care to enable more people to be reached and supported in their own homes.
- Working Chance is a charity which places women ex-offenders into jobs with quality employers, enabling them and their children to cross the social divide from exclusion to contribution.
- Raleigh International provides young people from underprivileged backgrounds with life changing experiences that contribute to their own personal growth and the development of communities in need around the world. Fundraising is at the heart of the Appeal programme but there is also a strong commitment to mentoring, helping to raise the profiles of these charities and opening up new sources of funding for the future. We are always open to offers of help, so please contact my Lord Mayor's Appeal team on 020 7332 1582 if you would like to be involved.

Fun for the Livery

- Join me for my Lord Mayor's Christmas Party on the evening of 10th December 2013 in the mediaeval Guildhall crypts. Tel: 020 7332 3908
- The Appeal is holding a Lord Mayor's Appeal Day on 16th May 2014 to engage with City workers and all of the Livery Companies in widespread fun for my four very worthy charities.
- Enter a Livery Company football team for a day of football fun on 13th June 2014 in Guildhall Yard.
- A special concert on the theme of "Strong Women" by world-famous soprano Nelly Miricioiu, the starry mezzo Nino Surguladze and the Chelsea Opera Group. The performance will be preceded and followed by food and wine in the Guildhall Old Library.
- The Lord Mayor's Ball in the Guildhall on 21st October 2014 will be a unique opportunity for all of the Livery Companies to come together under one roof for a glamorous evening of food and dancing. I hope you will join me on what are guaranteed to be memorable occasions!

MILITARY AFFILIATIONS



Sir Graham Wilkinson, Assistant Rosie Carne and Liveryman George Jessel

It was such a privilege for Past Master Sir Graham Wilkinson, Liveryman George Jessel and me to be invited by Commander Phil Nash to join the ship's company to spend three days at sea on board HMS Defender for a unique opportunity to observe 'first hand' the Royal Navy's commitment and dedication to service.

Here are some of the key facts regarding HMS Defender, the fifth of six 'Type 45' Destroyers in the RN. She was built in Glasgow and launched by Lady Massey in October 2009. She was delivered to her home port of Portsmouth in July 2012 and accepted in to the Fleet in March 2013. She displaces 8,000 tonnes, is 152 meters long and 21.2 metres wide, has a top speed of 30+ knots and cost > £1 billion. Deployment expected from Spring 2014. Her mission is to shield the Fleet from air attack using the Sea Viper missile which has a range of 70 miles. A general-purpose warship with a huge flight deck able to accommodate helicopters the size of a Chinook with space on board to accommodate a 30-men strong detachment of Royal Marines. Our visit coincided with a period of sea trials involving the whole ship's company of 185 in engineering trials, war fighting exercises and emergency training shortly before going in to

Basic Operational Sea Training (BOST) in advance of full deployment in early 2014 when she will go to sea for around seven months. We were picked-up from Weymouth Harbour by sea-boat, fitted with life-jackets & helmets, and helmed at speed to the Ship to be winched aboard where we were welcomed as "The Farmers". Allocated individual cabins, we lived with the officers in their wardroom, including a most enjoyable dinner, and were wonderfully fed for £2.65/day! There was every opportunity to observe training routines and exercises with a special programme of guided visits to every department and discussions encouraged with all levels of the ship's company. We became used to listening for instructions from the "pipes" (tannoy announcements) and finding our way up and down ladders between the six decks. Commander Nash also invited us and AWO (Air Warfare Officer) Lieutenant Commander Rod Lanning, our Livery's Liaison Officer, to the Captain's Quarters for a memorable last evening aboard. The very impressive and efficient 'Entering Harbour' procedure delivered us back to dry land at Portsmouth Harbour full of admiration for and with considerable thanks to the Captain, Officers and Crew of HMS Defender. Assistant Rosie Carne

