

ASSISTANTS, LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 7 December 2010:

Helen Cossins  
Peter Derek Hardaker  
Mairi Jean Johnston  
Nicholas Richard Padwick  
Nicola Judith Quayle  
Robert Guy Raimes  
John Frederick Seymour

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 1 March 2011:

Thomas Christopher Copas  
Fenella Jane Jagger  
Caroline Lucie Ratcliff  
Charles Antony Strawson  
Sarah Stella Waymouth

The following were made Freeman by Redemption at the Court meeting on 7 December 2010:

Anthony Lewis Roberts  
Proposed by T C Court  
Seconded by K M Flemington

Stephen Robert Rigden  
By Interview

The following were made Freeman by Redemption at the Court meeting on 1 March 2011:

Arthur Goddard  
Proposed by V R Hedley Lewis  
Seconded by D A Nutting

Jan Boomaars  
Proposed by W F Balch  
Seconded by N J Fiske

Election to Court wef 1 March 2011

Graham John Shooter  
William Harold Youngs

Election to Court wef 7 June 2011

David John Bright

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2011

Wednesday 18 May  
Inter-Livery Shoot (contact Assistant Tony Alston)

Tuesday 7 June  
Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

Tuesday 12 July  
Summer Outing to Chiswick House

Tuesday 11 October  
Harvest Thanksgiving, Installation and Luncheon in Haberdashers' Hall

Saturday 12 November  
Lord Mayor's Show and Family Lunch in Hall

Tuesday 6 December  
Court Meeting and Christmas Luncheon in Butchers' Hall

2012

Tuesday 24 January  
Banquet at Goldsmiths' Hall

Tuesday 13 March  
Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall



The potato harvester in the Lord Mayor's Show - see page 2.



HMS York sails past the Needles Lighthouse at the start of her APT(S) Deployment - see page 4.



Caroline Ratcliff and her "winning run" - see page 8.

OBITUARIES

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

Past Master **John Horwood Cossins** of Tarrant Keyneston, Blandford, Dorset died on 29 January 2011. He was Clothed on 18 September 1973, became a Court Assistant in 1987 and served as Master 1999-2000.

Liveryman **Richard David Margesson MBE JP DL** of Burderop, Swindon Wiltshire died on 5 February 2011. He was Clothed on 6 April 1998.

Liveryman **Peter Cook** of Sherington, Newport Pagnell, died on 22 March 2011. He was Clothed on 6 December 2005.

EDITORS NOTE:

This Newsletter covers most Company activities from October 2010 to the end of February 2011 (the report of the Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management will be in the next issue). **Copy date for the Autumn Newsletter is 23 September 2011.** Will any Liverymen with copy please send it to our new Editor together with photographs by that date. E-mail: johnevans740@btinternet.com or post to the Clerk. *Thank you.*



The Annual Livery Banquet at Fishmongers' Hall. See pages 6 and 7.





THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW - 13 NOVEMBER 2010

## Grimme Takes Potato Power to London for The Lord Mayor's Parade



The potato harvester in the Lord Mayor's Show

**The reason for the Worshipful Company of Farmers' involvement in the event for the last five years has been to promote a better understanding of the importance of farming in the economic life of the nation and the close association of farming with the City of London. Through generous sponsorship we have been able to call on a long line of quality agricultural machinery including a combine, forage harvester, pea viner and a 10-furrow plough pulled by a large tractor.**

Liveryman Allan Stevenson - Chairman of the Potato Council - commented "it was about time potatoes were featured" and so the idea to have a potato harvester in the 2010 parade was born.

The impressive Grimme Varitron two row self-propelled potato harvester was kindly loaned by Cambridgeshire farmer Richard Lee of Highflyer Farm, with its delivery sponsored by its manufacturer, Grimme. The Potato Council used the

opportunity to reinforce the role of the potato in a healthy diet through its 'Love Potatoes' message (www.lovepotatoes.co.uk) displayed on the machine.

On Friday 12th of November the Grimme harvester started its journey to London from Highflyer Farm with a stop outside the front entrance to the majestic Ely Cathedral where it was waved off by the Bishop, choristers and other dignitaries.

