



Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard installed as Master



The Master, Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard with Senior Warden Warden Philip Wynn and Junior Warden Julian Sayers

On October 13th, Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard was installed as the 64th Master of our Company. Thomas' family have been involved in landownership and farming in Warwickshire since 1888, and in Wiltshire since 1962. His mother, Ann, was our Master in 1993/4 and was the first lady to hold this office.

Thomas studied Economics at Bristol University and then went to Wye College for a postgraduate diploma in Farm Business Administration, in the days of Professor John Nix. Thereafter, he embarked on five years of working on farms, variously in Shropshire, Oxfordshire and Sussex, with the aim of increasing his experience and, as he says, making his mistakes at someone else's expense.

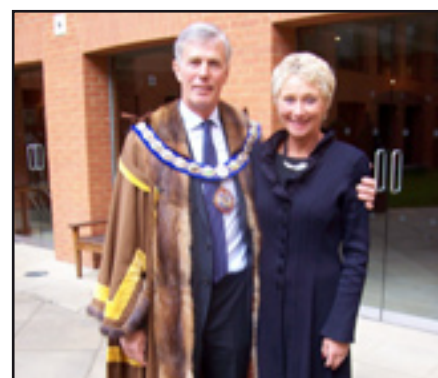
Thomas then had five years in north Northumberland working for a firm of Land Agents, in their farm management department, and he still regards this part of the country as particularly special. The farming was excellent, the people very genuine and the countryside and coastline were

quite magic. Both his sons were born in Alnwick.

In 1986, Thomas moved to the family farm in Wiltshire, with 2,500 acres that involved two dairies with 360 cows, 1,000+ acres of corn and an historic herd of Tamworth pigs (started in 1922 - now the oldest pedigree herd of any breed of pig in the country). Thomas has long been a believer that restructuring is needed in the industry and in this respect he led by example. In 2000, he sought to remove his exposure to dairying, so let the dairy units together with appropriate land on an FBT. Five years later, he put his arable acreage under the management of Velcourt, who were already operating on the neighbouring estate. In hand farming then consisted of newly introduced Sussex cattle, 200 ewes, and the original Tamworth pigs. In 2006, as a major diversification, a new farm shop complex together with art studios and workshops was opened, with the particular aim of selling home grown meat and linking customers to the countryside. Open Farm Sunday was an annual event on the farm.

In 2009, Thomas retired from Wiltshire and moved to Warwickshire to become more closely involved with the family estate there. Although all property was let, a relatively new family Trust arrangement and an increasing amount of commercial development warranted extra input. In addition to farming, Thomas has been variously involved with county membership of the CLA (both Wiltshire and Warwickshire), the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England (being chairman in 2006-7) and has been, for many years, a panel member of the South West Agricultural Land Tribunal. He is also a volunteer for Farming Community Network (previously Farm Crisis Network).

For the year ahead, the various speakers invited bring with them a general theme of the value of research in agriculture and food. The Banquet at Clothworkers' Hall may bring stories of royal estates, and music from opera. The Master's outing in June 2016 will be at Ragley Hall, Warwickshire.



Thomas is married to Patsi, and has two sons from his first marriage. Christopher lives on the farm in Wiltshire, is a qualified shooting instructor and a member of the Gunmakers' Livery Company. Andrew married this summer and lives and works in the City. Thomas still enjoys shooting (nothing like having one's own family coach) and also competes in longbow archery.



Three Cloth Street is ... 'Open for Business'



HRH being welcomed by the masters on arrival

On September 8th our beloved Hall at Three Cloth Street was officially reopened by Past Master, HRH The Princess Royal. She spent nearly two hours inspecting the much enlarged and refurbished Hall and shook hands with every one of the 120 or more guests from both Farmers' and Fletchers Companies.

On arrival Her Royal Highness was greeted by our Master, Tony Alston, and Master Fletcher Adrian Scott Knight and taken on a 'Cooks' tour by Deputy Master Peter Faulkner as Chairman of the Joint Project Board. She was introduced to five groups of Farmers' liverymen and spoke to everyone including a number of non-Livery people who had been involved in the design and construction of the



HRH and John Evans 'we've met before'

Hall. She then visited the new kitchen area and gave the staff a 'grilling' on how it would operate and how the various pieces of equipment worked and she also commented on the lighting system in the hall.

She then met the representatives of the Fletchers' Company before unveiling



How does everything work?

the plaque commemorating the event shown in the photograph. She signed the new Visitors Book before being presented with a flower arrangement by Mary Foster the Farmer's Wife. As always HRH The Princess Royal impressed everyone with her knowledge and enthusiasm and we are proud and fortunate to have her as a Past Master.

The new Hall, which is now known as Farmer Fletchers in the City, now has

the ground floor and lower ground floor connected by a grand spiral staircase and a lift. This arrangement has provided us with twice the space of the old hall along with modern facilities. The large dining/meeting room is still on the lower ground floor with facilities



HRH opening the plaque

to seat some 140 for a luncheon but we now have a spacious reception area and a number of good sized rooms to hold committee meetings etc. along with high tech presentation facilities.

The décor is ultra-modern with a sophisticated lighting system offering a range of colours to match the occasion and the cloakrooms are spacious, unlike their predecessors, with a proper cloakroom in the reception area. The upper three floors of the building have been converted into serviced apartments with a completely independent entrance and this arrangement will generate guaranteed income for the future.