MIDDLESEX WING AIR TRAINING CORPS

On Sunday September 22nd the Middlesex Wing Air Training Corps (ATC) held their Annual Field Day and Review at RAF Northolt. The event was attended by the Master, Clerk and Liveryman John Evans who received a very warm welcome and enjoyed some outstanding displays. The Middlesex Wing is our affiliate partner and the day was the culmination of a year's wide ranging activities. The cadets are grouped in squadrons around the County of some 40 youngsters aged between 13 and 18 and take part in many physical and intellectual exercises and competitions. On the day there was a first aid competition, a model making competition and photographic exhibition along with the traditional parades. The ATC is a very effective training ground for young people to learn practical and leadership skills and obtain BTEC qualifications towards future job opportunities. A prospective employer will appreciate the value of such qualifications alongside routine GCSE and 'A' level results combined with the experience of team work. The ATC has become a 'must join' scheme for young people with waiting lists for most of the squadrons. The Company awards a salver to the outstanding squadron of the year represented by William Ewing from 862 Sunbury Squadron pictured. He lives in Esher and had obtained 9 GCSEs and is now studying 4 'A' levels and hopes to join the RAF in a technical capacity. The parade was reviewed by Group Captain Andy Beacon the Station Commander at RAF Northolt and involved some 500 cadets of a wide variety of ethnic backgrounds and many girls alongside the boys. A memorable day!





The Rutland Belle at her mooring



The Church on Rutland Water



Discovering the beauty of Stamford



The Inverted Pyramid

THE SUMMER OUTING TO RUTLAND - JULY 2nd

This year's Summer Outing to Rutland turned out to be an extravaganza stretching over three fun packed days. More than one hundred liverymen, partners and guests enjoyed the very busy schedule and many discovered the 'lost and rescued' County of Rutland for the first time.

The first day had three elements to it, a visit to the Game and Wildlife Trust at Loddington, a Rutland Water Cruise, followed by the Company dinner at Barnsdale Lodge. The second day was a visit to Boughton House and Gardens. Then on day three there was a choice between golf and a walking tour of Stamford.

The visitors to the Wildlife Trust were led around the site by the project director, Dr Alastair Leake. They were given a fascinating insight into the migrating habits of the various species that visit the site, the many conservation projects currently underway and came away full of admiration about the work of this 75 year old research centre. This



The elegantly planted walled garden at Boughton House

visit was followed by a cruise on Rutland Water, the largest man made lake in England covering more than 2,000 acres. The party cruised in the Rutland Belle with sparkling drinks courtesy of the Master and we were treated to an interesting talk by Tim Mackrill head of the Osprey Project who even conjured up a distant osprey for us to admire.

The next item on the programme was dinner featuring local produce at Barnsdale Lodge but before eating we were treated to an interesting talk by a local brewer, Tony Davis of The Grainstore Brewery in Oakham. This was followed by a demonstration of Ale Conning by Dr Christine Rigden one of four official Conners and a Past Master of the Constructors' Company. The Conner's task is to test the quality of new ales. First Christine tastes the ale, then a pint of ale is poured on a wooden bench and she sits down on it in the leather breeches that she wears especially for the occasion. After one minute she stands up. If ale does not stick to the breeches, it is not the right consistency. If the ale sticks to her breeches she announces: "I proclaim this ale good quality, God save the Queen."



What was said to cause the Clerk to cry?



