

LIVERY & FREEMAN

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 1 December 2009:

Antony James Cooke
Mrs Pamela Jane Corbett
Robert Samuel Markillie
John William Pugh JP
Nigel Graeme Turton
The Hon Christopher James Oulton Wade
Mrs Teresa Marie Wickham

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 2 March 2010:

Adrian Robert William Bell
Christopher Robin Cook
John Christopher Grumbridge
Mrs Kate Elizabeth Russell Hall
Rear Admiral Roger Charles Lane-Nott CB
William David Peck
Air Commodore Stephen Neil Skinner
Professor John Malcolm Stansfield MBE

The following were made Freeman by Redemption at the Court meeting on 2 March 2010:

Robert Collison Alston
Proposed by A J Alston
Seconded by G M Alston

Andrew Percival Casebow
Proposed by P M Bolam
Seconded by C J French

Terence Percy Gilman
Proposed by J K Reynolds
Seconded by A J Brown

Peter Derek Hardaker
Proposed by J K Reynolds
Seconded by Miss R S N Carne

Mairi Jean Johnston
Proposed by L A Jordan
Seconded by N J Fiske

John Stuart Martin
Proposed by A G A Lane
Seconded by Miss S M C Keene

Nicola Judith Quayle
Proposed by M R Taylor
Seconded by J K Reynolds

ELECTIONS TO COURT:

The following Liverymen joined the Court on 2 March 2010

Anthony James Alston
Baroness Byford DBE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2010

Tuesday 27 April
Agricultural Lecture and Dinner

Tuesday 8 June
Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

Thursday 24 June
City Election and Luncheon in Hall

Monday 28 June
Summer Outing to Oxford

Wednesday 15 September
Masters & Clerks Luncheon

Wednesday 29 September
City Election and Luncheon in Hall

Tuesday 5 October
Harvest Thanksgiving, Installation and Luncheon

Wednesday 20 October
Livery Dinner in Hall

Saturday 13 November
Lord Mayor's Show and Luncheon in Hall

Tuesday 7 December
Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

Thursday 16 December
Carols at St Bartholomew the Great

2011

Tuesday 25 January
Banquet at Fishmongers' Hall

Tuesday 1 March
Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

OBITUARIES

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

Yeoman Captain John Stephen Stewart OBE FRAGS RM Ret'd of Olney, Buckinghamshire. Died 20 December 2009. Clothed 19 September 1974.

Liveryman Don Austin Gomery of Isfield Cottage, Crowborough, East Sussex. Died 1 April 2010. Clothed 7 December 2004.

EDITORS NOTE:

This Newsletter covers most Company activities from October 2009 until the 2 March luncheon (the report of the March lunch and Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management will follow in the next edition). Copy date for the Autumn 2010 Newsletter is 17 September 2010. Will any Liverymen with copy please send it to me together with photographs by that date. E-mail: rosie.carne@yara.com or post to the Clerk. *Thank you.*

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Liveryman John Godfrey CBE on his appointment as High Sheriff of Lincolnshire for 2010/2011.



The Egyptian Room at Mansion House. See pages 6 and 7.



Peas get the Green Light to Show off at the Lord Mayor's Parade - see page 2.



The Challenge Of Rural Leadership Course - see page 3.



A report of busy times for HMS York: - see pages 4 and 5.

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 LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

Peas get the Green Light to Show off at the Lord Mayor's Parade



The Worshipful Company of Farmers 2009 team

The Company invited the national award-winning Yes Peas! Campaign to sponsor a pea harvester as our 2009 exhibit in the magnificent and historic Lord Mayor's Show in London on Saturday 14 November, in front of an audience of hundreds of thousands of people.

Great Britain prides itself on being one of the finest pea growing nations in the world, largely due to its ideal and unique eastern facing sea-board. There are 35,000 hectares of peas grown in the UK each year, equivalent to about 70,000 football pitches. This produces about 160,000 tonnes of frozen peas - that's 2 billion 80 gram portions.

The PMC Harvester, kindly loaned by Fen Peas, made its stately way from Fakenham on Thursday 12 November with a send-off from the children of All Saints Church of England Primary School, Stibbard, Fakenham, who shouted "Yes Peas!" and waved off the pea harvester, supported from the

Company by Liveryman and Court Assistant Lindsay Hargreaves - in traditional garb - Liveryman Sarah Keene and Past Master Richard Brooks.