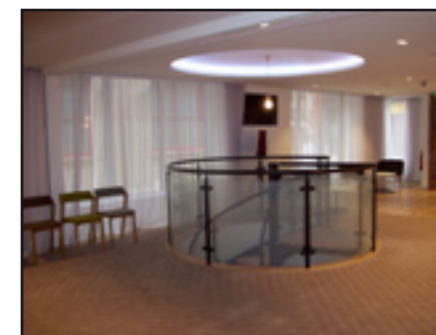
The refurbishment project has taken two years to complete and involved many complex contractual negotiations. The Company is fortunate in having a number of skilled members who have devoted innumerable hours to bring the task to fruition, in particular Past Masters Peter Faulkner and Follett Balch along with the newly appointed Junior Warden, Julian Sayers.



Signing the visitors book



The spiral staircase



The new reception area



Two sheriffs in hiding

Following the official re-opening of Three Cloth Street by Past Master HRH The Princess Royal on September 8th the Company held a celebration dinner that evening to which donors and guests were

Before dinner we were treated to a champagne reception featuring the Lanson brand the cost of which our new Clerk has negotiated very well! The guests for the evening included the two City Sheriffs, Alderman William

champagne seemed to get everyone 'in the mood' before venturing down the spiral staircase to the dining hall.

The Senior Warden gave an entertaining short speech of welcome to our guests. The five course meal seemed to disappear quite quickly, washed down with excellent wines though it was noticed that the Port was of the Graham's variety, obviously a favourite of our Clerk! The Master proposed toasts to Her Majesty and the entire Royal Family as well as to the Lord Mayor, the City of London Corporation and the Sheriffs.

The response that followed involved the two sheriffs 'singing' a stunning duet which brought the house down. The Master had to follow that piece of entertainment with an amusing speech proposing a toast to the Guests. The response by Alderman William Russell was equally amusing and fitting conclusion to a very enjoyable evening. Persuading people to head home became a challenge but at least it is our hall now!



Master and honoured guests

invited. Some 80 people attended this black tie event, the first to be held in our refurbished hall.

Russell and Sheriff Elect as she was then) Dr Christine Rigden, wife of our own Liveryman Stephen Rigden. The



Master and Alderman William Russell



The dining hall in purple



Driving Sheep Over London Bridge



The Farmers Team with 'Friends'

Livery in case the woolly beasts got tired. Master Tony Alston provided everyone with hessian aprons and some of the farmers were very appropriately dressed. This year we were allowed to take a few members' children with us so the Peck and Seymour families were well represented. Liveryman Andrew Brown arrived in his full regalia as High Sheriff of Rutland which completely baffled some Japanese visitors who assumed he was from Nottingham and asked if Friar Tuck was there too! This is a fun event with the Farmers gathering in the Mudlark pub across the road from Glaziers Hall beforehand and not surprisingly retiring to the Mudlark for a well-earned refresher.

On Sunday September 27th The Worshipful Company of Farmers fielded a team of ten Liverymen to exercise our rights as Freemen of the City to drive sheep across the bridge.

This annual event is organized by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen

and the profits generated are shared between the Woolmen's own charity and the Lord Mayor's charity. It was a beautiful sunny day and attracted large crowds of rather bewildered visitors and a host of animal welfare folk to make sure that the sheep were well cared for. This year we were only allowed to drive the sheep half way across the bridge before handing over to another



The Sheriff of Rutland centre stage

INTER-LIVERY SHOOT AT HOLLAND & HOLLAND MAY 20TH 2015



The Bright Team - 2nd overall

This annual event sees some 500 guns compete at the world famous Holland and Holland ground in North West London. This year we fielded three teams and performed very well and naturally won some prizes. The Court team, led by the Master Tony Alston, consisted of Senior Warden

Thomas Wheatley-Hubbard, Past Master Marcus Cornish and Liveryman Neils Olsen and were given the billing of Farmers 'C'. Farmers' 'B' was led by Liveryman David Bright and sported his brother Keith, son Christopher and their guest farmer, Des Sturgess. The 'A' team, known as the Pinkerton gang was led by Liveryman Alex Pinkerton along with Daniel Bone, Andrew Manning and Ed Thomas. The competition starts at 7.30 with a cooked breakfast before the guns start at 8.30. Because of the number of competitors the full round of 10 Stands plus the 'Flurry' takes some four hours which brings us nicely to the delicious buffet lunch. After lunch the prize winners are announced and for the third year in a row the top marksman was a

Gunmaker with a totally unfair score of 78 out of 80! This year the star quartet was the 'B' team led by David Bright who were our top scorers with 310 points out of 400 followed by the Pinkerton team with 294 points with the Court team a creditable third with 216 points. However the Bright team were second Livery overall and also won the best flurry prize with a very commendable score of 71 out of 80 beating even the Gunmakers. The 'A' team did very well and came eighth overall out of some 120 teams. The photograph is of the Bright team with their trophies and bottles of 'fizz' with the Master holding the editor's hard won bottle of Malt! He did eventually relinquish it!

A THANK YOU LUNCHEON WITH THE CLERK EMERITUS

Lunching out Col. David and Mrs Pamela King



The Celebration Party

It is hard to believe that Col. David King, at his retirement, had been Clerk for just ten years such was his, and Pamela's, influence upon the running of the Livery Company and its standing within the City Livery as a whole.

