



Lord Plumb installed as Company Master

LORD PLUMB of Coleshill is the new Master – the 54th – of the Worshipful Company of Farmers. He was installed in traditional fashion at the Company's annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service held at St Bartholomew the Great in early October.

Henry Plumb will need no introduction to Company members, having served with distinction in many of the top jobs in agriculture and agricultural politics throughout his working lifetime.

Born Charles Henry Plumb in Warwickshire in 1925, he farmed 630 acres there before handing over 450 acres to his son, John, 15 years ago. He and Lady (Marjorie) Plumb remain on 180 acres at Maxstoke, Colehill, all farmed by contract and down to 140 acres arable and 40 acres grass, carrying store cattle.

Henry became widely known initially in the 1960s for his work with the National Farmers Union, of which he was Vice President in 1964-65, Deputy President 1966-69 and President 1970-79.

He has been – and still is – President of many of the leading organisations involved within agriculture, including the National Federation of Young Farmers, the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the National Sheep Association, COPA, and the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution, to name but a very few.

Politically, he was elected Member of the European Parliament for the Cotswolds in 1979 and re-elected in 1984, 89 and 94. He was President of the European Parliament in 1987-89, Leader of the British Conservatives in the European Parliament in 1994-97, and was made an Honorary member of the Parliament in 1999... again, to mention but a few of the many positions held.

Henry Plumb was knighted by HM The Queen in 1973 and created Baron of Coleshill in the County of Warwickshire in 1987, as well as having received numerous academic honours, fellowships and orders of merit throughout his working lifetime.

To this most impressive of CVs, Lord Plumb can now add being Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers, in which he was clothed in 1974.

During his year in office, he says,



he will focus his attention on three main things: "Education, Education and Education".

"I should like to see more Liverymen taking on and cultivating an Apprentice," he says, "bringing them up to the City to meet representatives of the industry at Company functions.

"People in general don't know what the Livery Companies are all about. They imagine them to be something akin to the Freemasons.

"Consequently, I'd like to see the number of visits extended. I'm hoping this year to arrange a visit to Highgrove, as well as being represented at some of the agricultural shows, including Cornwall.

"Our City Farm – the Surrey Docks Farm – is something quite special, which I'd like to see get much more publicity. A lot of the kids who go there think that milk is something which comes from a bottle and know nothing about its connection with cows."



Master Lord Plumb (second left) prior to the Intallation Lunch at the Butchers' Hall in October with now retired Clerk Margaret Winter, Junior Warden Tom Copas and Senior Warden Sir Graham Wilkinson.

Nick Fiske reviews his year as Master

AS I end my year in office, I thank the Wardens, Court, the Committee Chairmen and the Livery for entrusting me with the Leadership of the Company in the past 12 months. It has been a busy year, and I have much appreciated the honour of being your Master.

I hope that I have carried out the duties expected to the best of my ability. It has not always been an easy year, but I have had very great support from many people, even at some of the more difficult times in the running of the Company.

I have had, as expected, tremendous support and

guidance from our retiring Learned Clerk, Margaret Winter. She has done excellent work in furthering the interests of our Company in the City and in the industry during the whole of her 14 years as Clerk and Assistant. She has been held in the highest esteem by her fellow Clerks in other Companies in the City. I thank her so much and wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

I have much enjoyed the duties of representing the Company at various events in the City, including being well entertained at functions in 17 out of the 37

Livery Halls, as well as at the Old Bailey, Mansion House and Guildhall.

In addition to the usual City ceremonial events, other highlights included being present when two of the newer Companies of the City received their Royal Charter (the Water Conservators) or their Letters Patent (the Tax Advisers). On the hottest day of the summer I attended the annual Cart Marking Ceremony held by the Carmen.

Visits to exhibitions staged by the Furniture Makers, Pewterers, Painter Stainers and the Goldsmiths, where they give awards to their craftsmen, were a great privilege, as I was able to see

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some of the very talented present-day skills of their respective crafts. I attended Graduation Ceremonies at Moulton, Sparsholt, Writtle and Harper Adams, some of the colleges where the Company awards prizes.

