

ASSISTANTS, LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 6 December 2011:

Dr Graham John Birch
Jan Boomaars
Terence Percy Gilman
Mrs Rosemary Nash
Stephen Robert Rigden
Anthony Lewis Roberts
Michael John Rowe
Michael Jonathon Thorpe
James Reginald Townshend
Richard Thomas Whitlock

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 13 March 2012:

Charles Anthony Hyde
Alick John Richard Jones

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 6 December 2011:

Nicholas Ross Evans
Proposed by J K Reynolds
Seconded by Miss R S N Carne

Roger Henry Derryman
Proposed by Mrs J Willows
Seconded by A P Dyke

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 13 March 2012:

William Lindsay Gemmill
Proposed by J A Sayers
Seconded by T A H Streeter

James Henry O'Mahony
Proposed by J Kerr
Seconded by J K Reynolds

Oisin James Murnion
Proposed by H L Venters
Seconded by W E Wilson

James Samuel Peck
Proposed by G C H Smith
Seconded by L H Hargreaves

John Allan Wilkinson
Proposed by R T Halhead
Seconded by Miss R S N Carne

The following was bound Apprentice at the Court meeting on 6 December 2011:

Oscar Thomas Brown
Bound to Liveryman Andrew Jonathan Brown

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Liveryman Sir Bertie Ross KCVO
FRICS for the award of his Knighthood in the New Year Honours 2012.

OBITUARIES

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

Liveryman **Eric William Taylor Malcolm** of Skelder, Eccliffe, Gillingham, Dorset died on 22 October 2011. He was Clothed on 12 June 1978.

Former Liveryman **Sir Francis Pemberton CBE DL** of Trumpington Hall, Cambridge died on 2 November 2011. He was Clothed on 13 March 1957.

Past Master **The Honorable Sir Richard Butler DL** of Gladfen Hall, Greenstead Green, Halstead, Essex, died on 28 January 2012. He was Clothed on 29 March 1977, became a Court Assistant in 1987 and served as Master 1997-98.

EDITORS NOTE:

The copy date for the Autumn newsletter is October 20th 2012.

This edition of the newsletter covers many of the activities of the Company from November last year to March 2012. Some have also been reported on the web site and I am keen to populate the site with more interesting articles particularly the new younger members' area. Please keep sending news and information with original high resolution pictures for printing. Not all can be used in the newsletter but the web site can include most items. My E-mail address is johnevans740@btinternet.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2012

Wednesday 18 April
Address and Lunch for new Liverymen in Hall

Wednesday 18 April
Agricultural Lecture and Dinner in Butchers' Hall

Tuesday 12 June
Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

Tuesday 17 July
Summer Outing

Tuesday 9 October
Court Meeting, Harvest Thanksgiving, Installation and Livery Luncheon in Haberdashers' Hall

Saturday 10 November
Lord Mayor's Show

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

Tuesday 18 December
Carols and refreshments at St Bartholomew the Great

2013

Tuesday 22 January
Banquet at Clothworkers' Hall

Tuesday 12 February
Inter-Livery Pancake Race in Guildhall Yard

Tuesday 12 March
Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

Tuesday 11 June
Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon in Hall

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

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



The Worshipful Company of Farmers

Newsletter

Spring 2012



SPRING HAS ARRIVED EARLY.



NEW LORD MAYOR WAVING TO THE CROWDS - SEE PAGE 2.



BELINDA YOUNG'S WINNING RUN - SEE PAGE 3.



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

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THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW - 12 NOVEMBER 2011

Agrifac Quatro Sugar beet harvester a big hit at the Lord Mayor's Parade

The City of London has a new Lord Mayor and on Saturday November 12th Alderman David Wootton followed 683 years of tradition by introducing himself to the people at the historic Lord Mayor's Show parade. The Worshipful Company of Farmers has taken part in the parade for the last six years with the aim of promoting a better understanding of the economic importance of UK farming in the life of the nation and the close association of farming with the City of London.

