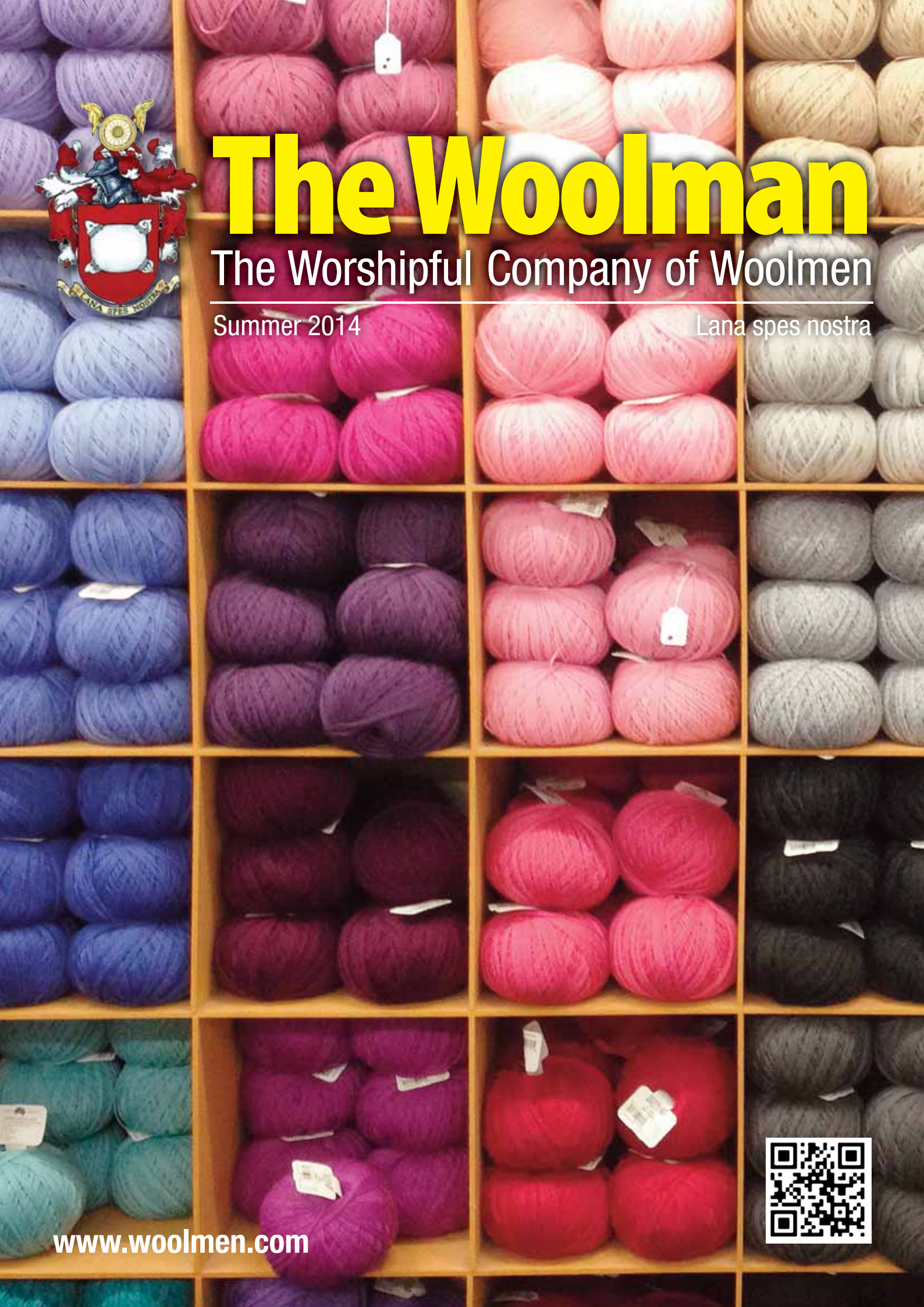


The Woolman

The Worshipful Company of Woolmen

Summer 2014

Lana spes nostra

www.woolmen.com

Programme of Events 2014-15

Ulster Show
Wed 14th – Fri 16th May

Royal Highland Show
Thur 19th –
Sun 22nd June

Master's weekend
Somerset 19th/21st September

Civic Dinner
Painters' Hall
Thursday 23rd October

Bath and West Show
Wed 28th – Sat 31st May

Summer Banquet
HQS Wellington
1st July

Election of Lord Mayor
Guildhall and Painters Hall
29th September

Past Masters' Lunch
Army and Navy Club
3rd June

Great Yorkshire Show
Tue 8th – Thur 10th July

Alms Court Dinner
Saddlers Hall
14th January 2015

Apologies, this date was given incorrectly last issue; the above date is the correct one