Pamela's quiet attention to detail ensured everything ran smoothly on the night, from attendance as secretary to take minutes at all committee and Court meetings to more hands-on involvement with our service affiliations. Increasingly he became the adviser

the occasion, mostly accompanied by their wives. Together with the addition of two past Deputy Masters and one Senior Past Master this made up a small party of 26 people and proved the suitability of the new hall for an event of this size and intimacy as well as for larger functions. After an enjoyable champagne reception when those present were able to explore the new hall and appreciate the new layout and spaces in sunny daylight, hugely appreciated as a contrast to the previously subterranean accommodation, luncheon was served in the ground floor Court room. A delicious lunch was served, prepared by David Somerell Fare of London's Executive Chef, at one time part of the team at Hintelsham Hall. Christopher Pertwee formally thanked David and Pam for their service to the Company to which David graciously replied.

David was appointed after the customary search process undertaken by a small group chaired by the then Deputy Master Christopher Pertwee and, clearly an outstanding applicant, was appointed in spring 2005 to succeed Margaret Winter who was in herself a hard act to follow. He started on his own but it was quickly recognised that some assistance was necessary to meet the increasing demands of the role and happily Pamela was able and willing to join him as assistant clerk. Together they served all members of the Livery in many different ways: from general administration, to the detailed running of banquets where



David and Alison Faulkner enjoy the joke

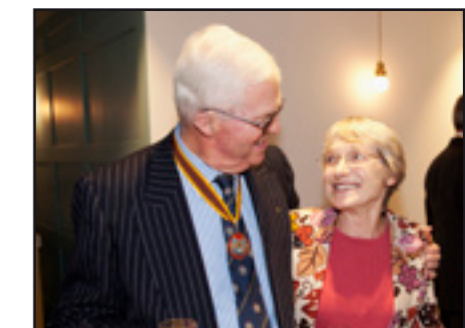
They had asked that as a memento of the occasion a photographic record be taken so that an album including a group photograph, as well as some more conversational pieces, could be produced as a record of the event celebrating what David described as ten very happy years looking after a particularly friendly Livery Company. He said it was totally untrue to suggest that Farmers were a curmudgeonly lot whose only subject of conversation was the weather and how it had been the cause of all their bad luck!

and guide to committee chairmen and successive Masters on matters pertaining to the Company in particular and concerning the City and The Livery movement as a whole. For this latter service to the Company those Masters who had personally benefitted from David and Pamela's service chose to host a luncheon in their honour on 30th September and where better to hold it but in the newly refurbished Hall. All Masters from Lord Plumb of Coleshill (2005-2006) to Tony Alston (2014-2015) were able to be present for

Follett Balch



Lord Plumb quizzing David



Jeremy Courtney Overpowering Pam King



A YEAR IN THE LIFE AS MASTER; TONY ALSTON

Over the past year Tony Alston's kilt has seen a great number of outings and is now ready for the cleaners. Most people in the Livery were not aware of his deep rooted Scottish connection and assumed he was a quiet, rugby loving gentleman farmer from Suffolk, wrong!

The year as Master has been at a constant sequence of events, lunches and dinners but, to his credit, there has been little weight gain after The Farmers' wife, Mary Foster, took him on a get fit routine in Sussex before he took office. During the year Tony has presented many awards to prize winners and made many speeches, not his favourite occupation, but has significantly raised the profile of the Worshipful Company of Farmers as a dynamic but friendly Livery, both in the City and outside. Here are some of the 'printable' photographs.



The Livery Charity Ball at Girton College



The Diners at Girton College

The Company held its inaugural Summer Charity Ball at Girton College, Cambridge on Saturday 25th July. This spectacular event was organised by Court Assistant Karen Mercer and her committee and was the event of the year not to be missed!

Just under 200 Liverymen and their guests made their way to the splendid surroundings of the once girls only College on the outskirts of the University City, for a champagne reception before dinner. The sun had pushed aside the clouds in this stormy period so that we enjoyed the



Getting in the mood MESSRS Halhead and Strawson

suntrapped sunken garden. Shortly afterwards the company moved to the almost ecclesiastic Dining Hall. Almost ecclesiastic, because the walls were adorned with several quite severe looking former Principals of the College, who probably never had to use the word Discipline! The kilted Master welcomed all, including the guests, notably Sheriff Elect Dr. Christine Rigden and the

Deputy Commissioner of Barbados. The excellent dinner was enlivened by Liveryman Julian Sayers who hosted a round of Higher or Lower where each person, having put some money in the



Liveryman Stephen Rigden and Dr. Christine Rigden

pot, has to guess whether the answer to the question is higher or lower than Julian's statement. The last man standing was my guest, The Clerk! However Graham Bamford gallantly stood down and the prize went to second man standing, Louise Holmes.

At the end of dinner, Deputy Master Peter Faulkner conducted the Auction of Promises with some very good Lots, including two from the Duchy of Cornwall. These two dinnertime fundraisers raised more than £10,000 towards the Company's charity funds and the

Ball itself contributed a further £9,000 making a grand total of £19,000. The Ball Organiser, Court Assisstant Karen Mercer, thanked her team and the Master thanked her by saying it in the time honoured way, with Flowers! The band, a Girl Called Sue, struck up with enthusiasm, which drove the octogenarians from the room and others to the bar, but it did leave the dance floor not too crowded with enough space for free expression. By sometime after midnight the band fell silent and the wise revellers made their way



The Master with Karen Mercer and Baroness Byford

to their student rooms, which were surprisingly satisfactory! Those same wise revellers arose for a good breakfast and to greet the other-wise people. The organiser did not realise that the college had other residents, and sold 20 tickets to some Japanese and elderly Americans for next year!