Primary school send-off for Pea Harvester

Saturday 14th November loomed wet and blustery- again! Walking in front of the harvester decorated with Company banners and the key messages that frozen peas are fresher than fresh, that the best peas are frozen within 150 minutes of being

picked - as well as explaining the work of the pea harvester, were The Master, Jeremy Courtney; the Senior Warden, Follett Balch; and Liveryman and Court Assistants John Reynolds and Lindsay Hargreaves; just one part of the 6000-strong procession.

The first event ever to be broadcast live on TV, the Lord Mayor's Show has survived the Black Death and The Blitz and this year's event attracted 500,000 people to the capital's streets whilst millions more watched the parade at home on BBC TV. The commentator Clare Balding was presented with a 'hamper' of pea-related items which included the Yes Peas! recipe books and a bottle of pea champagne!



Pea champagne!

The Company would like to thank Fen Peas for their generosity in bringing this magnificent machine to London, together with the PVGA, the Fen peas Campaign team, PMC Harvester Ltd and Liveryman Graham Shooter. Its spectacle as well as the important messages it carried made it a highlight of the 682nd parade!"

THE CHALLENGE OF RURAL LEADERSHIP COURSE - 8 NOVEMBER TO 21 NOVEMBER

Challenge of Rural Leadership Course

In November last year I had the great privilege to participate in the "Challenge of Rural Leadership" course run by the Duchy College sponsored by the Worshipful Company of Farmers. The course was held at Dartington Hall, and was a very intensive two weeks in which I was exposed to many inspirational and thought provoking presenters and challenging situations.

The course focused on identifying the skills and attributes required for effective leadership and why going forward strong leadership will be vital for Agriculture's future and success. While the attributes of good leadership were interesting it was the time spent looking at "the big picture" for agriculture and why strong leadership will be required that I took most of my take home messages from.

Personally it was an incredible opportunity to step out of the day to day issues of owner/managing a mixed farm through what has virtually become a decade of drought in Southern NSW, Australia and obtain a global big picture perspective on agriculture. The story was very positive.

The underlying theme running through the course as presented by many of the specialist speakers was that Agriculture is potentially heading into a long period of prosperity and growth. Initially, I was a little sceptical when the reasons behind this boom were things like world population growing to 9 billion in the next 30 years, loss of arable land, food security and global warming as it seems we have been hearing the "farming will be good because people have to eat" theory for the last 30 years. However, when it was highlighted that for the first time the countries predicted to experience the largest population growth are also experiencing major economic growth and will have the resources to purchase the food required the message became clearer. At the same time consumers in wealthy industrial countries are becoming a lot more discerning on the health, traceability, source and quality



The courses delegates hard at work



of their food and are starting to pay to get these boxes ticked. The rejection of GM food by consumers regardless of how ill informed this decision makes the likelihood of them embracing real Frankenstein food like test tube grown chicken very unlikely.

The problem lies as farmers are already well aware in the fact that consumers paying more for food doesn't necessarily equate to improved prices at farm gate. There is no doubt that a lot of money is being made in the Agriculture sector. Unfortunately, farmers have found themselves in most cases at the bottom of the food chain with suppliers of inputs (fertiliser, chemical, advice, finance and machinery companies) and post farm gate supply chain industry such as grain storage and handling, supermarkets, grain marketers and middle men taking the lion's share of the agricultural sector's pie.

In conclusion if this situation is going to change and grass root farmers are going to benefit from the forecasted increase in agricultural commodity prices then strong and organised

leadership will be required. I believe the "Challenge of Rural Leadership" provided all of the 2009 participants with a solid platform to build on if they choose to become more involved in leadership roles within their industries and the broader Agricultural sector. I encourage all farmers to get behind and fully support the passionate individuals and organisations that take on these leadership roles. Farmers from all industries need to become unified behind strong leadership with the simple message that agriculture is the solution to many of our perceived modern day problems such as food security, the environment, carbon reduction and water and land management not the cause. I would strongly encourage others to consider doing the course as the opportunity to challenge and analyse yourself and your beliefs, be exposed to new concepts and to make new lifetime friendships is nothing short of life changing.

Course member Andrew Bouffler, Nuffield Scholar from Lockhart, NSW, Australia



MILITARY AFFILIATIONS

A report of busy times for HMS York: South Thule (South Sandwich Islands) and South Georgia.



As her Commanding Officer Cdr Simon Staley commented: "YORK is now well established in the South Atlantic Joint Operations Area. I am immensely proud of the professionalism and attitude of my Ship's Company who day in day out give their all to fulfilling our important mission down here on behalf of the Commander British Forces".