For the first time a sugar beet harvester was part of the parade and 'talked to the crowds', introducing itself and what it does as it negotiated its way through the streets of the City of London. It was also specially 'signed' to show the viewing public some of the positive aspect of the industry: 4,000 farmer growers and supporting 13,000 jobs and the 'home-grown' nature of the industry (50% sugar consumed in the UK is homegrown).

This year the Agrifac Quatro sugar beet harvester became one of a long line of quality agricultural machinery called on by the Company to support the event over the years. It is a six-row sugar beet harvester, made in Holland and called Quatro because it has four big wheels to spread the weight over the soil when harvesting and it has a 400hp engine and when full of sugar beet weighs around 30 tonnes.

The Master, Peter Faulkner, declared "The Worshipful Company of Farmers would like to most sincerely thank the sugar beet harvester's owner Peter Butler, British Sugar and the NFU for their support in providing us with such an impressive display to showcase farming at this year's Lord Mayor's Show. Too many people are ignorant of where their food comes from, how it is produced and even what it contains. The UK sugar beet



The Sugar beet harvester in the Lord Mayor's Show

industry deserves wider appreciation as a part of the professional, innovative, thriving, dedicated and sustainable UK agricultural industry. Our UK sugar beet industry makes a total economic contribution of around £800 million to the UK's GDP each year. We are proud to take a lead in trying to educate and communicate this to the general public".

The harvester was 'at-work' until Wednesday 9th November lifting sugar beet, it was then cleaned and prepared for the show and en-route it was given a 'send-off reception' at British Sugar's Bury St Edmunds factory on Friday 11th with liverymen from The Worshipful Company of Farmers together with senior members of British Sugar, the NFU and local MP David Ruffley present.

At the parade on Saturday 12th the Master, the Senior Warden John Reynolds and Junior Warden Hazel, Baroness Byford - who is herself a sugar beet grower - and liveryman Lindsay Hargreaves, dressed in the attire of a 19th century farm worker, marched in front of the impressive

harvester on its journey from Mansion House, past St Paul's Cathedral to the Royal Courts of Justice and back to Mansion House via Victoria Embankment. James Lane from machine manufacturers Agrifac added that they were delighted to support the event and help to promote the sugar industry in particular but also generally farming in the UK.



Assistant Lindsay Hargreaves works the crowd

THE MASTER'S HALF TERM REPORT - MARCH 2012

The highlight of our Livery Year thus far must surely be the Banquet at Goldsmiths' Hall. We were honoured by the presence of HRH The Princess Royal who specially asked to meet as many people as possible. It was wonderful to see the candlelit Hall full to capacity and I am sorry that some Liverymen could not be accommodated.

If you think that the life of the Master revolves around eating and drinking, you are only partly right. That we do so in wonderful surroundings is undeniable and we enjoy the experience with others who share our livery objectives. How they do that varies between Companies and I consider that in the Farmers we have much about which to be proud. Fellowship and fun were in abundance at our Banquet, Harvest Thanksgiving and Lunches. Our charitable giving, largely under the thoughtful guidance of the Chairman of the Almoners, Past Master Richard Brooks, supports some very worthwhile causes, and we encourage students and post graduates with educational and travel grants through the Henman and Jubilee funds. Our 2012 Advanced Course in Agricultural Business Management and Challenge of Rural Leadership

Course have been great successes due in no small part to the hard work of Court Assistant Lindsay Hargreaves and Liverymen Robert Cooper and Andrew Dyke. I visited both of the courses in their first week and at the end when I witnessed the extraordinary extent of the personal development. I highly recommend these courses and urge Liverymen to encourage young people within the industry to step out of their comfort zones to develop their potential. We have promoted farming through the Lord Mayor's Show. The public address system on the giant Sugar Beet Harvester and the support of British Sugar and NFU ensured maximum publicity. The City Food Lecture, given by Justin King of Sainsburys was, inevitably, retail orientated, but in her closing remarks, HRH The Princess Royal did suggest that next year it should address sustainable food production. Our military affiliations are important. We visited the Westminster Dragoons at their annual inter-troop competition in Hampshire in November. These volunteers left their offices on Friday afternoon, camped out and undertook rigorous exercises on Saturday and Sunday and returned wearily to London late Sunday afternoon. They are likely to be in the front line in