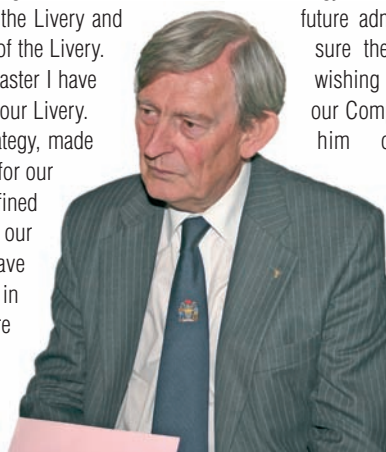
A very pleasant reception was held in my honour in September in my own county of Suffolk for its Liverymen and past members of our courses. This was very well supported and very kindly organised by Liveryman John Kerr.

I thank the members of the Livery for the excellence attendance by them and their guests at all Livery Luncheons, the Court Ladies Dinner at Apothecaries Hall, the Banquet at Ironmongers Hall and the Summer Outing to Belvoir Castle.

The Worshipful Company of Farmers does not belong to the Master. It belongs to the members of the Livery, for the benefit of the Livery and for the charitable objectives of the Livery. I hope that in my time as Master I have progressed the objectives of our Livery.

We have defined our strategy, made moves to reset our priorities for our charitable expenditure, redefined the terms of reference for our Committees. Stewards have been appointed to assist in making our guests even more welcome to our social functions.

With the appointment of our new Clerk, we are



investing in new office equipment, information technology and accounting systems to assist in our future administration of the Company. I am sure the whole Company will join me in wishing David King every success in running our Company, and pledge that we will all give him our support, assistance and encouragement as he carries out his duties.

I wish our new Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden a very successful year in office. They will be a formidable trio and are very capable of furthering the Company's interests. Thank you all for the honour that has been mine for the past year.

New Company Clerk David King

COLONEL DAVID King OBE, MA, BSc(Eng), MPhil, is the new Clerk of the Worshipful Company of Farmers. He took over from Margaret Winter following the Service of Thanksgiving and Installation of the new Master and Wardens on 4 October.



David King was educated at King's College, Wimbledon, and Welbeck College. He was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in 1965 and, following various Command and Staff appointments, retired from the Army with the rank of Colonel in 1986.

Since then, he spent the years 1987-1998 as Fellow and Bursar at Worcester College, Oxford University, and 1999-2005 as Administrative Director and Company Secretary to the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London.

David lists his interests as being a Liveryman of the Turners Company, Reserve Forces and Cadets, tall ship races, strategic studies (he's currently researching the changing character of war) and home life in Oxfordshire with his wife, Pam, and Bodley, their golden retriever.

David's contact details have been circulated to all Farmers Company members and are on the front of this Newsletter.

A thank you from Margaret Winter

AFTER ALMOST 15 years as Clerk I finally relinquished my badge and gown in October and began a proper retirement. It has been a terrific job and a great privilege to serve the Farmers Company and I have tried to uphold the City traditions to the best of my ability.



The 4th of October is a day I shall never forget and I should like to thank Immediate Past Master Nick Fiske and the Master, Lord Plumb, for all their kind words.

More importantly, I should like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Livery for their friendship, kindness, support and, in particular, their generosity. I wish everyone good health and happiness in the years ahead.

Livery help appreciated by Surrey Docks Farm

THE WORSHIPFUL Company of Farmers has supported Surrey Docks Farm for many years and 2005 was no exception. Over the course of the year, the Company provided several assets that have helped to improve the farm's infrastructure, diversification of livestock, and new resources to support the farm's ability to deliver educational experiences to local schools and young people.

It arranged for the building of hard standing areas within the cowshed and for each of the drinking troughs in the main paddocks, helped the farm to emphasise its commitment to high standards in animal welfare, which is a crucial part of the educational ethos around promoting quality, naturally-farmed meat with specific regard to the livestock's quality of life.