"I'll wait, see you in the pub"



The Party in front of Boughton House

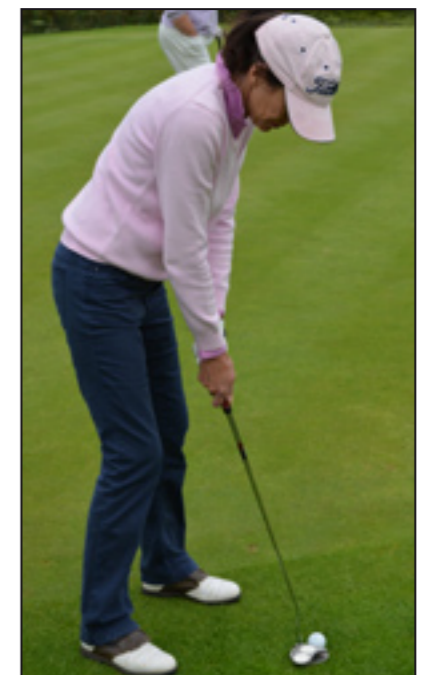
After dinner we were regaled by Jill Collinge on the derivations of many English sayings and here are just three:

The Full Monty was a Montague Burton suit, jacket, trousers, waistcoat and braces or General Montgomery insisted on a full English breakfast before any manoeuvre, a full Monty. During WW2 there was a billboard for Burton Ales with two men talking. One asked the other where Fred had gone and the reply was "I think he's gone for a Burton".

It was a sign of wealth in the 18th century if you had rotten teeth because you could afford sugary things. The ladies could always hide their rotten teeth behind their fans but society gentlemen talked with their lips brought over their rotten teeth hence the expression 'stiff upper lip'.

The second day was a visit to Boughton House, the Northamptonshire home of the Dukes of Buccleuch and Queensberry and known as the 'English Versailles'. The magnificent house is set in 11,000 acres with beautifully decorated and furnished rooms. On arrival we had coffee in the stables and were welcomed to the estate by its manager Chris Sparrow. We then toured the estate in coaches focusing on the 2,500 acres of woodland and timber, particularly oaks, which play a major role in its management. We enjoyed a delicious lunch in the Great Hall before touring the formal grounds which have many interesting features including the 'inverted pyramid' as well as a large landscaped garden. On day three there was a choice between golf and a tour of Oakham.

The golfers enjoyed a sunny morning with some very creditable scores and very professional looking participants whilst the Oakham contingent of 14 was led by Jill Collinge and unusually



Sarah Markillie focused on her putting

ended with lunch in a pub! My thanks to the many contributors of photographs, especially Richard Whitlock, David Bright, Christopher Day and Robert Cooper and of course a huge thank you to Janet and John Reynolds for pulling together such a fantastic event and our ever efficient Clerk.

Liveryman John Evans



SURREY DOCKS CITY FARM NEWS



The Old Yard at Surrey Docks



The New Yard



The people who made it happen!

2013 has seen a transformation at our beloved Surrey Docks Farm located in the heart of Rotherhithe. This little oasis overlooking the Thames in the borough of Southwark has had a major makeover and should be a port of call for every Liveryman. The two acre site is visited by thousands of city dwellers and their children every year and gradually the yard where the children can meet and greet the animals has deteriorated and the drainage system was failing. One day in August 2012 Past Master Jeremy Courtney and Liveryman John Evans visited the farm to get an update on the state of play. What they found was a rather dispirited team who had 'enjoyed' a visit from the local environmental health inspector who had threatened closure if the drainage system was not repaired so the situation obviously needed urgent attention. They had already obtained a quotation for the renewal of the yard and the drainage system of more than £100K which seemed far too high so Jeremy and John arranged a follow up visit two weeks later. This time they were accompanied by Geoff Gregory, deputy Principal of Plumpton College and responsible for £15m of refurbishment, and Andrew Cherry a Sussex builder well known to Jeremy. At the farm we met with Jonnie Beverley who had been seconded, at no cost, to the farm to prepare a Biffaward grant application. The party re-defined the requirements with an approximate cost of £50K and Jonnie simply got on with the job of applying for the grant. The basis of the award would be the need for a 10% contribution from third parties and the Company assisted in raising this amount. After much lobbying, cajoling

and editing by Jonnie, the Biffaward trustees awarded the farm a grant of £45K in May and Andrew Cherry and his team started work soon afterwards. They coped well with all the animals and the visitors and have created a superb and safe environment for the children to mix with the animals. The official opening of the yard took place on August 20th and was carried out by Valerie Shawcross CBE, member of the London Assembly for Lambeth and Southwark. Other supporters had been invited including Biffaward representatives, British Land, Jonnie