At the Lord Mayor's parade the following morning the London streets along the Square Mile were packed with onlookers as far as the eye could see. Meticulous planning helped the parade get off to a prompt start, which took the potato harvester along with the Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers Follet Balch, the senior warden Peter Faulkner, junior warden John Reynolds and Assistant Lindsay Hargreaves, from Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice and back again.

As the Master commented "The UK agricultural industry is professional, innovative, thriving, dedicated and sustainable. Along with Grimme and the Potato Council, we are proud to take a lead in trying to educate and communicate this to the general public; potatoes are a staple of the British diet and it is great we can show how they are harvested with this impressive machine". We are most grateful for their wonderful support and in bringing the harvester to London, and were delighted the Lee family came along to watch the 2010 Lord Mayor's Show.



Ely Cathedral wishing God Speed to the potato harvester with The Master, Assistant Lindsay Hargreaves - who organised our exhibit - together with the Choristers of Ely Cathedral, The Dean of Ely, Bishop of Huntingdon and Mayor of Ely as well as a good gathering of Liverymen.

THE CHALLENGE OF RURAL LEADERSHIP COURSE - 7 - 19 NOVEMBER

## Future rural leaders challenge Agriculture Minister, Jim Paice

**Delegates on 2010's widely respected Challenge of Rural Leadership course were honoured to be addressed by Jim Paice, Minister of State for Agriculture and Food on 11th November.**



The Challenge of Rural Leadership Course 2010

The Minister began by outlining his background and although he was not from a farming family, he has had a lifelong involvement with farming. As well as attending Writtle College, he was a key figure in the Young Farmers movement and represented the UK on the European Council of Young Farmers for four years. This experience in his 20s, helped Mr Paice to realise that his future lay in politics; he has been the MP for South East Cambridgeshire since 1987.

Mr Paice held ministerial posts at the Department of Education and Employment and the Department of Employment from 1994 to 1997 and was twice the Opposition spokesperson for Agriculture and Rural Affairs. He particularly emphasised the opportunity he has had over the last five years, when all predictions were that there would be a change of government and he had time to formulate real proposals. Then suddenly on 13th May, there he was in Defra, with what Mr Paice admitted was the job that he had always wanted. Prior to this, he had been very critical of civil servants, but the group was told how much respect he now has for them and the professional approach they have taken as Defra has been steered in a completely different direction, putting farming firmly back on the agenda.

The Minister stressed the importance of a profitable and sustainable agriculture and the whole food and farming relationship through the food supply chain. To survive, the Minister stressed that farming needs the food processors to turn their output into products which families demand. Whereas farming

adds value of some £8m per year, food manufacturing adds some £85m per year. Indeed food is now the most important manufacturing industry in the UK; farming needs to be strongly linked to it.

James Paice recounted how although the important issue of Bovine TB was seen as a 'tough nut to crack', he had made a commitment as Opposition spokesperson to take action. Another priority is the lifting of the burden of regulation, which again is not easy, because most is a result of European regulation and the aims are usually very sensible e.g. animal welfare or health and safety; the real problem is the process and the way ahead will be to move over to a system based on trust.

The third priority area was seen as that of Europe, where there is a trend to more detailed regulation; simplification will need influence - the key was to engage and influence at an early stage and not expect to achieve results by only attending meetings of the Council of Ministers. On the CAP, the Minister felt that it has been unfairly criticised; although it was expensive compared to the UK's old deficiency payments system, it was good at keeping people on the land, which had always been the French priority and is still the main aim of the majority of the current 27 members. The UK is in the minority of wanting the CAP to focus on food production; the next round of discussions will be drawn out, particularly now that the European Parliament has a greater part to play, with no result for post-2013, until the end of 2012 at the earliest. He felt that there would have to be a compromise with continued, but probably reduced direct (single) payments, with some 'greening' and that Pillar 2 will continue. In the long term he predicted that direct payments would disappear because the CAP budget would not go up.



Jim Paice lecturing the course



Course Director Richard Soffe with Minister of State Jim Paice

The Minister then faced questions from the group including how to influence EU groups (by building relationships and informal contact), how his leadership style had changed from opposition to government, and which leaders he respected (Henry Plumb and David Cameron). At this stage he emphasised the importance of inclusive and supportive leadership and definitely not the 'Alan Sugar' approach. On self-regulation and cost-cutting, he emphasised the need to include the industry in policy-making if it was to share the cost; in this way he thought that policy-making would mean that a lot of cost could be cut out, before reaching the cost-sharing stage.