This is particularly relevant to a City farm setting, where many visitors wrongfully presume that we are a type of 'petting zoo', and can become angry or upset when they discover that livestock will be sold for

meat. The argument that; "Yes, these animals do go for meat, but they will have the best possible life here beforehand", is one of the most effective and usefully informative.

The Worshipful Company also arranged for the farm to receive an in-pig sow (gilt). Now named Sally, it has produced eight healthy piglets, which drew the attention of local papers that ran a story on the expectant mother-to-be and helped boost the farm's profile within the public domain. More importantly, the piglets became an excellent educational resource for local schools, looking at growth and development, life cycles and farming.

When at the appropriate weight, seven of the eight young pigs were sent to market, producing an additional income of around £650 that will be reinvested in farming projects. One of the young female pigs, named Ginger, has been retained for future breeding programmes.

As I write in October, Sally will be going shortly to visit Mudchute City Farm on the Isle of Dogs to meet her new Tamworth mate, returning in-pig, we trust, a month later. Ginger will also go to Mudchute City Farm in around three months time to meet her first mate, a Saddleback. This arrangement will provide the farm with staggered birthing for continuity in educational experiences and income generation.

Another superb outcome of the relationship between Surrey Docks Farm and the Worshipful Company of Farmers can be seen through the donation of £1,000 from the Woolnoth Society, a related group. These funds were provided to finance the purchase of new incubating kits for the farm to use with schools.

Sarah Henry (the farm's new education coordinator) in partnership with Claire Elson (our livestock and training coordinator) have managed to source four incubation kits, including brooders, heat lamps,

Henman Fund gives vet student vital work experience overseas

I AM a final year veterinary student at the University of Cambridge. As part of our course, we need to undertake 26 weeks of Extra Mural Studies working alongside veterinary surgeons in practice.

Being interested in working with farm animals when I qualify, I felt that, to broaden my knowledge, it would be beneficial to see veterinary practice abroad. A couple of Australian vets working over in the UK recommended that I spend some time in South Victoria, Australia, as there is a large amount of cattle work in that area.

The Worshipful Company of Farmer's Henman Fund enabled me to make this visit and gain a great amount of work experience overseas.

Warrnambool Veterinary Clinic is a mixed practice in South-Western Victoria, Australia. I spent most of the summer of 2005 assisting vets on their farm animal visits, mainly to see dairy cows but with a few sheep, a couple of alpacas and the odd Australian native species added to the list.

Warrnambool is a large dairy area, with the average number of cows reaching 700-800 per farm. Over half of the cases seen were due to lameness problems, the majority caused by white line disease, which is common in Australia due to the distance cows walk to the parlour twice daily.

I was in Australia during its winter and grass quality was poor, meaning that cows had access to a large area for grazing. They also had to walk over gravel to get to the parlour, predisposing them to white line disease.

With these cases I got to correct the foot shape and explore the black areas of the white line to create drainage of the infection track. Most of these cases were given antibiotic (penicillin) cover for 3-5 days, depending on severity of the infection, and in some cases the vet used a cowslip to block the sound claw.

Other cases I saw included dairy cows with a left displaced abomasum (LDA). Again, this problem

was more common in Australia, as dairy cows are fed larger amounts of concentrate in the parlour. Veterinary surgeons were called out to at least three cases a day during the few weeks I was seeing practice.

This experience in Australia was extremely useful, as it allowed me to participate in LDA surgery and this has given me more confidence to approach these cases when they occur in the UK.



Sarah Pellett with a 35kg wombat, which was treated and later released after being hit by a car.

I also participated in pregnancy diagnosis of dairy cows, assisted in treating cows with respiratory disease and milk fever, and helped out with a few calvings.

Work experience in Australia was fantastic. It allowed me to see more of the unusual cases that can occur in the UK, as well as giving me an insight into different ways of dealing with them.

Thank you Henman Fund for making this work placement possible.

Sarah Pellett

Successful Course held again at Wye

THE 55th Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management at Wye, Kent, took place successfully during late January and early February 2005.

Participants assembled on the Sunday evening and immediately started networking with one another. I always find that the successful courses are those where the participants get to know each other early, and this one was no exception.