Also the yard with a cross section of the animals and Nessie cooling off in her drinking water trough! The Company gives much on-going support to the farm, especially through the good offices of Liveryman Edward Hitchcock, who organizes the disposal of the 'muck' as well as delivering hay and straw from his farm. Nessie's eight piglets have now gone to market and yielded a good return and fingers crossed there are more on the way. Note to all Liverymen, the farm boar is 'tired' and they need a replacement soon, if possible, a Gloucester Old



Beverley and Andrew Cherry and of course Jeremy and John. It was a fine sunny day and enjoyed by all especially the animals who now have a clean environment to roam around to meet their young fans. The photographs show the yard in its dilapidated state and the new yard with good drainage systems beneath it.



Spot, but a good performing, friendly model will do!

THE IMPORTANCE OF RESEARCH IN AGRICULTURE - LORD DONALD CURRY

One of the most important decisions the Coalition Government took when it came into office was not to reduce the spending on science. The Science Councils, and as a consequence the institutes they support, continue to receive the same level of financial expenditure whilst the rest of Government has suffered cuts of 30% to 40% in a serious attempt to rein in public expenditure. It was a clear recognition that investing in science, in innovation and new technologies is absolutely fundamental to long term economic success and critical to our competitiveness as a trading nation. What it masked was the fact that previous administrations had cut back the spending on science to a level that was uncomfortably low for a nation that had led the world in scientific development.

We are now reaping the consequences of decisions taken during the 1980's and 1990's when across the EU we had 'filled the barns'. We had surpluses in most commodities and were deemed to have been too successful. EU policy with its focus on production had created an embarrassing and expensive problem of how to dispose of unwanted surpluses. As a result, decisions were taken which places us at a serious disadvantage today. Spending on science was a soft target so it suffered when each spending review took place and many of our renowned institutes eventually closed. In the 1970's we had over 30 institutes primarily dedicated to agricultural research but we only have 10 today! So not only was funding cut back but, as a consequence, we lost valuable capacity and many of our brightest young scientists became part of the 'brain drain'.

One of the most serious impacts of decisions was the effect on



Lord Donald Curry of Kirdharle

horticulture. Spending through HRI (Horticulture Research International) fell by 36% between 1990 and 2000. The consequence of these actions has led to a gradual but progressive decline in production of fresh produce and our self sufficiency still continues on a downward trajectory. Other factors contributed but there is a direct link between the investment in scientific research and our ability to produce food competitively in a global market. So the 1990's were a dark decade for British agriculture. The 1990's were a bad decade for other reasons too! We abolished the MMB, had every disease imaginable (BSE, E-coli, Salmonella, Swine fever, Foot and Mouth etc) and consumer confidence in British food was at an all time low.

I have participated in many conferences, seminars and discussion groups over the past 20 years when the subject of knowledge transfer, or more specifically the lack of it, has been a matter of deep concern. In 2002 I chaired the Policy Commission on the 'Future of Food and Farming' and the translation of scientific knowledge was a high priority and we made a number of specific recommendations. We looked back on the previous decade and were deeply concerned at the emerging trends!

So have we made any progress? We may look at our self sufficiency data which concluded that we only produce enough food in Britain to feed ourselves until the middle of August in any one year. Combine that with the challenge of food security, the predicted world population growth to 9 billion by 2050, the

impact of Climate Change and you might conclude that we are failing miserably, in a dire state and going backwards!

We have lost between 15% and 20% of our self sufficiency in 20 years but we must bear in mind that when our production was at its peak we were piling meat, milk and cereals into intervention stores at an alarming rate, draining EU funds in the process. We also need to remind ourselves that even when our production levels were at their peak, farm profitability was not guaranteed!