action later this year and they deserve our admiration and thanks. HMS York is due to be decommissioned in September. There will be opportunities to visit her before then and we were pleased to welcome Commander Rex Cox RN to the Banquet. The Mistress and I joined the London and SE Region Air Cadets on a snowy Sunday in February for their Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication at St Clement Danes Church. The cadets are a great credit to the Air Training Corps and we were impressed by the dedicated work of so many willing volunteers who motivate the young people and raise their self-esteem. We have a serious role to play in the City of London and I am confident that it will evolve and grow as befits a lively Company in the 21st Century and as food production is recognised as one of the major challenges.

In 2011 The Farmers' team was 'robbed' of two gold medals through alleged infringements. In 2012 we were again deprived of one genuine gold medal as the result of an administrative error but achieved two very close run silver medals. Shrove Tuesday this year, February 21st was a fine sunny day at the Guildhall and competition between the Liveries was as fierce as ever.

This year the Farmers team consisted of only four members, three 'runners' and the team manager, editor John Evans deputising for the Clerk, but also loudly supported by Liveryman Eric Wilson, Master of The Woolmen. Unlike last year's 'Bear' runners, this year's novelty entries were a sight for sore eyes ranging from boats on heads, a tu-tu wearing accountant and a mature, though well proportioned nurse in a leather miniskirt.



"We was robbed -again!"

All three runners were 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 and any transgressions were penalised. Master Faulkner ran a very creditable

race with no penalties but the lime green chefs' hat did not seem to fit too well and unfortunately he did not win the heat. We were represented in the Liveryman category by Adrian Lott who won his heat in fine style and then competed in the final but was just defeated by a slippery Glover.

Liveryman Belinda Young had volunteered to run in the ladies race and won her heat by a huge margin. She and four others lined up for the final which she won comfortably but there was a stewards' enquiry as one of the runners was not qualified and the lady Plumber should have been included. It was decided that the race should be re-run immediately and the fresh Plumber beat our Belinda by a short head. Not fair! I hope we can improve on two silver medals next year with Senior Warden John Reynolds already in training.



CHALLENGE OF RURAL LEADERSHIP COURSE JANUARY 2012

Rural Leadership, Developing the Skills



Delegates and visitors at The Challenge of Rural Leadership Course at Dartington Hall

Agriculture is a truly exciting, dynamic and hugely innovative sector faced with massive challenges; a global population growing to nine billion in the next 30 years, loss of arable land, food security and climate change, while in the UK, the population is forecast to rise to 70 million by 2026 and become less than 50% self-sufficient in staple food.

The Country is on the brink of great change, and the representation of farming is fundamental to the future. In order to deliver successfully, the industry requires strong leadership delivered by highly effective individuals.

The Worshipful Company of Farmers' annual Challenge of Rural Leadership (CRL) course, organised and managed by Duchy College is designed to do just that – to be more precise, to provide high potential managers with the tools to help grow and thrive in continuously changing conditions. The 2012 course was staged at Dartington Hall in January and involved 18 members – an eclectic mix of ages, skills and professions from the rural sector and also nationalities literally from A to Z: Australia, England, Isle of Man, Poland, Scotland, Wales and Zimbabwe. We arrived as strangers with bare bones information of our daily

schedule. We left two weeks later having experienced a personal journey into areas that we would never have explored without the course's direction. It equipped us with the skills to become effective leaders, and it provided us with a lasting legacy of influence and impact. Equally important, we acquired a network of friendships within the industry.