What planning! Much needed rain the day before and the day after but sunshine for the few hours that it mattered. Very well done, Karen! Report from the Master, Tony Alston.



Higher or Lower ?



The Master's Moving Home



Diners at Easton Grange



An air pilot driving the steam train



The Mid-Suffolk Light Railway

THE SUMMER OUTING TO RURAL SUFFOLK



The Spitfire in action

The Master's theme was the History of a Suffolk Farm over some 80 years, with many examples of successful 21st Century diversifications.

On the Monday evening we enjoyed a champagne reception and delicious dinner at the beautifully restored barn at Best Western Brome Grange hotel where many of the party stayed and we understand stayed up very late! On the Tuesday we visited Tony Alston's lovely home and farm

at Brockford. The house dates back to Georgian times with major alterations in 1870, now has a walled garden and an enclosed swimming pool plus wood fired boiler system. Many of the redundant buildings have been upgraded and converted for light industrial use including the development of some very high tech. motor racing components. Two large coaches then transported us to visit his unique holiday accommodation based



The Party after lunch

in beautifully restored old railway carriages at 'Brockford Railway Siding' which is close to the award winning Mid-Suffolk Light Railway which runs on his land. A short section of track has been restored by local enthusiasts and it has a steam train and carriages which took us to the other end of the line in style. The site has a shop selling railway memorabilia, a cafe and a workshop where restoration work is carried out. Whilst we were at the station we were treated to an outstanding display of aerobatics by a Spitfire piloted by

Richard Grace from Duxford who performed some daring moves against a clear blue sky. The proceedings were witnessed by one of our guests, Dorothy Saul-Pooley, the Master of the Honourable Company of Air Pilots who later 'piloted' the steam train as well. Her Livery has been informed of this 'offence'. After the railway visit we travelled to Easton Grange activity centre which provides a wide range of activities for young children including small animal petting areas and tractor rides as well as demonstration

areas featuring cheese and yoghurt making. Lunch was taken at the beautiful Easton Grange conference and wedding venue, owned by Liveryman John Kerr and his family (catering by Galloping Gourmet), again a beautifully restored barn where we enjoyed another delicious meal before heading home. On the Wednesday some visited the Norfolk Show whilst others played golf organised by Past Master Follett Balch. A super three days under perfect English sunshine!



The beautifully restored dining room at Brome Grange



Comfortable Holidays in a railway carriage



The Beautiful grounds of Easton Grange



MILITARY AFFILIATIONS



The Master presenting the Company Salver

On Sunday September 13th our Company was well represented at RAF Northolt to participate in our Cadet Affiliate, the Middlesex Wing Air Training Corps, annual Field Day and Review. The weather was fine, though rather windy, and the event was

MIDDLESEX WING AIR TRAINING CORPS

regularly punctuated by the noise of the jets taking off from this busy airfield. Some 600 cadets and assistants take part in the event in West London and it was a pleasure to see so many young people from every ethnic background enjoying the friendship that the cadet organisation provides. The Middlesex Wing has some 20 squadrons each one reliant on support from organising former officers and take part in a variety of activities culminating in a parade of the whole Wing. There is intense competition between the squadrons ranging from very realistic first aid demonstrations, model aircraft construction kits to individual music battles. The winners of each competition are presented with an award and there is obvious joy within the squadrons of being recognised for their effort.

The Company was represented by the Master, and Farmers Wife, Liveryman John Evans, the Clerk, Past Master Jeremy Courtney and his wife Liveryman Anne Courtney who is

our contact with the cadets. We were pleased and surprised to see Liveryman Commander Simon Staley in civvies at the base safely returned from his time with the Japanese. Our party was given a comprehensive tour of the facilities and watched many of the competitions taking place before retiring to the mess for lunch. The Master presented Flight Lieutenant Sheila Gridley with an engraved clasp to recognise her 18 years of service to the cadet movement. The Master took the salute of the full parade of 600 cadets who marched in good order to the sound of their combined band and he gave a brief speech emphasising the importance of the affiliation. This year the winner of the Worshipful Company Farmers' trophy was 862 Sunbury Squadron for the outstanding community involvement activities of its cadets. The photograph is of the Master presenting the winner with the Company Salver.