Increasing our production is not only desirable, it is essential, but it needs to take place in a sustainable way which addresses our environmental impact and makes economic sense to farmers! However not only did the Coalition Government maintain current spend on science in 2010 but in July 2013 they launched the Agri-Tech Strategy which announced an increase in spend of £160m in the field of agricultural science. To persuade Government in the middle of an austerity drive to part with a large additional tranche of funding was a significant achievement. George Freeman MP was a key player along with David Willetts in delivering this result. The purpose of this increase is 'to position the UK as a world leader in tackling the issue of food security'. If, as I suggested earlier, our productive capacity is linked to investment in science then this is very good news.

If we are to achieve a turn-around in the volume of food we produce we will need to take maximum advantage of the opportunities this additional funding presents. Research Institutions need to co-operate and create partnerships with industry to bid for 'Centres of Agriculture Innovation'. New tools, new technologies are urgently needed to meet the challenges we face. We need to be bold and try and regain the leading role we once held in agricultural science and innovation! Our future competitiveness depends on it!
Donald Curry



..... A Year in the life of the 'Old' Master



Past Master John Reynolds

Mastership of a City Livery Company is an honour, a privilege and a unique opportunity to be part of our Great City's ceremonies and traditions. Many of the Masters are also practitioners of their trade and many of these trades are represented in their modern form. For example, Master Needlemaker may work for a company that makes hypodermic needles, and Master Feltmaker may make industrial felts for body armour; so they are an interesting bunch.

Our sister companies are always generous and welcoming in their hospitality and I have been proud to represent the cause of the farming industry within the City. There is a real feeling of 'family' within the Livery Movement and it is easy to make friends and relax. Although many of the events involve eating and drinking, there are also many that don't and, early in my year, Janet and I had the good fortune to attend the Silent Ceremony, the Ceremony where power is transferred from the outgoing to the incoming Lord Mayor.

Except for the incoming Mayor swearing his oath the whole process was conducted in absolute silence, save for the odd autumn cough. Right at the end of the ceremony, the actual transference of power took place when the outgoing Mayor

slowly removed his tricorne hat from his head and, simultaneously, the incoming Mayor slid his tricorne hat onto his head. It was a masterly display of 'hat choreography', in a solemn yet simple piece of pageantry, which has been performed for centuries. In early December, I also had the unique opportunity afforded Livery Company Masters to visit to the Old Bailey for Lunch with the Judges, followed by an afternoon sitting in the well of a Court, whilst a trial was in process.

Then, in May, along with twenty one other Masters, I had an entirely different brush with the law. Summoned to the Mansion House, by Sheriff Nigel Pullman, I found myself 'arrested' by the City of London Police, on some vaguely agricultural misdemeanour. Unceremoniously, we were loaded on to a police

Not every event requires 'white tie' the Master also supports our Military affiliations. Army manoeuvres with the Westminster Dragoons required several thermal garments, as did the commissioning of HMS Defender, on the Nelson Quay, at Portsmouth. In contrast, 'shirt sleeves' were required when, on a glorious day in July, we attended the Air Show at RAF Waddington and were treated to displays from the Red Arrows, the French air-display team, the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and a dramatic array of NATO aircraft and helicopters. Guest of Honour was George 'Johnny' Johnson, born 25th November 1921 and the last surviving bomb aimer of the Dambusters' raid.

We also attended the Field Day of the Middlesex Wing of the Air Training Corps, where we were hosted by three charming 14 year olds. A particularly honoured guest was Air Commodore Charles Clarke OBE, one of the few surviving members of Bomber Command, yet still sprightly at 90. He was shot down during an attack on Schweinfurt and became a prisoner of war in Stalag Luft III, from where he escaped. Over lunch,



'charabanc', transported to the Tower of London and 'imprisoned'. Fed only on bread and water (actually quite a nice lunch and the water bottles were labelled 'Pol Roger') I waited in anticipation for my Livery colleagues to raise my bail bond and return me to my anxious Mistress. Eventually the money arrived and I take this opportunity to thank those who contributed so generously to my Bond. It was all in a good cause as, between us, we raised over £40k for the British Red Cross.