The Challenge of Rural Leadership course has four key objectives:

- To enable members to develop their own business by having a better understanding and awareness of the strategic issues likely to occur over the next five years.
 - To help members to critically evaluate the alternative approaches to management and leadership among rural businesses.
 - To increase their ability to motivate and communicate, not only with staff and colleagues, but also the outside world.
 - To increase the influence of the agricultural community, both nationally and internationally.
- Week one was focused on 'looking out'; seeing the bigger picture, introducing new tools, techniques and concepts. We were presented with a case study - nearby Riverford, we analysed the available information

and developed and presented an alternative business strategy. There was little, if any, time for relaxing at the weekend - team building and leadership skills were honed with practical outdoor activities on Dartmoor. The second week we progressed to personal skills and development. The course provided an opportunity to 'look in' at ourselves and our own respective professions; we explored psychometrics to analyse our leadership capabilities and we were challenged on how to make critical and wicked decisions. The two weeks involved active course member to member participation and also engaging with our visiting speakers and course tutors, who together provided a huge and diverse range of information and resources. The speakers included an agronomist, business entrepreneurs, communications consultant, editors, geneticist, hospital management consultant, life peer and research fellow. A number of Liverymen came to the course as observers and the Master and Junior Warden Baroness Byford created a lasting impression as a very knowledgeable and creative double act.

CRL certainly provided the challenge; it took us out of our comfort zones and encouraged us to 'get up on to the balcony' to maintain perspective. Together with my fellow course members, I would highly recommend this course to other potential industry leaders. Liz manages a PR and communications business focused on agri-business and food sector development.

Liz Snaith



The 'Post-it' crowd!

ADVANCED COURSE IN AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT – FEBRUARY 2012

Stimulating Future Agricultural Managers



The 61st Agricultural Business Management Course at Cirencester was a great success and exceeded the delegates' expectations as presented to the Worshipful Company of Farmers on Friday, 10 February 2012. There were 18 delegates on the course, 15 from the UK, one from New Zealand, one from Australia and one from Germany. The mix of the group in terms of UK and non-UK delegates was considered to be just right but only one lady! As a suggestion for future courses delegates from other parts of the food chain or from other countries were considered to be of great value for the course.

It was a success for the Royal Agricultural College at Cirencester because all the delegates agreed that staying at a traditional College gave the course the atmosphere that was needed. It was greatly appreciated that staying at the college and mixing with students gave a great opportunity for the participants of the course to escape their daily routine for three weeks. On top of that the facilities at RAC, including the excellent catering at the college, were very good and just suited for the purpose. Professor John Alliston from the RAC supported by Rhonda Thompson and Rita Walsh conducted the course and set the right tone throughout the three weeks. He very successfully managed the group dynamics and encouraged every single delegate to participate and take the challenge. He himself set a great example on strict time management

throughout the course, which everyone respected and appreciated. The top-class speakers such as Prof David Hughes, Robert Lawton, John Wibberley, John Alvis, Charles Wilson (Booker) and Caroline Drummond – just to name a few – set a high standard for the course. Beyond any expectations was the visit of Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal in the first week. She chaired a discussion panel about the future of Agriculture with Prof Alan Buckwell, George Dunn (TFA) and Tom Hind (NFU). The interaction between speakers and delegates worked very well in most cases and was a fundamental part of the course. Over the three weeks, the delegates had to work on three different case studies, one on their own business, one on Waitrose and one on a dairy farm in

Wiltshire. Split into groups of four or five and working to tight deadlines, the participants of the course enjoyed lively group dynamics and viable results. Knowledge that had been part of the lecturing agenda could immediately be implemented. The case studies were not only interesting in terms of content but also in terms of collaborating and encouraging people to work as a team. The guest speakers at the dinners along with excellent catering at RAC allowed for distinguished socialising on the one hand and for having great fun on the other hand. The Sponsors dinner was a particularly interesting event where the speaker was Prof Mike Young of Adelaide University who runs the environment faculty. He told the audience about the water licence trading scheme now running in Queensland as a method of equalising demand for the scarce commodity. As expected, the Advanced Agricultural Business Management Course is not supposed to be just a great way of transferring knowledge but even more an opportunity for all delegates to create friendships amongst themselves that will last. For the 61st course, this has worked particularly well. Therefore, this is a corporate "thank you" on behalf of all delegates to the Worshipful Company of Farmers and a wake up call for anyone who feels inspired to apply to one of the next courses. Information will be found on the net at www.farmerslivery.org.uk.