FARMING LINKS WITH BOMBER COMMAND

October 2nd this year saw the official opening of the first phase of a memorial centre for Bomber Command which highlighted the very close ties between farming and this key element of our Armed Forces. The event was brought to our attention by Mark Dodds a partner



The New Memorial Spire with the veterans

with Roythornes Solicitors, one of our Corporate Partners. The opening ceremony was conducted by The Rt Hon Earl Howe, Minister of State for the Ministry of Defence and Deputy Leader of the House of Lords. He unveiled the Memorial Spire and Walls of Remembrance at the International Bomber Command Centre (IBCC) at Canwick Hill, Lincolnshire. Over 300 veterans attended the ceremony that included the inaugural performance of 'Strike Hard, Strike Sure' (the Bomber Command motto), an anthem specifically commissioned by the IBCC Trustees and composed by Tom Davoren, a performance of 'If You Hadn't Done What You Did' written and produced by Jim Dooley and sung by Charlotte Mellor as well as a fly-over of a Vulcan, Blenheim, two GR4 Tornados, three Hawks and the current MacRobert's Reply. It was an amazing day and marked a milestone in the creation of International Bomber Command Centre which is the brainchild of Lincolnshire farmer and landowner, Liveryman Tony Worth CVO. Tony brings the link with

the farming community and Bomber Command full circle and said "It is a matter of particular pride to me that, as a farmer, my industry has done so much to support the bravery and loyalty of Bomber Command and continue to do so by ensuring their memory will not be forgotten." During WWII substantial amounts of agricultural land was compulsory purchased in order to create the stations and accommodation needed by Bomber Command. Later, at the end of the war, the Agricultural Industry supported the euphemistically named 'Bomber Boys' once again as many of them were trained in farming and land management skills and employed by the farming community. Now, after eight years, the Memorial Spire stands proud, fittingly surrounded by agricultural land. It represents the first significant and visible development in the building of the IBCC which is now focused on raising the remaining funding of £3.8million to enable the Chadwick Centre, visitor amenities and memorial walls (phase two and three) to be completed.

MILITARY AFFILIATIONS

LIVERY VISIT TO RAF WADDINGTON

On Monday June 22nd a large group of Liverymen made the now annual visit to RAF Waddington to meet with the Commanding Officer and his men and to present the Worshipful Company trophy to this year's outstanding serviceman. However this year's visit coincided with the complete re-layout and replacement of the main runway at Waddington which had necessitated the dispersal of the operational aircraft to neighbouring bases. Until recently RAF Waddington was a bomber station and features a Lancaster in its Heritage Centre. The Gate Guardian is Vulcan XM607, one of the 3 that took part in Op Black Buck, the attack in 1982 on the Argentinian invaders on the Falklands. The group visited RAF Coningsby which is the temporary home of 8 Sqn who fly the Sentry surveillance aircraft which is a large Boeing aeroplane with a huge radome on its roof. The Sentinel aircraft are also temporarily based away from Waddington at RAF Cranwell but the training for Sentinel crew continues at home base. The winner of this year's Ireland Trophy was Flt Lt Matthew

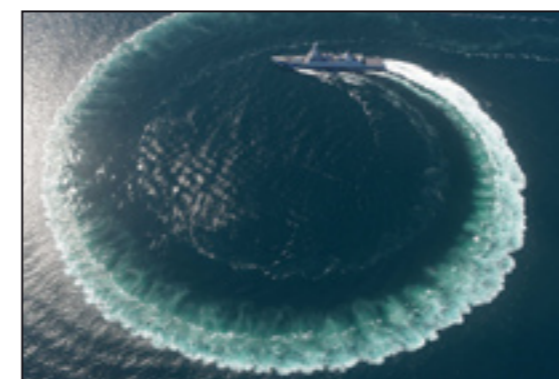


The Master Presenting the Ireland Trophy

Jackson of 54 (R) Sqn. The Squadron has a long history tracing back to the Army (Royal Flying Corps) in 1916 when they operated in France with the Sopwith Pup! The Squadron's role is in the training of mission crews for the three aircraft normally operating out of Waddington. An extract from Flt Lt Jackson's citation for the award reads as follows. 'He has proven to be critical in the training, development and quality assurance of

RAF Waddington's Sentinel pilots. In order to achieve his key tasks he has consistently pushed himself beyond what would normally be reasonably expected. Jackson has made an outstanding contribution to the ISTAR Force over the past year and many previous to it'. The photograph is of Master Tony Alston presenting Flt Lt Jackson with the Worshipful Company Ireland Trophy.

HMS DEFENDER



HMS Defender demonstrating her tight turning circle

the volatile Middle East sector. During this period she has been involved in many operations in European waters and in April was moored at Greenwich for a week during which time a number of Liverymen and guests went on board, toured the ship and enjoyed their hospitality. The evening concluded with a ceremonial sunset ceremony.

Our affiliate ship, the brand new type 45 destroyer HMS Defender, since her return to Portsmouth in December has had a period of very intensive training to prepare her and her crew for an arduous nine month deployment in

We were delighted to welcome Defender's CO, Commander Steve Higham RN, and two of his officers to the recent Installation luncheon and the photograph is of the three naval

caps next to the stunning gilded statue by Damien Hurst in St Bartholomew the Great Church in Smithfield

The other photograph is of Defender 'showing off' her remarkably tight turning circle. Defender sails on October 19th and we wish her well in her role of defending our nation.



Three caps in the church for the installation



'Green Fingers' showing off their work

SURREY DOCK FARM NEWS

advice on farming matters. The Company also gives a cash award of £1,000 every year and this year it is earmarked towards the cost of the building a new pig house. On the personnel front Gemma Hooper has been promoted to Farm Manager with Claire continuing to be in charge of the animals.

Our friends at the farm are going from strength to strength with many regular activities running and a new major project costing £40,000 to refurbish the West side of site bordering the donkey, cow and pig areas is being developed which hopefully will get grant aid.