Janet explained his achievement to our young hosts - who summed it up in one word - awesome! And thus do I, because - in the 'parlar' of those youngsters - I have had a truly 'awesome' year.

Immediate Past Master, John Reynolds

CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

NEWS BRIEFS

CHARITY MATTERS

"THE SITUATION TODAY"

Since my last newsletter events have moved on apace within our Company. The new governances are now in place and the newly constructed Court is grappling with the changes taking place with our Hall in Cloth St. The Hall is now closed and shuttered, with our possessions and fittings removed for safekeeping. As a result we now incur considerable extra costs for our events and meetings have to be held in hired venues but, hopefully, the result will be an enhanced Hall at Cloth St with much improved facilities over two floors. All this, of course, will require funding but more of that from others at a later date.

My appeal for you to step up to the plate in these difficult times resulted in a flurry of cheques ranging from £500 to a very generous £6600, for which I am very grateful but, sadly, it soon petered out with less than 5% of our membership contributing. Having said that I think we can be proud of our achievements over the last few years. In 2011 our voluntary income was £143,000, including the generous Cossins' bequest but in 2012 it was £57,000. We all pay the Charitable Levy with our quarterage and now the farm cart collections can be gift aided which should add around £1,000 to our income.

Charity is not just about writing cheques and we must not underestimate the value of those Liverymen who give generously of their time and talents in running the affairs of the Company in these challenging times. You should all have received a copy of our Legacy leaflet which appears to have been well accepted and I hope you will keep it in or on your desk as a reminder of what you might do when the time is right.

Probably, and hopefully from your point of view, I shall not see the fruits of my labour but I was much heartened in my task by an email I received from one of our Liverymen and I précis :
" I know how frustrating it can be to throw hundreds of copies of communications into the ether and get little response but may I say how much I liked the Legacy leaflet that arrived recently - Well done! I found it one of the clearest documents I have received on legacy giving. I can confirm that your previous correspondence has already pricked my conscience and when I sign my new will the Company gains a mention."

I am minded of the Parable of the Sower!!

Since April 2012 if 10% or more of a net estate is left to a registered charity, the rate of Inheritance Tax on the remainder is reduced from 40% to 36%. This legislation may change of course and Liverymen are advised to seek professional advice when planning a will.

**Richard Halhead, Norbreck Farm Cockerham, Lancaster LA2 0DY
Tel: 01524 752421, Mob: 07774417087
Email: rthalhead@gmail.com**



Richard Halhead

Past Master Richard Brooks has regular contact with recipients of Henman Trust awards and two of the most memorable reminders have come from Ross Appleby who travelled to Peru and other South American Countries and Rachel who visited China to explore farming activities. Both wrote glowing thank you letters and very interesting accounts. Another Henman recipient is Matt Hill from Plumpton who spent months in Australia and recently addressed some 150 'freshers' at his old College about his adventures.

----- Prize Giving -----



The prize winner at Bishop Burton College in Beverly Yorks was Simon Scott and the photograph is of him receiving his prize from Chairman of Education Graham Shooter.

The prize winner at Myerscough College in Lancashire was Carol Moffat FdSc Ag and she was presented with her prize by Liveryman Richard Halhead.

The prize winner at Plumpton College was James Mitchell who was top student at the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Agriculture course and he was presented with his award by Mr Graham Peters DL, High Sheriff of East Sussex.

At the Harper Adams University College in Newport, Shropshire graduation ceremony James Yeoman was presented with his prize by Master John Reynolds.