The vote of thanks was given by delegate and local farmer Peter Baber who said, "It is good to see the Minister with good on-farm experience and frank views".

The Challenge of Rural Leadership two week residential course is held annually in November (except in 2011 when it will be in January 2012) at Dartington Hall near Totnes in Devon. It is organised by the Worshipful Company of Farmers, run by the Rural Business School of the Duchy College, and is part-funded through the RDPE Skills Programme, a SW RDA initiative, funded through the Rural Development Programme for England. Applications are now being invited for the next course - to be held 15th - 28th January 2012 delayed from November 2011. For more information contact the Course Director, Richard Soffe on 0845 458 7485, or email leadership@duchy.ac.uk .

Paul Ward - Project Manager





MILITARY AFFILIATIONS

# HMS YORK News Update



HMS York sails past the Needles Lighthouse at the start of her APT(S) Deployment Sat 19 Feb 2011

**This report, written by a member of the Ship's Company, updates us on their activities since our visit to the ship in the summer and describes her planned activities before returning to Portsmouth in July 2011.**

**Shortly after leaving the UK, HMS York was diverted to the Mediterranean to evacuate people from Benghazi in Libya before sailing to the South Atlantic and continuing the deployment described below.**

HMS York deployed to the South Atlantic on 19th February 2011 (formally referred to as the Atlantic Patrol Task (South)), to relieve sister ship HMS Gloucester which has been in the South Atlantic since September 2010. Sadly HMS Gloucester returns to the UK to be 'retired' and taken out of service. "Since our return to Portsmouth from the Falkland Islands in June 2010 HMS York has undergone a large maintenance package including the fitting of 2 new Rolls Royce gas turbine engines. Putting to sea again in September, the ship conducted a significant period of trials and equipment performance evaluations at the end of which we put the Sea Dart missile system to the test and fired 7 missiles on the Navy's Hebrides Firing Range. This was followed by a tri-service, multi-national exercise conducted off the coast of Scotland, culminating in a gruelling

Operational Sea Training package where the Ship and her crew were put through their paces in a variety of scenarios designed to fully prepare them for life on deployment and train them in the sort of operational tasking they may be expected to undertake.

Once deployed, HMS York will head south calling in at Gran Canaria and the Cape Verde Islands. From there her passage will be fairly fast and she is due to arrive at East Cove Military Port on East Falkland in mid-March.

On the eve of her return to the South Atlantic HMS York's Commanding Officer, Commander Simon Staley Royal Navy, said "York has been preparing hard for this second deployment to the South Atlantic, a region of high profile political and joint military interest where the Royal Navy has had a continuous and significant effect over the last 3 decades.

I am delighted with my Ship's Company's response to recent training and am hugely grateful for the first rate engineering support provided by Portsmouth Naval Base to ensure we sail in a safe and sustainable material state. Our families deserve a very special mention and thanks too as they have been the very corner stone of strength for us all throughout a hugely demanding period of regeneration.

By sheer dint of distance from the UK, and in the face of a harsh South Atlantic winter, the deployment will present real operational challenges for us all, but this will be balanced by the visits to some wonderfully diverse countries and the opportunity for the Royal Navy to demonstrate its impressive global reach and versatility.

Looking to the future, when we have completed our tasking and begin our journey back to the UK York will conduct maritime security operations and undertake a number of high profile regional engagement visits in South America, the Caribbean, and the USA. The deployment is set to conclude during July 2011 when the Ship is due back alongside in Portsmouth".



After filing the above report, HMS York had a sudden change of route on her way to the South Atlantic, when she was deployed to Libya, calling at Benghazi on a humanitarian aid mission to evacuate 43 people to Malta.

CITY FOOD LECTURE 2011 - 18 JANUARY

# "Food Security in a Changing Climate means taking a long term focus"

Given by Paul Polman - the Chief Executive Officer from Unilever

**The lecture was followed by a lively panel discussion lead by Chairman Sir Stuart Hampson which included Farmer's Company Liveryman Christine Tacon CBE - Managing Director of the Cooperative Farms, Adam Leyland - Editor of The Grocer magazine and Martyn Jones - Trading Director of Morrisons plc.**

Seven out of every ten households on the planet use Unilever brands and more than half of the company's raw materials come from agriculture and forestry. This makes global food security a key issue for Unilever as it sources millions of tonnes of crops from thousands of farmers all over the world. Using a wide range of references from the FAO'S Food Price Index, The Economist magazine, the WWF and the OECD, Paul Polman painted a scene where as he said " Unless we change direction we are likely to end up where we are going".