Anna Luetgebrune



An Eminent Panel chair the debate



The hearty singers leading the 'Farmers Boy'



The Magnificent Goldsmiths' Hall



The Master and Mistress with the Cadets

ANNUAL LIVERY BANQUET – 24 January 2012

This year's Livery Banquet was a dazzling occasion held at the magnificent Goldsmiths' Hall on January 24th and attended by nearly 250 liverymen and guests. It was a truly memorable event which featured all the traditional highlights such as the Sung Grace, the Ceremony of the Loving Cup and the singing of the Farmer's Boy

This year we were privileged by the presence of Past Master, HRH The Princess Royal with Vice Admiral Sir Timothy Laurence, Lord and Lady Salisbury and Mr Paul Heygate the Chairman of the Farmers' Club. The guests were received by the Master Peter Faulkner with Mrs Alison Faulkner, Senior Warden John Reynolds with Mrs Janet Reynolds and by Junior Warden Hazel, Baroness Byford, with Mr Barrie Byford.



Robert Cooper receiving the Livery Silver from HRH The Princess Royal



Liveryman Jill Willows and Mr Peter Ward

The spacious setting of Goldsmiths' Hall is perfect for pre-dinner fellowship and socializing and we were greeted by Mrs Pam King and looked after by a contingent of Air Training Cadets before being introduced to the Master and Mistress along with the Wardens and their spouses. The magnificent hall was divided into four long tables leading to the top table and the photograph provides a glimpse of the splendour of the occasion. The delicious meal of smoked trout

followed by lamb and desert was followed by the traditional Ceremony of the Loving Cup during which we followed our tradition of singing The Farmer's Boy, led by Liverymen Philip Strawson, Andrew Brown and Julian Sayers.

After the Toasts the Master gave a humorous speech during which HRH The Princess Royal presented the Livery Silver Salver to Liveryman Robert Cooper and she was presented



HRH The Princess Royal Receiving the Loving Cup from the Master

with a cheque as a donation to Farms for City Children of which she is Patron. The Master then proposed a Toast to the guests which was responded to by Lord Salisbury who in turn proposed a Toast to the Company.

It was a truly memorable evening held in glittering surroundings with many old associations rekindled. After the departure of the Royal Party guests continued socializing

until carriages were called at 11.00. On a personal note a huge vote of congratulations to the Clerk for the organization of such a complex event and the attention to detail.

As usual the event was fully subscribed, some liverymen who booked late were disappointed. To make sure of coming to the 2013 Livery Banquet to be held at Clothworkers' Hall on January 22nd please book early!



Liverymen Olive Clarke and John Evans



MESSAGE FROM THE CLA PRESIDENT HARRY COTTERELL

The future vision from the CLA



Harry Cotterell on his farm

The great challenge facing agriculture this century is how to feed a fast-increasing population. By 2050, it is estimated there will be nine billion people on the planet. We will have to farm more cleverly to satisfy demand for food, protect the environment, mitigate climate change and ensure farmers are adequately rewarded for their work.

In the UK, farming has partially recovered from an appalling decade from 1997-2007, but there are still reasons to be concerned about its future economic fortunes. Even with some recovery in incomes, absolute income levels are low and volatile, and farming is at risk of falling further behind general economic growth. Farmers are highly dependent on public financial support, especially through Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) direct payments. Furthermore, production costs have increased significantly in recent years, especially energy and fertiliser costs, and we anticipate greater regulatory financial burdens, relating to water

quality, water prices, greenhouse gas reductions and animal disease control. There is also no great expectation of effective changes in terms of competition in the food chain; in other words, an increased ability to pass on cost increases.

The growth in consumption, powered by global population and economic growth, is likely to come up against natural resource constraints (for instance, with water, phosphates and pollution absorption limits) and farmers' ability to expand productivity. These factors could eventually drive up real agricultural commodity prices but would farmers hang on to any greater share of those higher revenues than in the past? The extra money would mostly go to food processors, retailers and input suppliers.