HMS YORK, currently on Atlantic Patrol Task (South) duties, has just returned to the Falkland Islands having conducted a 'mini' deployment to the South Sandwich Islands and South Georgia. She sailed from Mare Harbour, the islands military port, on the evening of 22 March and, in surprisingly benign weather, made good speed to rendezvous with RFA WAVE RULER for an underway refuel at the halfway point of the 1200nm South East navigation track. Crossing the Antarctic Convergence Zone (ACZ) brought with it not just fog (caused when the warm Atlantic waters meet the much colder Antarctic Ocean waters, cooling the warmer air quickly to its saturation point), but also the first of many Icebergs. Whilst the big ones (some up to 2 miles long and 150ft high – and that's just the bit you can see – normally the other 80% is underwater!) show up well on radar, it's the smaller bits that have broken off (Bergy Bits – about the size of a bus, and Growlers – about the

size of a car) that are much harder to spot and are equally as dangerous to any ship that hits one. To keep them safe additional lookouts were drawn from within Team YORK, and closed up on the bridge wings and focsle during hours of darkness in temperatures as low as -1 degree (-5 degrees in the wind chill). Chefs, engineers, and communicators all played their critical part and once or twice short notice alteration of course were actioned to avoid "bergy bits" and "growlers" they had spotted appearing out the gloom.

YORK arrived at Southern Thule on 26 Mar, the Islands appearing out of the mist and cloud looking equally stark and beautiful. Where exactly is Southern Thule? It is a group of three small Islands at the south of the South Sandwich Islands chain, some 400nm to the South East of South Georgia. At just under 60° South, the islands are uninhabited by humans, are bitterly cold and windy, and covered in snow and ice 365 days a year. Sighted by in Jan 1775 by the explorer James Cook, on HMS RESOLUTION, who named it Southern Thule because it seemed to lie at very much the extreme end of the world, the three Islands are called Thule, Bellingshausen, Cook, each of them British Overseas Territory. South Thule had a small but important part in the events before and during the Falklands War in 1982, its story ending some

months after the main conflict when a party from a British warship was ordered to land there and destroy the Argentinean Carbata Uruguan Weather Station infrastructure on Hewson Point (the South Eastern most promontory) except one small outbuilding stocked with emergency supplies, and a flagpole which was left with the Union Flag proudly flying.

YORK is now the first RN warship to visit this tiny outpost for nearly 10 years, the purpose of which being to re-affirm British ownership under the Government of South Georgia's Flag. Unfortunately, due to a terrific swell running on to the treacherously rocky shore, and tens of thousands of Chinstrap Penguins and thousands of Elephant and Leopard Seals covering the only flat area on the Island, it was deemed unsafe to land a Naval Party by boat or helicopter to refresh the Flag. Instead a photo was taken of the fastest Destroyer in the Fleet, flying the flag proudly alongside the White Ensign, powering past Southern Thule as she began her 500nm journey North for South Georgia.

YORK arrived off Cape Disappointment (so named because Capt Cook, during the same voyage as he discovered the SSI, thought he had found the fabled Antarctic continent until he rounded this headland and, disappointingly,

found he was instead circumnavigating an Island!) on 27 March. Navigating with great caution York headed in to the breathtakingly beautiful Drygalski Fjord which, despite the bitter 50+kt wind being funneled down across the glacier at the head of the Fjord, provided a most impressive backdrop for the photographers on board. Remaining clear of the free floating ice at the top, a tight turn and dash back out saw YORK heading around to anchor off Gold Harbour on the Northern side of the island; a haven for the most incredible array of wildlife. In perfect sunshine and clear blue skies, the beach and surrounding turquoise waters were teeming with King Penguins, Elephant and Fur seals, Snowy Sheathbills, and the massive and hugely impressive Albatross.