Productivity has reached a plateau at a time when climate change appears to be bringing extremes of weather conditions of drought and floods whilst soil and water quality are deteriorating. Natural resources are being consumed at a faster rate than the planet is able to replenish them. The resilience of the global food system is looking fragile and affecting global commodity trading with price spikes and potential food riots. Polman said The Economist magazine's invented concept of "agro pessimism" - the concern that food security and sustainability are in direct opposition to each other - could come true if we complacently do nothing.

Unilever's aim is to double the size of the company whilst reducing its environmental footprint and increasing the social benefit of its activities. This response requires the Company to decouple its growth from its environmental impact by committing itself to sustainability through the establishment of its Sustainable Living

Plan which has three key goals to attain by 2020:

1. To source 100% of agricultural raw materials from sustainable sources.
2. To halve the environmental impact of its products.
3. To help one billion people take action to improve their health and well-being.

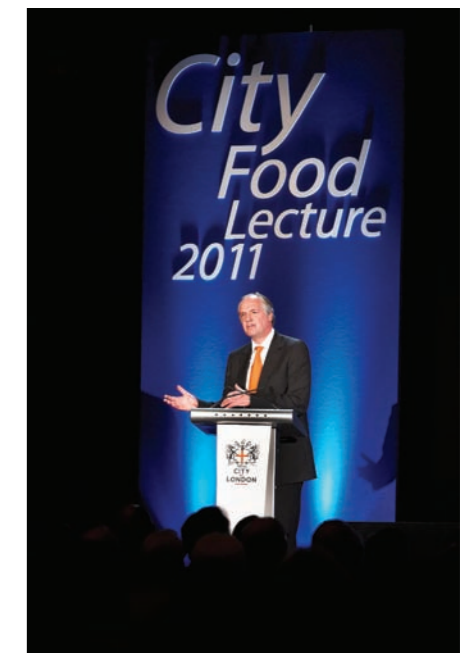
This unique new approach to managing the Company means sustainability is embedded in every business function and process. Since taking charge in 2009, Polman has changed the timeframe of Unilever 's reporting to financial and investor relations by ceasing quarterly reporting and the subsequent need to respond to short term events. Long term focus is what is needed he says. Globally, he identified four key strategies to improve food security:

1. **Establishment of sustainable farming:** Increasing yields whilst reducing inputs to secure a "win win position". He cited drip-irrigation trials in India where gherkin yields had risen by 84% whilst reducing water use by 70% with significantly increased profitability / kilo of crop yield. But he said a change in attitude to R&D funding would be required.
2. **Increasing investment in agricultural R&D:** this must double from the 2010 level to around \$83 billion/year. The Green Revolution in Asia in the 1970s had been achieved by government commitments of around 14% of GDP so how can the African Green Revolution happen when spending is nearer 4%? Other examples of the positive response to R&D spending were given from Vietnam and Ghana where rates of hunger were falling and countries like Malawi were already increasing their spend in agricultural investment.
3. **Removing/reducing market distorting subsidies:** biofuel subsidies in the US and parts of the EU were cited as "well-meaning but ill-conceived leading to perverse outcomes",

fuelling the food / fuel debate. Since 2003 30% of the US maize crop and 66% of the EU rapeseed crop are now grown for fuel - potentially more greenhouse gas intensive than their fossil fuel alternatives as well as causing higher food prices. Polman called on governments to apply rigorous sustainability screens to all feedstock crops and reconsider first generation biofuel policies.

**4. Removing free trade barriers - as recommended from the Doha Trade Round:** Agricultural trade without barriers would do much to improve food security he said. The OECD calculates that agricultural support in 2009 was around \$120 billion and \$30 billion in the US. Global free trade could expand developing country economics by around \$200 billion/year and lift as many as 500 million of the poorest in the world out of poverty.

In conclusion Paul Polman also recognised the potential role of GM and biotechnology in addressing food security.