So, we need to farm smarter, reducing costs by boosting productivity. One very important source of productivity growth comes from applying new science and technology. However, we need to commission more applied

research and development, and we need to put the results into practice. Restructuring is the other way to deal with these challenges. For most land-based businesses, this means getting access to more land or contracting out operations to a larger business to reduce costs. This process has been going on for some time and most farmers and observers agree that further restructuring of the industry is inevitable. The big questions now are: how and at what rate should we restructure? And how do we overcome the regulatory and fiscal barriers?

We need to address the contradictions between the constant pressure – particularly from government over the decades – for farming to snap out of its supposedly uncommercial, over-subsidised and inefficient mindset to be more business and market-oriented and internationally competitive, and the ceaseless rhetoric about small, traditional, extensive, family farms providing local, organic food. What mix of these styles of food production does society really want?

Finally, there is the farm tenancy issue, the so-called "bed blocking" by a proportion of 1986 Act tenants. Throughout the industry there is acceptance that many tenant farmers near to retirement age do not have the economic wherewithal to retire. Their only option is to remain on their let farms for as long as possible to sustain a roof over their heads. This unintended consequence of the 1986 Act stifles productivity and prevents new blood from entering the industry. A solution needs to be found as quickly as possible. We think it lies in the planning system. We need to build new homes on farms to house the older generation but we must accept that this problem is not going to simply solve itself.

Harry Cotterell is a Herefordshire chicken, cider-fruit and mushroom farmer and President of the Country Land & Business Association (CLA).

MILITARY AFFILIATIONS

Military and Cadet Forces News



HMS York, shadowing the Russian Aircraft Carrier Admiral Kuznetsov

Throughout the year there has been continuing and regular interaction between the Company and our affiliated groups, the latest being at the Annual Banquet at Goldsmiths' Hall, in January, where representatives of all three services were present and the six Air Training Corps cadets were a very important part of the greeting party.

HMS York has enjoyed a very eventful period under her new commanding Officer Rex Cox. Having returned to Portsmouth from South Atlantic duties via the Caribbean the crew were not anticipating to be back in action so soon but were diverted to assist with the defence of Benghazi

and the evacuation of British civilians from Libya to Malta. Having completed their work successfully the ship completed its planned South Atlantic mission before returning to the UK. However on arriving back the ship was immediately deployed to intercept the Russian navy aircraft carrier the Admiral Kuznetsov off the Orkneys. Because of severe weather the Russian fleet sheltered in the Moray Firth and the mission took two weeks under high security measures. Fortunately York was able to return to base in time for Christmas. Sadly York is due to be decommissioned in September 2012 and we have fingers crossed that the Royal Navy will find us a replacement vessel.

Middlesex Wing ATC

On Sunday February 5th 2012 the Master, Peter Faulkner, attended the Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication of the Air Cadets held at St Clement Danes in Fleet Street and here is the text of a message sent by the Master to the commanding officer. First may I thank you for inviting me and the Mistress Farmer to the Annual Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication. In spite of the reduced congregation because of the weather it was an uplifting service to which the cadets made impressive contributions. They are a wonderful example of young people who, with the right leadership and motivation, develop into valuable members of society. The two readers were excellent, the choir sang beautifully and the photographer captured some super images.

This brings me to my second point. It was clear to us that you and many colleagues invest a lot of your time and experience in these young people. The ATC exists and flourishes because of people like you and I congratulate you on all that you achieve. The Worshipful Company of Farmers is proud to be associated with the Corps and with those who are its life and soul.

Westminster Dragoons

On Sunday November 27th 2011 the Master, Peter Faulkner, Past Master Tom Copas (liaison officer) and the Clerk visited the Westminster Dragoons on Longmoor Training Area in Hampshire for the final of the Inter Troop Competition. The winning Troop was Command Troop. Also present was the Honorary Colonel of the



Westminster Dragoons, Lieutenant General Sir Andrew Ridgway KBE CB (late Royal Tank Regiment). The photograph shows the Master and the Hon Col after signing the Illuminated Address, produced for us by the College of Arms, which formally records the Affiliation. The Master also presented the Worshipful Company of Farmers Plate to Sgt Andy Dady of Command Troop.