Completing a second and much needed replenishment of fuel with WAVE RULER the next morning in front of snow peaked mountains and menacing Icebergs, both ships then headed in to Cumberland Bay for a unique picture of the two ships in front of the Nordenskjold Glacier, this being the first ever deployment of a WAVE Class in to the South Atlantic let alone South Georgia. YORK proceeded to anchor close to King Edward Point (KEP), the British Antarctic Survey (BAS) team headquarters, in front of the now defunct but preserved Whaling station at Grytviken. Using a combination of YORK's Sea Boat and the BAS's two very impressive jet propelled launches, all those on board who wished to, went ashore over the next 3 days to tour the rusting yet still foreboding whaling ships, buildings and machinery that stand as a stark reminder of the bloody industry that operated here. Set amongst this lies a fascinating museum and well stocked gift shop; a small church in which many of the Ship's Company found a few minutes to sit quietly and reflect on friends and families 8500nm away back home; and, about 1km further round on the other side of the bay, the small cemetery of some 63 graves, one of which being that of Sir Ernest Shackleton whose incredible 800nm passage from Elephant Island, Antarctica to South Georgia on a 22ft wooden boat and then epic journey across the most inhospitable and dangerous mountains to Husvik where he raised the alarm and saved the lives of the 22 men he had left behind, is stuff of legends. The gates were guarded by a particularly large and smelly Elephant Seal which made for a challenging, and somewhat apprehensive, task to get by without aggravating it.

YORK also landed an RAF EOD team who regularly visit to aid in the destruction of unexploded ordnance left over from 1982. Fourteen items were found and disposed of, much to the annoyance of the Fur Seals, but less so to the elephant seal who didn't stir!

Team YORK were able to challenge at sports with an impressive turn out for the South Georgia Half Marathon which took in a mountain climb, gauntlet of Fur Seals, and determined elements to dissuade even the hardest runners from finishing – but they all did. The Ship's football team also took on the BAS (and any visiting 'yachties') team, playing on a pitch which definitely favoured the home team being best described as a bog with goal posts at either end! YORK won, just, and a Trophy was presented by the Team Captain, to be challenged for again when YORK visits next year. With the Ship's Charities in mind, the WO and CPO Mess hosted an evening of Penguin racing on the Flight Deck (an interesting twist on the traditional horse racing) where each syndicate provided one of its members to dress as a South Georgian native (i.e. a Penguin) for the race. A fun evening was had by all and, after winnings had been paid out, approx £700 was raised for the Children's Cancer Ward at Southampton General Hospital.

YORK sailed a little ahead of her original schedule and was quickly back

in the Operating Areas to the north of the Falkland Islands conducting her routine patrols providing re-assurance and deterrence. Her Commanding Officer, Cdr Simon Staley, said "YORK is now well established in the South Atlantic Joint Operations Area and the unfettered training environment has been fully exploited through regular exercises with the very impressive RAF Typhoons, with the deployed Army Regiment, and of course with her maritime sister CLYDE and WAVE RULER. I am immensely proud of the professionalism and attitude of my Ship's Company who day in day out give their all to fulfilling our important mission down here on behalf of the Commander British Forces. The trip we have just done to the South Sandwich Islands and to South Georgia, was truly a well deserved reward for them, and served the RN equally well in demonstrating the true reach and sustainability a warship has even in the harshest of environment such as the Antarctic Oceans. As we start our preparations for returning home once we have handed over to HMS PORTLAND in the coming weeks, we will all relish the memories of the training and mission achieved as well as the unique scenery and wildlife just experienced".

Simon Ablett
Lt Cdr RN WEO HMS YORK





Rt Hon Lord Mayor and The Master presenting the Livery salver to Liveryman Graham Smith for his service to the Company.



The fireplace photograph



The Master and The Rt Hon Lord Mayor escorting their ladies in to dinner

ANNUAL LIVERY BANQUET - 18 January 2010

The Mansion House affords the wonderful venue for the Company's most sparkling occasion - the Annual Livery Banquet. Sparkle in abundance was provided by the 134 year old chandeliers which lit up the glittering dresses of the ladies, with the evening dress of the gentlemen adding to the elegance of the evening.

Cadets from the 398 (Staines and Egham) Squadron Middlesex Wing Air Training Corps distributed the programmes on arrival and guests then walked up the grand staircase hung with 17th Century Dutch and Flemish paintings to be greeted by the Master and the Wardens and their Ladies. There was plenty of time to enjoy the beautiful reception rooms in the Mansion House before sitting down to dine in the Egyptian Room where we were serenaded by musicians from St Bede's School, in Sussex where Master Jeremy Courtney is a governor. It was a particular honour that the Rt Honourable The Lord Mayor Alderman Nick Anstee and The Lady Mayoress Mrs Claire Anstee were able to join us. In line with our tradition we sang the Grace from the 1545 Laudi Spirituali, and expertly enacted the Ceremony of the Loving Cup whilst singing "The Farmers Boy" accompanied by The St Bede's School orchestra, I wonder what was going through the minds of the children as they looked down on the spectacle from the musicians gallery?