Paul Polman CEO of Unilever





The Master with the musicians from Gresham's School



Senior Warden and Alison Faulkner with guest speaker Lord Deben and Lady Deben together with The Master and Mistress Farmer.



The Master with Cadets from 85 (Southgate & Enfield) and 1374 (East Barnet) Squadrons of the Middlesex Wing Air Training Corps

# ANNUAL LIVERY BANQUET – 25 January 2011

***The Fishmongers' Hall on 25th January was THE PLACE TO BE to enjoy the Company's most glittering and mesmeric event of the livery year. No other one event affords the elegance (and not just of the ladies), the fellowship (time and space to circulate and talk) and tradition (The 1545 Laudi Spirituali Sung Grace, The Ceremony of the Loving Cup, the singing of the Farmer's Boy and the formal toasts) of The Farmer's Company Banquet. If you were one of the 186 present you will know how important it is to record the date of the Annual Banquet in your diary - read on for the 2012 date!!***

One of the Twelve Great Livery Companies, The Fishmongers' Company has been in existence for more than 700 years acquiring great wealth in the fourteenth century through their monopoly of the sale of fish. The current Hall on its historic site on the River Thames was opened in 1835. It is ideally suited to hosting our Banquet with its large and spacious reception rooms - one displaying the famous portrait of Her Majesty The Queen by Pietro Annigoni - and magnificent Dining Hall.

Met and welcomed by Pam King and the Air Cadets we were stewarded upstairs to be announced to the Master and Senior Warden and their ladies and then given lots of time to mingle

among the 186 strong attendees of Liverymen and their guests before being summoned to Dinner. The horseshoe - shaped table with its central sprig was impressively laid with silver and glass and the room was lit by many candles - apparently it had taken several hours to light the room. The food was delicious and not surprisingly the main course of "Monkfish Fishmongers' Style" created by Head Chef Stephen Pini, was fantastic and fitted perfectly in the wonderfully balanced menu, centred as

it was between the Fusion Style Chicken with Julienne Courgette and Bean Sprout Salad and Rhubarb and Ginger Crumble.

Assistant Julian Sayers and Liveryman Andrew Brown once again led the singing of The Farmer's Boy during The Loving Cup Ceremony, two full renditions required before the Loving Cups had made a full circuit of the room. Following the Loyal Toast and a Toast to the Lord Mayor and City of



The orchestrators of the splendid evening: The Clerk and The Master



The magnificent Fishmongers' Hall

London Corporation, the Senior Warden Peter Faulkner welcomed our official guests and principal guest Lord Deben responded with a brilliant address on the theme of feeding the world through global collaboration.

The Master had arranged for this magical evening to be brought to a close with a delightful musical recital from a group of piano and brass musicians from Gresham's - his old school.

The 2011 Annual Livery Banquet was fully subscribed with Liverymen and their guests. To avoid disappointment do put the date of 24th January 2012 at The Goldsmiths' Hall in your diary!





THE PANCAKE RACE - 8 MARCH

**“We was robbed”!!!**



Caroline Ratcliff and her “winning run”.

*If you ever thought that Shrove Tuesday was a quiet day at the London Guildhall, think again! More than 25 Livery Companies competed in the annual pancake race held on a fine sunny day in the Guildhall courtyard and the competition was fierce with many debatable decisions by the officials.*

There are four categories of races, Masters, Liverymen, Ladies and Novelty and this year the novelty category was littered with bears in honour of the Lord Mayor of the City Alderman Michael Bear. The Farmers team consisted of five members, four ‘runners’ and the team manager, our redoubtable Clerk. All had to be dressed appropriately with chefs’ hats, aprons, gowns and wearing gloves to carry the pans with the pancakes which they had to toss twice inside a small defined area. Any transgressions were penalised with a three second time penalty each and the judges were fierce.

The Master ran a very creditable race with no penalties but we think the pink chefs’ hat might not be the right colour.



The Master and his team of Farmers

asked for a video replay but this was refused, probably by an even higher ranking former officer, so we came second.

The company had selected Liveryman Caroline Ratcliff to run in the Ladies race and her performance in the heats was astonishing, visions of Paula Radcliffe. However in the final, which she won, she was also penalised for straying into the wrong lane and also came second. However our protests were again rejected.