Past Master The Honorable Sir Richard Butler DL



Everyone will be saddened to hear of the recent death of Richard Butler who died on January 28th aged 83 and will be much missed by all his friends. He was certainly what one might describe as one of the giants of the Agricultural industry of his time having been the deputy President of the NFU through the 1970's under Henry Plumb before becoming President from 1979 to 1986.

He was the eldest son of Lord Butler (Rab) and his first wife Sydney, daughter of Samuel Courtauld. Rab Butler, was a senior and very influential member of the government for many years. Born in 1929, Richard was educated at Eton and Pembroke College Cambridge after which he did National Service in the Royal Horse Guards and then went straight into farming near Halstead in Essex where his family lived.

However, having been born into a political family as well as an agricultural one, he soon began to look for additional responsibilities and quickly went up the ladder in the NFU. Having joined the Council in 1962, he became vice-president in 1970 then deputy President in 1971, became President in 1979 and remained in that office until 1986. Another obituary commented that "with Henry Plumb as President, Richard Butler as Deputy and John Cossins as Vice President, the NFU had what many consider to be its strongest ever leadership team". We are lucky to have had all three of these as Masters of the Farmers Company.

During his time at the head of the NFU British farming was in turmoil with public anger over 'food mountains', the result of EU

open-ended price guarantees, grain producers' income doubled whilst dairy farmers saw their incomes fall by as much as a third. All this was against the background of a new Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, who made no secret of her dislike of the EU and feelings that farmers were pampered and over protected; however Richard Butler succeeded in significantly improving relations between the industry and government and building a stronger NFU.

In the meanwhile he took up other directorships including those of NatWest Bank and the NFU Mutual and then became Master of the Skinners Company in 1994/95. He was clothed as a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Farmers in 1977 and was Master of the Company in 1997/98.

Richard could easily have become a barrister – he had an astonishing ability to master a brief, an attribute put to good use in all his roles. He married in 1952 at what is today a young age of 23, Sue Walker, and they lived very happily near Halstead until this day, having a daughter Antonia and twin sons Christopher and Michael. Richard's great hobbies were hunting and shooting and he kept these up until relatively recently. His funeral was a family one but a Thanksgiving Service for him was held at Saffron Walden Church on March 7th.

Surrey Docks City Farm

For many years The Company has been associated with The Surrey Docks City Farm based on the banks of the Thames facing Canary Wharf. It is a little oasis of countryside in the heart of urban dwellings.

On a sunny February afternoon Liveryman Jill Willows, who is the Company's link with the farm, took Senior Warden John Reynolds and liverymen Simon Butcher and John Evans to visit this enterprising 'model' farm and were given a tour of the facility by Gary Jones and Claire Elson.

The farm, which is a registered charity, rents 2.2 acres from Southwark Council and has been on its present site for 26 years and is surrounded by new housing developments with stunning river views. The farm has a wide range of animals for the visitors to see and interact with. There are many traditional farm animals: goats, sheep, cows, pigs and chickens plus donkeys, geese, rabbits, turkeys, ferrets and bees with a large 'petting' area in the middle where children can stroke and interact with the inmates.

Like all other 'businesses' the farm has to generate income to survive and Gary, Claire and their team have many different sources. The farm animals breed well, especially the pigs, and the meat is sold to visitors along with eggs, honey and products such as chutneys that they make. There is a franchised café on site, second hand books for sale and many visitors purchase small bags of food to feed to the animals. They have a modern vehicle, financed with Lottery funding, which they use to take some animals to London schools and agricultural fairs.

The farm also provides a haven for a number of disadvantaged adults who help and they also provide learning opportunities to students on animal care courses plus work experience to others. We were amazed by the entrepreneurial approach of the staff to keeping the farm as an exciting destination which now averages some 1,000 visitors a week. The latest challenge is to find additional funds to cover a significant increase in the rent since it has been designated a commercial venture.