The Egyptian Room

Also in line with tradition, following the Loyal Toast and a Toast to the Lord Mayor, The City of London Corporation and the Sheriffs, the Senior Warden Follett Balch welcomed our official guests and proposed the Toast to the City. The Lord Mayor responded and just two months in to his year, gave us an insight in to the Lord Mayor's life and work schedule: we learned he is a keen runner and regular participant in the London Marathon. The Master then proposed a toast to the Guests and

introduced the Guest Speaker, Sir Tom Shebbeare KCVO who has worked for many years with HRH The Prince of Wales. In 2004 Sir Tom became Director of The Prince's Charities from his previous role of Chief Executive of The Prince's Trust.

He described himself thus: "I am the old man of the Prince's Charitable world. I joined The Prince's Trust in 1988 as its first employee and have enjoyed almost every moment of the

experience. There is great passion behind all this effort and it is a great privilege to help turn that passion into practical programmes from which real people can benefit". He went on to give further experiences before proposing a Toast to the Company.

After more music from St Bede's, carriages at 10.20pm brought this very memorable evening to a close.



The Master, Wardens and their ladies



CITY FOOD LECTURE 2010

“Managing the Earth’s Resources to Deliver Food for Nine Billion”, lecture given by Sir David King- recently appointed Principal of the Enterprise and Environment School at the University of Oxford.



“Governments listen too much to public opinion so the public must be correctly informed so that Governments can be persuaded to act correctly”!

The ninth City Food Lecture took place on Tuesday 19 January at Guildhall. For the last few years the seven food related Livery Companies (the Bakers, Butchers, Cooks, Farmers, Fishmongers, Fruiterers and Poulterers) have combined forces to stage this important event in the City’s calendar which was again a ‘sell-out’. The formal part of the evening was followed by a hot buffet supper in the Old Library.

After the arrival of the official parties of guests from the City, Livery companies and sponsoring organisations, the lecture was given from the lectern then followed by a panel discussion with questions taken from the audience.

Sir David, former Chief Scientific Advisor to the Government, gave a wide ranging description of the interrelated challenges facing the 21st Century. A world where we need to reduce fossil fuel dependence, where deforestation and increasing carbon dioxide emissions are acidifying the oceans and there are fresh water shortages and increasing disease resistance. With the background of climate change and population increasing to 9 billion by 2050, with a need to double food supplies and deliver a ‘western based diet’ being increasingly demanded. (Of interest to the Farmers in the audience, he said that the Bovine TB bacilli are the same as found in badgers, and therefore as long as this bacilli persists in the wild, the TB problem in cattle will not be solved. He advised us to work with the public to avoid the end of dairy farming in the UK!)

Despite the scale of the challenges he gave us two positive examples of the Loess Plateau and Rwanda where

progress to reverse the declines have been achieved.

The Loess Platform was “dead” due to deforestation, but with the introduction of terracing to stop erosion and planting and fertilizer, biodiversity was being restored. Similarly in Rwanda, loss of soil had led to loss of production, and again the introduction of terracing and improved water management and the establishment of a co-operative approach to provide seed, fertilizer and agronomic advice were causing a remarkable transition to self-sufficiency.

Negative examples though abound, with deforestation in the Amazon and unacceptable levels of emissions of GHG from developed countries being two major contributors. Water contamination and water wastage must be addressed. Sir David condemned the health obsession with calories, saying a change of behaviour to ‘well being’ should be adopted. Warming to his theme he stressed again the power of public opinion and again said “GM should not be rejected as with good regulatory systems which regulate the product and not the process, the best must be made of modern science”. He called for a global governance procedure to avert future disasters. “Necessity is the mother of invention” he said.



Sir David King

The panel session was chaired by Sir Stuart Hampson. The panel members who joined Sir David on the platform were Paul Conway, Senior Vice President, Cargill Inc, Patrick Holden, Director of the Soil Association and Mark Price, Managing Director of Waitrose.

LIVERY MATTERS

Anyone for Clothing

Kate Hall in Court, being presented to the Master by The Clerk at her clothing. Picture taken by husband Tim.



THE COURT & COMMITTEE LADIES DINNER 28 OCTOBER 2009

This black tie dinner-traditionally the first event in the new Masters’ year- was held in the fascinating Bakers Hall – well known for its stained glass windows by John Piper.