There was, generally, a good mix of businesses representing most parts of England and Scotland. However, for the second year running, there was no farmer from Wales, and representation of the dairy sector was also low. Tom Mason from Rakaia, New Zealand, provided the antipodean input, with Jorg Bauer from Germany and Charlie Everett, who farms in the Czech Republic, providing a continental Europe view.

Certain topics, particular to the times, emerge during each course. In 2005 the case studies threw up interesting questions about the degree to which it was possible or desirable to develop into processing and retailing businesses without compromising the essential links with production.

The other major topic was the likely impact of the move to Single Farm Payment. It was clear that course members felt that decoupling support from production was likely to result in considerable change of use for significant areas of land in the UK. Ambitious as they were, they expected that this would create great opportunities for them.

Paul Webster
Course Director

and candling lamps, for under £1,000. (The remaining funds will be used to buy-in fertilized eggs to be incubated and produce chickens to re-stock the farm's flock, after local children broke-in and opened the henhouse door, giving a fox had a very good night indeed!).

However, the main purpose of the incubation project is to provide local schools with the ability to hire an incubator with fertilized eggs. Sarah and Claire will make educational visits to such schools to discuss growth and development, farming and food production, etc.

When the incubation cycle is complete, primary school children will be able to watch the hatching process take place. At this time, Sarah or Claire will visit to transfer the chicks into the brooders, where they will remain for another week. They will also provide further information on the development of the chicks, and then collect the package to integrate the young hens with the farm's flock.

The incubation project also includes pre, and

post, project visits to the farm. Modest charges for these projects will be made to the schools as another method of the farm seeking to increase its income generation and rely less on grant funding.

In addition to all of the practical and financial assistance given to us by the Worshipful Company of Farmers, the two group visits led each year by Tim Calcutt have also proved invaluable. Liverymen, farmers and farm managers, plus a variety of people with other skills, have offered information and advice that has helped us develop our understanding of wider farming and food industry issues, as well as providing very useful tips for the day-to-day management of the farm.

Upcoming needs

After discussing our current livestock situation with Claire, and educational needs with Sarah, we have managed to identify what we would ideally like for the next round of improvements to the farm. They are:

- A cow in calf (no specific breed is required,

though a Red Poll would be desirable).

- 3 ewes (1x Oxford Down, 1x Dartmoor and 1x Wendsleydale).
- 2 pig sties (for upcoming breeding programme).
- Donkey stable for two. (This would need to be a new building with hard-standing areas. We have, so far, raised about £700 for this from events at the farm, though the total cost will be nearer £3,000.) The main reason for this purchase would be to free-up the housing currently being used by the donkeys to give us room to house our own boar, or possibly to provide an isolation area for new stock coming-in from other farms.

The above four items would improve the diversity of livestock for educational purposes, while enabling us to increase breeding programmes for the same purpose and for income generation.

Rob Few
Farm Coordinator

Diary 2006

Tuesday 14 February

Annual Banquet at Skinners Hall

Tuesday 7 March

Court Meeting and Livery Lunch

Friday 17 March

United Guilds Service

Tuesday 25 April

Agricultural Dinner

Tuesday 4 May

Ladies Court Dinner at the House of Lords

Wednesday 17 May

Sons of Clergy Service

Tuesday 6 June

Court Meeting and Livery Lunch

Thursday 22 June

Election of Sheriffs

Livery Outing *to be arranged*

Tuesday 3 October

Court Meeting and Installation

Tuesday 5 December

Court Meeting and Livery Lunch

Visits to Surrey Docks Farm are being arranged for Wednesday 15 March and Wednesday 16 August, starting at 11am and followed by a pub lunch costing about £5 a head.

Email Tim Calcutt at tim@cfm-uk.co.uk for details of how to get to the farm by road or by river.

Obituaries

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

Liveryman **Michael George Braddock Padfield** of Ovington Grange, Sudbury, Suffolk. Died 6 June 2004. Clothed 14 June 1960.

Liveryman **Vernon Churchill Simmonds** of Manor Farm, Burley, Ringwood, Hampshire. Died 24 February 2005. Clothed 13 September 1955.