In the novelty category Liveryman Belinda Young looked very fetching in her bear outfit and was leading her heat by a mile when the very tired pancake she had been given did not return directly into the pan so she was penalised also but no protest this time.

It was a really fun day in the sunshine followed by an excellent buffet lunch. Can we improve on two silver medals next year?

**John Evans - Liveryman**



Tom Copas and his “winning run”

Unfortunately he did not win the heat so missed the final which was won by the Worshipful Company of Marketors, a much younger competitor.

We were represented in the Liverymen category by Tom Copas (Junior) who won his heat in fine style and then competed in the final. He again won comfortably but was penalised for allegedly straying out of his lane. The Clerk immediately lodged a protest and

7 DECEMBER LUNCHEON

**Food for thought!**

*At the Installation Luncheon in October, The Master announced that the theme for his year would be “Education”, so who better to choose for our December Luncheon speaker but a Headmistress who is also one of our Liverymen and the daughter of the late Past Master Leslie Barker (Master 1974/75).*

Belinda Canham JP is Headmistress of Gatehouse School, an independent co-educational prep school of 320 pupils. Belinda described her school as having a broad academic and extra-curricular programme committed to ensuring her pupils learn about the origin of their food. “Children need to know meat comes from animals grown for the purpose with every part used, not just the prime cuts”, she told us, “food is a precious commodity and I want them to appreciate that none must be wasted”. Keen to educate not just the children but also their parents, with an understanding of how the farming industry “works”, at Gatehouse they

grow vegetables and keep bees and sell the honey. This good grounding gives an enthusiasm for cooking and the presentation of good food leads to a less wasteful society where food production is recognised as a real industry and where farming can flourish.

The Master endorsed the value of the realism of understanding food production to inner city children and thanked Belinda for her contribution and also her positive remarks about Surrey Docks Farm’s activities. She certainly had given us “Food for thought”.

Invited guest Commander Simon Staley was unable to attend the lunch but sent Lieutenant Commander Richard Atkinson RN in his stead. He gave us a précis of HMS York’s activities since returning from deployment in the South Atlantic and our visit to her in the summer.

She had been undergoing ship

orientated sea training which had included sea warfare and on-board emergency events. Currently in dry dock she was still expected to sail on 28th January for her deployment in the South Atlantic (via Libya but he didn’t know that at this stage!). Giving his personal opinion, Lieutenant Commander Atkinson suggested the strategic defence review decision to so quickly lose HMS Ark Royal had been a shock but they were pleased that the plans to replace her with the QE class aircraft carriers had been confirmed. More good news had been received with the confirmation of the commitment to the programme of replacement warship Type 45 and Type 26 frigates.







## John H Cossins, CBE, DL, FRAgS



John Cossins

*John Cossins died on 29 January 2011 following a lengthy illness borne with great fortitude. While a Dorset man through and through, his accent and slow way of talking belied an extremely sharp brain and huge experience. His opinion was always worth listening to and his good sense of humour inevitably turned a problem into a positive. His contribution to British agriculture on a national scale was immense and recognised with his appointment as CBE.*

He was clothed with the livery in 1973, attended the third Wye course in 1965 and was elected to the Court in 1987. Following progression as Junior and Senior Warden he served as Master of the Company in 1999-2000. Coincidentally this was the year of the 50th course and those who attended remember his thoughtful talk about his business reminding those present that we are custodians of our land for a lifetime only with a duty to pass it to the next generation in better heart. HRH The Princess Royal was his Junior

Warden and he felt greatly privileged when he invested her in this office. The livery banquet was held at The Guildhall Library with a strong Dorset presence. He exercised his traditional right by taking sheep across London Bridge.

During his year he replanted one of the nine red oaks which had died in Windsor Great Park. The trees were planted in the form of a cross to commemorate the raising of £9 million by the 1939-1945 Red Cross Agriculture Fund. It is to this fund that the roots of the Company can be traced.

Subsequently he served as Deputy Master and Chairman of the Nomination Committee. He carried out all his duties for the Company with great sensitivity and competence.

John valued his lifetime association with the Young Farmers movement and recognised the wide benefit to him personally and the industry generally. He met his wife Mary when he was

the YFC county chairman. She was the county organiser so true to form the YFC performed one of its perceived functions as a marriage bureau. His heart was in education, training and providing opportunity for the young. He influenced the thinking within the company with his knowledge and experience. The gift of a silver loving cup is a tangible reminder of his generosity. He was intensely committed to the Jubilee Fund launched during his Mastership.