For many years our Company has supported the farm in both financial and practical ways. The current and very active contact is Liveryman Edward Hitchcock who supplies the farm with hay and straw and provides experienced

The farm held its Harvest Festival on a beautiful sunny Saturday, Sept 12th, and made a staggering profit of £4,500. The festival featured the Greenwich Morris Men and the creative London Vegetable Orchestra with unique instruments including a carrot recorder and a butternut squash and pepper trumpet. They quickly sold out all their farm produce including honey and beeswax candles made from their own hives. The farm runs regular 'clubs' for young children and adults with learning issues and here are three examples: Cow Pat started in 2004 as a response

to existing adult students with learning disabilities interested in working with the farm's animals. Training takes place in the main yard, fields, duck pond and indoor classroom. Students learn skills in animal husbandry, including feeding, animal care, grooming, incubation, birthing, mucking out and milking. This club runs every Saturday for 8 to 13 year olds, who live or go to school in the SE16 area. The Young Farmers Club is a fantastic opportunity to learn about working with animals and how to grow your own food. The Club is FREE to attend and members join the morning (10am-12:30pm)

Piglets club is a club for tiny farmers aged 2-5 to get involved with activities at the farm. Each month has a theme that meets the early years' curriculum through fun, adventurous, outdoor tasks. Themes so far have included 'Shapes in Nature' and where eggs come from.

This tiny oasis in Rotherhithe is a pleasure to visit and regularly sends out E-newsletters with news and information. Visit their website and ask to receive their newsletter at www.surreydocksfarm.org.uk

HighGround, helping servicemen into 'Civvi Street'

High Ground is a young charity formed to assist servicemen and women in the transition from military to civilian life through the provision of 'Rural Weeks' held at Plumpton College in Sussex and Horticultural Therapy at Headley Court in Surrey.

The transition from military to civilian life affects each individual in different ways and many people, even decades after leaving the safety, camaraderie and routine of the Forces, still don't consider themselves to be 'a civilian.' Forces people are often outdoor people and HighGround's vision is that Service Leavers, Reservists and Veterans should have the opportunity to experience new outdoor skills and opportunities which could lead to a career via work experience or training in a safe, supported environment. The charity's focus on the land-based sector struck a chord with the Court which has been wrestling with the question of which of the

myriad Service Charities we might support. HighGround embraces land management and production, animal health and welfare, and environmental activity. During a week at Plumpton, guided by subject matter experts, other service leavers and veterans, the attendees are introduced to all aspects of the College curriculum with practical demonstrations and plenty of 'hands on' opportunities with animals and equipment. On the September session two of the attendees were double amputees who had served in Afghanistan and both identified agricultural sectors to pursue where their disabilities would not matter. One of the attendees on the first session in July, a former Royal Engineer Neil Marshall, was enthused by the College's wine faculty and started a Principles of Vine Growing course in September, part funded by the Worshipful Company of Vintners.

Our own contacts with HighGround will be managed through the Affiliations

Committee, while applications for financial support will be considered by the Almoners Committee.



Neil Marshall, a sapper learning a new trade

Duchy Alumni visit to Romania



Greta Lupu and the Alumni

Eight members of the 2014 CRL cohort met in Bucharest in July for a reunion and farm tour. Our co-hosts were Greta Lupu and Tim Williams. Greta is a Romanian national and was Managing Director of Romanian farming company Agrinatura Group and Tim works in Eastern Europe with his international Agrimilk dairy consultancy.

There were 6 travellers from the UK and we spent a highly productive time on the flight catching up in the way only CRL alumni can, a mixture of personal and business conversation and analysis with the closest and most

trusted confidants one can have. I was truly impressed with Bucharest - wide open city boulevards, a smart lakeside promenade packed with well dressed locals, and a vibrant night life and cafe scene. The city felt safe, well cared for and offered us great entertainment away from the stresses of our daily businesses. No CRL trip would be complete without a trip around a farm or two, and so we enjoyed a good drive out into the countryside to visit Agroind, a typical Romanian dairy farm owned by Petrica Azoitei, the father of one of Greta's friends. We were impressed

with the newly constructed timber cattle shed, the quality of the milking parlour and the Romanian classical music being played to the cows. The farm had a good atmosphere and we spent time discussing the extreme contrasts within Romanian agriculture as well as within European agriculture. After a very generous lunch our group went on to a nearby vineyard for a tour of the cellars and to taste some pleasurable white wines. Our route back to the city was via Petrica's house to enjoy his gardens, his pride and joy, and sample his homemade and highly drinkable fruit brandy. Some of us were not entirely sure what happened after that but the generous hospitality was unforgettable.

On Sunday we toured the city by bus and then took a walking tour of Ceaucescu's palace - the sheer audacity of the edifice combined with Greta's first-hand account of the revolution left a lasting impression of the depth of the struggle and the value of the freedom hard won by our near neighbours. I am happy to report that our group enjoyed a truly memorable reunion weekend of enterprise and friendship. We would like to thank our hosts accordingly and very much look forward to our planned 2016 reunion in Scotland. Emily Norton

LAND AT WAR - An extract from the Master's Installation Speech.



Master Thomas in a formal pose

In 1945, the then Ministry of Information produced a booklet entitled "Land at War" - The Official story of British Farming 1939-1944.