ASSISTANTS, LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 11 June 2013:

Peter Campbell Bennett

Proposed by W F Balch
Seconded by J D Courtney

Timothy Cary Burrough

Proposed by J D Courtney
Seconded by H C Grissell

John Grant Burton

Proposed by R T Halhead
Seconded by Mrs J Willows

Mrs Mary Anne Courtney

Proposed by Miss R S N Carne
Seconded by J L Evans

Miss Alice Cecilia Hawkes

Proposed by W R T Crane
Seconded by G J Dodgson

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 8 October 2013:

Richard James Cross

Proposed by C D Older
Seconded by J D Courtney

John Andrew Elliot

Proposed by D J Bright
Seconded by R T Whitlock

Timothy Bramwell Graham

Proposed by Hon Christopher Wade
Seconded by Lord Wade

Michael Lampard

Proposed by J K Reynolds
Seconded by S N Skinner

Robert Thomas Moore

Proposed by Lord Plumb
Seconded by Mrs K J Mercer

Cdr Simon Peter Lee Staley RN

Proposed by Sir Graham Wilkinson
Seconded by Miss R S N Carne
and by J D Courtney

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

Richard David Cooksley

Eric Dixon Drummond

James Goodson

Elections to Court wef 11 March 2014:

Sir Robert Ross KCVO FRICS

Miss Caroline Louise Ratcliff

Congratulations to:

Freeman John Lee OBE FRAGS,
appointed High Sheriff for Devon
2013 / 2014

Liveryman Andrew Dyke, presented
with the Livery Salver at the Annual
Banquet 2013

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2013

Saturday 9 November

The Lord Mayor's Show

Wednesday 11 December

Court Meeting, Common Hall and
Livery Luncheon in Plaisterers' Hall,
One London Wall, EC2Y 5JU
(please note the new venue)

Tuesday 17 December

Tea in Founders' Hall and Carols at
St Bartholomew the Great

2014

Tuesday 28 January

Banquet at The Mansion House

Monday 17 February

City Food Lecture at Guildhall

Tuesday 4 March

Inter-Livery Pancake Race in
Guildhall Yard

Tuesday 11 March

Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon
in Painters' Hall,
9 Little Trinity Lane, EC4V 2AD

Wednesday 2 April

Agricultural Lecture and Dinner
in Merchant Taylor's Hall, 30
Threadneedle Street, EC2R 8AY

Tuesday 17 June (Please note new

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

Tuesday 1 July – Wednesday 2 July

The Summer Outing (London)

Wednesday 10 September

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

Tuesday 14 October (Please note

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

Saturday 8 November

The Lord Mayor's Show

Tuesday 9 December

Court Meeting, Common Hall and
Livery Luncheon in Carpenters' Hall

OBITUARIES

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

Freeman **Douglas John Richard Trustram Eve** of Hythe Marina,
Southampton died on 21 January 2013.

Liveryman **Robin Hilary Beaumont Malim** of Croose Farm, Hereford, died
on 3 October 2013. He was Clothed on 7 April 1997.

Liveryman **Neville Maurice Hitcham** of Arundel Lodge, Norwich died on
19th October 2013. He was Clothed on 11 March 1991.

Liveryman **William Eric Wilson CBE** of The Lodge, Leamington Spa, died
on 29 October 2013. He was Clothed on 7 October 2003.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

The copy date for the Spring newsletter is March 1st 2014.

This edition of the newsletter covers many of the activities of the Company
from April to October 2013. Many of the events have also been reported on
our website and I am keen to populate the site with more interesting articles
particularly the new younger members' area and the Alumni area. We have
added a Forthcoming Events section to the website where we can publicise
happenings such as WET 10 meetings which involve the Livery.

Please keep sending news and information along with original, high resolution
photographs, with a minimum size of 1Mb for printing. Not all the photographs
can be used in the newsletter but the web site can include most items.
My E-mail address is johnevs740@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