Liveryman **Denis Walker** of Bainfield House, Burgh-on-Bain, Lincoln. Died 2 March 2005. Clothed 30 November 1998.

Liveryman **Robert John Posnett** of Haughton Hall, Tarporley, Cheshire. Died 15 April 2005. Clothed 12 June 1978.

Liveryman **Maurice Charles Leonard Bristow** of Gayhouse Farm, Redhill, Surrey. Died 19 June 2005. Clothed 23 March 1976.

Liveryman **Dennis Norman Greig** of Four Elms, Edenbridge, Kent. Died in July 2005. Clothed on 24 March 1975.

Hon Liveryman **Peter Newbound** died 14 September 2005. Clothed 5 December 1983.

For your bookshelf...

The Horswell Diary by Prunella Dart

Paperback. 177 pages.
£9.95. Published by and available from Prunella Dart, Horswell House, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3JU. To order phone 01548 561054.



A warm and beautiful book, written by the wife of Liveryman Michael Dart and telling the story

of how Prunella and Michael first 'discovered' and fell in love with Horswell House back in 1997, when it was little more than a shell which had been stripped bare of pretty well everything - cornices, skirting boards, fireplaces, plumbing, wiring - that could be sold for scrap. As the title suggests, the book is an entertaining diary of how they lovingly turned Horswell from a ruin into a house that they are proud to call home, the fun they had in doing so and the vast array of interesting people they met along the way. A superb read.

Principal Officers 2005-06

THE MASTER The Lord Plumb of Coleshill, DL

THE SENIOR WARDEN Sir Graham Wilkinson, Bt

THE JUNIOR WARDEN T.A. Copas

THE DEPUTY MASTER C.F. Pertwee, DL

THE SENIOR PAST MASTER A.Q. Hitchcock, CBE

THE CLERK Colonel D.E. King, OBE

THE BEADLE J. Harrison

THE MASTERS CHAPLAIN The Rt Rev John Oliver



Company Stewards: Tony Worth and Richard Halstead on duty at the Harvest Festival, St Bartholom the Great, in October.

Liverymen and Freemen

Since publication of last Company Newsletter, the following were Clothed as Liverymen at Court Meetings on the dates shown:

7 December 2004:

Marcus Robert Cooper

proposed by M E S Dart
seconded by J H Cossins

Christopher John Day

proposed by P H Gibbons
seconded by S C R Fell

Lindsay Harrison Hargreaves

proposed by R J Bartleet
seconded by R J Upton

Donald Austin Gomery

proposed by J D Courtney
seconded by Miss R S N Carne

1 March 2005:

Elizabeth Ann Harrison

proposed by A V Webster
seconded by J A Naish

Alastair John Boyd

proposed by M C Foreman
seconded by C A Hyde

Angus James Dart

proposed by I A Stockley
seconded by T A Copas

Geoffrey William Allen

proposed by M E S Dart
seconded by W Cumber

7 June 2005:

Sarah Margaret Christine Keene

proposed by R A Bevan
seconded by N A Lane

Anthony William Dunn Pexton OBE

proposed by J B Forrest
seconded by G P Carson

Mark Henry Chatterton

proposed by K H Johnson
seconded by P G Wynn

The following were made Freemen at Court Meetings on the dates shown:

March 2005:

Olive Clarke

proposed by J A Naish
seconded by G P Carson

June 2005:

Andrew Dyke

proposed by M E S Dart
seconded by J A Sayers

Baroness Hazel Byford DBE

proposed by R H B Malim
seconded by A J L Worth

Christopher John French FRAgS

proposed by W E Wilson
seconded by J B Forrest

Mark Graham Weaver

proposed by T J Calcutt
seconded by J D Courtney

October 2005:

John Kenneth Reynolds

proposed by W E Wilson
seconded by Miss R S N Carne

Ian Duncan Robertson MacNicol OBE

proposed by A C Streeter
seconded by Sir Graham Wilkinson

John Greenhalgh Stones

proposed by C D Older
seconded by J B Forrest