With the onset of war and with the realisation that all the overseas foodstuffs which Britain, as a nation,

had previously relied on were no longer guaranteed, "once again we turned to the farmer for salvation". This booklet, referred to by the Master in his Installation lunch speech, tells the story of the immense work put in during those war years by farmers, by the County War Agricultural Executives and by the Women's Land Army; of the mechanisation that was new and so necessary; of the acres of ground that were newly ploughed; of the growing of crops in and among orchards, on playing fields and in gardens; of the reclamation of areas of bog, fen and moorland.

Towards the end of the booklet is the following passage: "The farmer must be judged, not by the look of him nor by the clothes he wears, but by the way he treats his land and keeps his stock. The British farmer

speaks well for Britain. Living as he does, he knows very well just what Britain means. But he expresses what he knows in farming, not in words.... Looking at the land, after six years of war, you knew what the farmer was thinking; you knew that he believed in himself and in this country. And you felt that this country was going to survive". Our country did survive, and it was out of one of the great agricultural organisations of the war, namely the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St John Appeal Organisation, that our own Livery emerged. Our farming industry today continues to speak well for Britain. We can be proud of a very noble and necessary profession and of the part that our Livery plays in it



The WCF's MBA Scholarship



executives from many of the world's leading companies, fast-growing small to medium-sized enterprises and not-for-profit organisations, students learn new ways to interpret and solve business challenges. There are options to study for the MBA on a full time basis, over 10 months, starting in September or part-time over a period of 22 months, starting in January and classes are taught at the Cranfield campus in Bedfordshire. A party from the Company visited in April and all were impressed at the first class

There has been brief mention of the transfer of the former Agri-Farm MBA scholarship to the Worshipful Company of Farmers but as we move to make our first award it is an opportune moment to expand upon this very significant addition to the Company's educational offering.

John Beckett, Liveryman and former chairman of Genus, established his original Agri-Farm Scholarship fund in 2005, motivated by his concern for the lack of business management skills evident in UK agriculture and farming. Commenting at the time, John said "I personally feel it's of utmost importance that any farmer-controlled business or cooperative has farmer directors equipped with astute business acumen." Ten years on, the ability to operate in the wider agri-business world, where higher level business skills and capabilities are common among managers, remains ever pertinent. Cranfield University was John's provider of choice and remains so under the Livery, due to its reputation as being one of the world's leading business schools. We recognise that a major advantage of studying for an MBA at a leading school is the opportunity to learn alongside people who have very different experiences and attitudes to farmers. Studying alongside junior

facilities offered by the university and the notable atmosphere of learning present throughout. The Company believes in the importance of having universal management skills in the agricultural sector and see this award as sitting well within the existing educational offering. It is not a course for everyone but for those determined to lead their businesses or bodies within our industry, such a qualification can provide invaluable skills. Perhaps the best advocates for the benefits of the course are the course alumni who have benefitted from the scholarship to date. On our visit to Cranfield, we met Frank Thorogood, who at 34 had taken time out of his professional life to participate in the full time course. Frank, a farmer's son from Essex, had built up several successful enterprises but when the opportunity arose to sell one of these, Frank reassessed his career and successfully applied to the one year course, with funding through the Agri-Farm Scholarship. It was a major commitment for Frank and his young family which entailed spending Monday to Friday at the university and commuting back to Essex at weekends.

Frank comments that "it was an amazing and intense experience, and one which will have a defining effect on the course of my future career. The year was full of challenge, learning and personal development; being removed from my comfort zone and developing strong bonds of shared experience with fellow students from across the globe is something I will never forget. The range of skills imparted by the MBA is huge. Aside from the core modules covering business techniques such as finance, marketing and economics, more personal attributes such as communication, strategic thinking and persuasion are constantly being tested and improved.

I have finished the course as a more confident, communicative and technically proficient person. I am now using skills and confidence gained on the course in my new role with Strutt and Parker, providing strategic advice to farmers and agri-business."

The Company looks forward to continuing this tradition of support for exceptional candidates to participate in the MBA course and will be looking for individuals who will repay the debt by taking every opportunity to raise the awareness of good management in agriculture. It is our intention that those participating will become ambassadors for a modern, well-managed agriculture industry that comprises highly productive and efficient farm enterprises operating on equal terms with other businesses in the supply chain. Details of the course and other course alumni will be available on the revised course website, accessed through a link on www.farmerslivery.co.uk. Please contact Liveryman Belinda Young with any queries: belinda@landpartners.co.uk



Frank Thorogood MBA at home

CHARITY CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

COLLEGE AWARDS

....We did it !!



Our lovely, refurbished, contemporary Hall is now completed and open for business. We had an official opening of the Hall by HRH Princess Anne on September 8th and are now beginning to attract bookings from other Liveries and interested organisations which will provide us with an income to sustain our charitable funds.

The Hall has been received with acclaim within the City by other Livery Companies and Corporate Bodies who will be our future clients. Whilst we could never hope to replicate the grandeur of the ancient livery Halls I congratulate all involved in the development for creating a wonderful modern Hall with the latest technology and much more space over two floors. The three serviced apartments above will provide us with a guaranteed annual income.