A reception of drinks and canapés shaped like wooden spoons and other bakers implements set the scene for a most stylish and culinary excellent evening at the Bakers Hall. The Master welcomed the guests and formally introduced them to his Chaplain, the

guest of honour the Rt Rev Graeme Knowles and his wife. Graeme Knowles is the Dean of St Paul’s Cathedral. Ordained at Canterbury Cathedral in 1974 and now at St Paul’s, we learned of Graeme’s deep understanding of our industry and recognition of the stewardship role farmers play in the countryside, as he said “for all of us and for the good of creation”. He was Dean of Carlisle during the dreadful FMD outbreak and was involved in the Bishop’s initiative to visit every

village to celebrate its ending. A clear knowledge of all Cumbrian farming enterprises and amused by cattle having passports his experience obviously made him absolutely suited to be the Farmers Company Chaplain. We were particularly lucky he was able to be with us as he had been invited to a State Banquet at Windsor Castle to celebrate the President of India’s three-day state visit on the same night.



THE PANCAKE RACE - 16 February



The Farmers Team 2010.
Apprentice Thomas Copas, Liveryman Belinda Young, "Mistress Farmer" Anne Courtney and The Master

The racing itself was hard fought and no injuries were sustained but unfortunately no copper pans went home with the Farmers this year.

The rain did little to dampen the atmosphere of the 6th Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race, hosted by the

Poulter's Company at the Guildhall in the City of London. As well as the usual racing uniform - chef's hats, gowns and aprons - umbrellas were essential kit for both competitors and spectators alike as a fine February drizzle fell persistently all morning.

The courtyard of the Guildhall was not originally designed as a race track and so the smooth marble slabs, whilst attractive, caused some consternation to the race organisers. Luckily the pre-race inspection held that whilst care should be taken, especially on the all-important turns, the health and safety bods were happy racing could continue and speed restrictions were not to be put in place.

For the uninitiated, the event consists of 4 race classes - the Master's race, the Liveryman's race, the Ladies' race and the novelty race. The first two are self-explanatory, the third again so, although Ladies must remember not to race without a skirt below the knee or face disqualification, and the fourth relates to the novelty hat/costume required. Each year, the theme of the novelty entries is determined by the Lord Mayor's Charity (ies) for his year in office and so this year entrants had the challenge of being creative with 'Pitch Perfect', raising money towards the London Symphony Orchestra and the Cricket Foundation. The Farmers made a modest effort on this front, with our man, Tom Copas (junior) sporting a very fetching cricket cap but this was rather eclipsed by some extraordinary efforts from some of the other entrants, running in cricket pads or as musical instruments.

The racing itself was hard fought and no injuries were sustained but unfortunately no copper pans went home with the Farmers this year. No doubt the Senior Warden is already in training for the 2011 event and any professional pancake racers, who would be willing to run, please do make yourselves known. It's a great fun morning and a good opportunity for the Farmers to be involved in a growing inter-livery event.

Belinda Young - Liveryman



The Master Jeremy Courtney preparing for The Masters Race



and they're off!

1 DECEMBER LUNCHEON

From 'Farm to Fork'- teaching children, their teachers and parents where their food comes from



A full house, looking forward to a Copas Turkey Christmas lunch, was impressed with the enthusiasm and commitment Freeman Nick Padwick obviously brings to the "Farm to Fork" initiative he champions for the Co-operative Farms operation. Based at the Co-op Farms Leicestershire Stoughton Estate, he described how the farm is only two fields away from Leicester and how children visit the farms four times a year to understand the seasonal changes, learn where their food comes from and how to cook with natural ingredients.

The Co-operative Group sponsors this farm activity as part of their "social good" programme and some 25,000 children on eight of their farms have now been able to benefit from the "Farm to Fork" experience.

Nick described a few examples of the results gained from participating, which included improvements in self-esteem, and how the programme is being extended to further groups like 'young offenders'. It was clear to see why Nick was recognised in the Farmers Weekly Awards and is their "2009/10 Farmer of the Year".

OFFICE - BEARERS OF THE COMPANY

THE MASTER

J D Courtney, FRAgS

THE SENIOR WARDEN

W F Balch, FRICS

THE JUNIOR WARDEN

P R Faulkner, FRICS

DEPUTY MASTER

N J Fiske

THE IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER

J F Thorpe, OBE

THE SENIOR PAST MASTER

A Q Hitchcock, CBE, FRAgS

THE CLERK

Colonel D E King, OBE

THE MASTER'S CHAPLAIN

The Rt. Revd. Graeme Knowles

COMPANY STEWARDS

R T Halhead, FRAgS

I A Stockley, FRAgS

P D Strawson, FRICS