John was the Dorset representative on the Council of the NFU where he achieved high office serving as Vice President in the 1970's. Concurrently Lord Plumb was President with Sir Richard Butler his Deputy. All three are Past Masters and lifelong friends. Henry Plumb delivered one of the addresses to a congregation of over 500 at John's thanksgiving service held at Wimborne Minster; the other by his twenty-one year old granddaughter, Georgina Cossins, who in a moving tribute referred to him being a man on the move with a courageous heart.

At various stages he was chairman of the Minister of Agriculture's regional panel, the NIAB and Agriculture Credit Corporation where over 900 newstart farmers benefited from his help. He was an active member of the Grasshoppers who do so much to inform opinion across the south west.

His family and his farm mattered to him above all. The daily events on the farm have been recorded in a diary since the 1890's when his grandfather in moving from Somerset to Dorset took the tenancy of the home farm. John became responsible for the business following the death of his father. Following the purchase of the original holding the business now farms in excess of 2000 acres with a mix of arable and 400 dairy cows.

Mary died in 1990 leaving him a son, James, and daughter, Caroline. He subsequently married Helen, a distant relative to Mary and lifelong friend who is a liveryman of the Company. John and Helen rarely missed a company function. To his immediate family including four grandchildren and a great grandchild we offer our deepest sympathy.

The Court will miss the benefit of his wisdom.

**Arnold Hitchcock CBE – The Senior Past Master**

### CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

## CHARITY MATTERS – oh yes it does!!

*By now you should all have had time to read and digest my introductory letter and, I must say, the response so far has been very encouraging in support, and the promotion of awareness and discussion of our charitable activities. Everything we now do is funded by our charitable levy, farm cart collections, transfers from the corporate fund and the bequests of much earlier benefactors; but to take that quantum leap forward in enhancing our programme of education, research and scholarship we need your generosity in the form of gifts or legacies because there will be no outside funding in the short term – so it is up to us as Liverymen.*

I have a long wish list, which may or may not be attainable, but, without setting optimistic goals nothing will be achieved and we stagnate.

### Where the money goes

On the education front we need the cash to enhance and improve our two well respected courses by utilising the highest calibre lecturers [and the best do not come cheap] to keep them out ahead in their field. We should be looking to re-instate our offering of places on General Management Programmes at one of our best business schools.

Apprenticeship within our industry [or the lack of it] is hitting the headlines at the moment and that is very much within the remit of a Livery Company. The Henman, Brooks and Jubilee Funds disburse monies for travel scholarships, student awards and apprenticeship. The Almoners Committee makes annual donations in the categories of the City of London, farmers in distress and education which includes Company prizes at Agricultural Colleges and our support of Surrey Docks Farm.

### Where the money could go

Research is a subject which I know some of you feel passionately about and this is a very expensive area. We must be very careful where we place our support to achieve maximum impact but without a dramatic increase in our funds we are very restricted.

So it is up to each one of us to decide what we want of our Livery Company – without the funds nothing is possible but with your generosity we can lift our activities to an exciting new level of which future generations of Liverymen will be proud.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss your thoughts and ideas. Telephone number: 01524 752421 or E-mail: rthalhead@googlemail.com

**Liveryman Richard Halhead - Charity Co-ordinator**



Richard Halhead

### OFFICE – BEARERS OF THE COMPANY

**THE MASTER**  
W F Balch, FRICS

**THE SENIOR WARDEN**  
P R Faulkner, FRICS

**THE JUNIOR WARDEN**  
J K Reynolds

**DEPUTY MASTER**  
N J Fiske

**THE IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER**  
J D Courtney, FRAgS

**THE SENIOR PAST MASTER**  
A Q Hitchcock, CBE, FRAgS

**THE CLERK**  
Colonel D E King, OBE

**THE MASTER'S CHAPLAIN**  
The Revd. Canon John Record

**COMPANY STEWARDS**  
R T Halhead, FRAgS  
I A Stockley, FRAgS  
P D Strawson, FRICS

**CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR**  
R T Halhead, FRAgS