Past Master Baroness Byford launched our £1 million Appeal in May 2014 and I am pleased to say that when the Appeal closed on Sept 30th we had achieved our target. Of our 400 + Liverymen and Freemen 159 donated £541,000 which then attracted £95,000 of Gift Aid. Liveryman Helen Cossins agreed that the bequest from her late husband, Past Master John Cossins, should be added to the Fund, Past Master Richard

Brooks and Liveryman John Brooks donated £25,000 from the Attfield Brooks Fund, the Court donated £90,000 from the Corporate Account after an advantageous sale of shares and the original agreement with the developers gave us £245,000 towards infrastructure costs. Finally, the very successful Summer Ball organised by Assistant Karen Mercer and her team produced a profit of £19,000.

Livery Donations	£541,748
Gift Aid	£95,000
Cossins Bequest	£100,000
Attfield Brooks Fund	£25,000
Corporate Accts.	£90,000
Developers	£245,000
Summer Ball	£19,000
Grand Total	£1,114,748

May I extend heartfelt thanks to those of you who gave so generously, not only for the Hall refurbishment, but also to my earlier appeal for support when the Hall closed and we lost the very substantial source of revenue for two years.

Many Liverymen have expended a vast amount of time and energy planning and overseeing the development and we all owe them a debt of gratitude. Hopefully through your efforts and theirs, we have secured the future of our Company with a Hall to be proud of and one that will provide the income to sustain our educational and charitable endeavours for years to come.

Our programme of support continues to expand and I will continue to promote our charitable efforts especially encouraging members to remember the Livery in their wills.

Richard T Halhead FRAGS
Charity Co-ordinator

Recognition of Achievement in Education

Every year the Company gives cash awards to top students at twelve Agricultural Colleges. The winners are recommended by the Principals' at the Colleges and presented to them by a local Liveryman.



Past Master Baroness Byford presented the prize to Laurence Hayes at Moulton College.



Past Master Jeremy Courtney presented the award to Rob Westgate at Plumpton College.



Liveryman Rosie Carne, chairman of the Almoners Committee, presented the stunning WCF bronze trophy to Jessica Milner for being the best Agricultural Degree student.

ASSISTANTS, LIVERYMEN & FREEMEN

The following were clothed as Liverymen at the Court meeting on 9 June 2015:

Edward William Allen
Gerald Bonner
Andrew George Harry Dart
Col. David Edwin King OBE

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 9 June 2015:

Richard George Castelfranc Cheveley
 Proposed by A Q Hitchcock
 Seconded by T W Kemsley

Mrs Anne Pember
 Proposed by J F Thorpe
 Seconded by C M Rayner **Michael**

The following were made Freemen by Redemption at the Court meeting on 13 October 2015:

Rupert Donald Alston
 Proposed by A J Alston
 Seconded by G M Alston

Mary Isabel Jane Foster
 Proposed by A J Alston
 Seconded by G M Alston

Nicholas Charles Major
 Proposed by G J Dodgson
 Seconded by J K Reynolds

Benjamin Anthony Parker
 Proposed by D J Bright
 Seconded by S R Butcher

John Robert Ward
 Proposed by M C M Anyang
 Seconded by H D Wykes

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Liveryman Michael More-Molyneux DL
 appointed as Lord Lieutenant of Surrey
 from 23rd August 2015

DEATHS

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

Liveryman **Gervaise Aland Drake-Brockman** of the Mill House, Brockley Green, Hendon Sudbury, Suffolk who died on the 8th March 2015. Clothed on 22nd September 1980.

Yeoman **Harold John Augustus Armfield** of Cliff House, Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset who died on the 12th June 2015. He was clothed on the 1st December 1954.

Liveryman **Sir Richard Kennedy Harvey Gaskell** of Grove Farm, Yatton Keynall, Chippenham, Wilts who died on the 17th July 2015. He was clothed on the 5th March 2002.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This celebration, 16 page edition of the newsletter is my tenth but last as editor. The Spring 2016 edition will be edited by Liveryman Richard Davies whose E-mail is richard@redcomms3d.com Please continue to send stories and high resolution photographs to the editor in large numbers and many will be used on the website as well. Producing and distributing the newsletter costs some £2,000 a year and we are very interested to talk to anyone wishing to sponsor the work. Over and Out. John Evans.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015

Tuesday 8th December
 Court Meeting and Christmas Luncheon in Skinners' Hall 8 1/2 Dowgate Hill, EC4R 2SP

Tuesday 15th December
 Carol Service at Priory Church of St. Bartholomew The Great
 High Tea
 Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall

2016

Wednesday 20th January
 The Banquet in Clothworkers' Hall
 Mincing Lane EC3R 7AH

Tuesday 9th February
 Inter-Livery Pancake Race
 Guildhall Yard

Tuesday 16th February
 City Food Lecture at Guildhall

Tuesday 8th March
 Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon
 Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall

Friday 11th March
 United Guilds Service
 St. Paul's Cathedral
 Luncheon in Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall

Wednesday 13th April
 Agricultural Lecture & Dinner
 Merchant Taylors' Hall

Tuesday 7th June
 Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon
 Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall

**Monday & Tuesday
 13th & 14th June**
 Master's Summer Outing

Friday 24th June
 Election of Sheriffs and
 Luncheon Farmers' & Fletchers' Hall

Tuesday 29th September
 Election of Lord Mayor &
 Luncheon in Farmers' & Fletchers'
 Hall

Tuesday 11th October
 Court Meeting, Harvest
 Thanksgiving and Installation at
 St Bartholomew the Great, Livery
 Luncheon at Haberdashers' Hall