The Company has regularly given financial assistance for specific projects and liverymen have provided some animals to keep up the varieties and at present they would welcome some female geese to keep the ganders company. This is a very exciting oasis in the heart of the city and very worthy of our support. Visit www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk.

CHARITY MATTERS

So we enter 2012 and, with the economy still bumping along on the floor, we appear to be set for a long period of uncertainty and volatility in the markets with the FTSE index jittery and responding to every snippet of good or bad news. Those of us dependent on private pensions and savings look set for more lean years with abysmal interest rates expected.

However the recession is very patchy; we see some businesses still very profitable and turning in good results whilst others are struggling and shedding jobs. All in all, these circumstances do not create a conducive climate for charitable giving, BUT, you must agree that our agricultural industry is pretty robust at the moment and riding out the recession in fairly good shape. Better prices have come about with tightening of supplies and we benefit from the low interest rates on offer, meanwhile, the continued strengthening of land prices adds to the total worth of our holdings. With the increasing demands of family commitments, many of you have indicated a reluctance to commit to legacies at this time but several of you already have offered sums of money which you know you can afford on an annual basis to support our programme of charitable giving and I commend this to you for consideration.

We have now received and invested the very generous sum of £100,000 from the estate of the late Past Master John Cossins and I would wish Helen, James and Caroline to know how profoundly grateful we are for this expression of John's love for, and dedication to his Livery Company. The news of this legacy was, of course, an encouraging start to my role as Charity Co-ordinator and gave me hope that I could make a difference – and encourage you all to think likewise.

CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

I hope you realise that it is inappropriate for me to approach you individually and start talking about charitable giving, but, if you wish to consider the options available, please do not hesitate to approach me at anytime. Contact details: Richard T Halhead FRAGS 01524 752 421, E-mail: rthalhead@googlemail.com

Only a few of the members are aware of the full extent of the Company's charitable efforts and in the last newsletter we illustrated the charts of income and expenditure. This highlights how we disburse the funds and here is a list of some of the areas we supported in 2011:

- Farming in distress
- Education
- City charities
- The Henman/Brookes/Jubilee fund
- Support for the Duchy and RAC courses

The Farming in Distress support is given to four organisations including RABI, the Farm Crisis Network and Addington Trust.

By far the largest beneficiary of our funds is the education sector where significant sums are given to deserving students and organisations to enable them to undertake their studies. These include the Overseas Travel Awards given to students and young farmers to gain practical experience or conduct research abroad in agriculture, horticulture and associated careers, the Jubilee Scholarships to assist younger members of the agricultural community with their educational expenses, the Agricultural College Prizes to achieving students and a contribution to projects at the Surrey Docks Farm.

The Henman Scholarship is a flagship award and there is an excellent testimonial from Kathy Meacham on her work and experiences in the Philippines and Australia which complemented her studies at the RAC. We currently are supporting a Nuffield Scholar, Alec Mercer, who gave an excellent presentation to the

education committee in June last year and will also be the guest speaker at the Masters and Clerks luncheon in September.



Richard Halhead

Looking to the Future

Future gazing is on the agenda of the recently formed Commission 2020, a group of nine liverymen asked by the Master and the Court to consider how the Company should be structured in eight years time. The Commission is chaired by Assistant Graham Shooter and has held its first meeting and agreed to work under broad headings which include; organisation, charitable activities, fellowship, education and research. In addition to considering how our own Company works the Commissioners will investigate how other livery companies operate and also seek the views of other relevant organisations. Should you have any views on how the Worshipful Company of Farmers should appear in 2020 please pass your comments to any of the commissioners: Andrew Brown, Richard Crane, Geoff Dodgson, Kate Hall, Karen Mercer, Nick Padwick, Caroline Ratcliff, Graham Shooter and Philip Strawson.

News Briefs:

The President of the Lincolnshire Agricultural Society for 2012 is Lord Taylor of Holbeach CBE and the President Elect for 2013 is Nigel Brown, both members of the Livery. Liveryman Peter Cleary has recently published a very interesting book, Green Gold, a history of a thousand years of English Land.