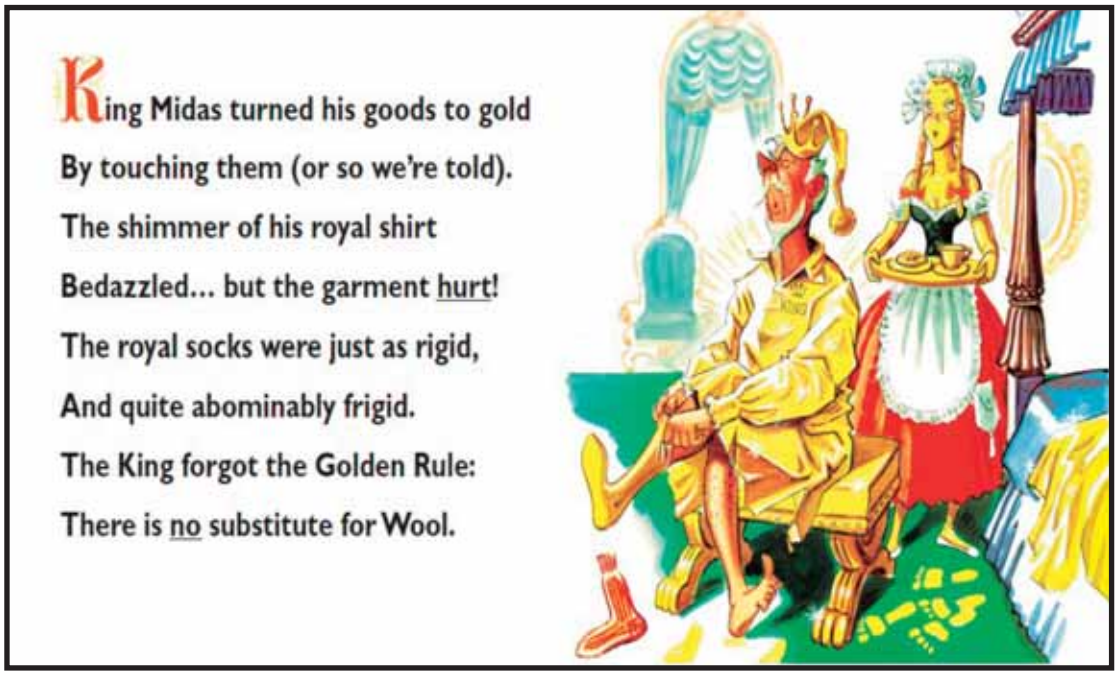
North South Golf Match
16/17th June

Royal Welsh Show
Mon 21st - Thur 24th July

Woolmen's Lunch
Tuesday 22nd July

Installation Dinner
29th April 2015

Your perfect opportunity to advertise to those with influence within the City.
Call Howard Venters on 07971 792449 or Liz Venters on 01684 565533.
Email: info@shepherd publishing.co.uk



There is no substitute for wool...

We are delighted to implement the idea of Past Master Richard Proctor to serialise the cartoons and poems from the book he produced *There Is No Substitute For Wool*, with acknowledgement and thanks to The Woolmark Company who retain the copyright ownership of the poems. If you can't wait for the next instalment of these amusing advertisements, you can contact the Clerk to purchase your own copy of the collection.

With acknowledgement and thanks to The Woolmark Company who retain the copyright ownership of the poem

This year has already been, and will continue to be an interesting one for the Worshipful Company of Woolmen.

Court Assistant Howard Venters, Publisher

Many initiatives are continuing to progress well and we will have another busy year. The recent Installation of the new Master brings with it the announcement of a major and very important development within the City and wool industry in the form of the City Wool Project. The hard work of the immediate Past Master included the organisation of the hugely successful Sheep Drive over London Bridge and I look forward to helping with this again this year – please note the date of 5th October. On the military side of things we continue to maintain much closer links with the Queen's Own Yeomanry and our congratulations go to 'D' Squadron who won this year's trophy, awarded at the installation dinner. A visit is planned to the QOY later in the year. We continue to develop our relationship with 131 Commando RE and the Past Master and I enjoyed a full day's hospitality when we visited RAF Brize Norton in March. Another important affiliation is now firmly in place and we will soon be announcing some exciting opportunities involving the RAF. The Livery Committee also remains busy organising a number of events including a visit to the Royal Welsh in July and more social events are in the final stages of planning. *The Woolman* continues to grow in content, profile and frequency which I am now pleased to publish three times per annum with the invaluable assistance of Bill and Jean Skidmore and my personal congratulations to Bill for being presented with the Silver Woolsack at the Installation Dinner.

I am always pleased to receive ideas and suggestions on any of the above and should you wish to, please feel free to forward them to me at howard.venters@gmail.com or give me a call.

I am afraid this editorial has had to be changed slightly after receiving a very delightful surprise at our Installation Dinner. The outgoing Master, Bill Clark, awarded me the Silver Woolsack. It is awarded to the Liveryman who has done most for the Company in the preceding twelve months and I am very honoured to receive it. The Woolsack was given to the Livery by our Past Master, Mrs Elizabeth Peacock and it has special significance to me as Elizabeth introduced me to the Woolmen.

Liveryman Bill Skidmore, Content Supervisor

When I was being admitted as a Freeman by our Clerk, Mrs Gillian Wilson, I said then, I wanted to promote the textile industry and wool in particular, which I have been doing for over half a century in many areas. All the three afore-mentioned people have supported me, especially during my time working with *The Woolman* Magazine, for which I thank them.

I have enjoyed working alongside Gill; Jean and I will miss her very much when her duties as Clerk come to an end (she continues as CWP Development Officer), but we are delighted to hear about her new role and congratulate her on the award of Honorary Liveryman.

I would also like to congratulate our new Master, Richard Excell. The new initiatives and strategic partners related to the City Wool Project are going to move the Worshipful Company of Woolmen up a gear. I am sure our new Partners will make a significant contribution to this publication in the future.

Within this issue you will read about the Livery Schools Link Showcase event. This gave the Livery the ideal opportunity to introduce teenagers to the range of skills involved in the industry, which they may wish to investigate further, in relation to education and employment. Contact was also made with teaching staff and careers officers who showed an interest in people going into the schools to discuss work opportunities in more detail. If only one young person was inspired to learn more, our objectives have been accomplished. Unfortunately, the breadth of the industry is so wide it was difficult to cover all aspects. The article on A W Hainsworth gives just a glimpse of what one of many companies in the industry is currently achieving.

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New Master's Report

I am deeply honoured that I have been elected as your Master for the coming year. I follow the very high standards set by Bill Clark who was so well supported by Janet. I can only say - I will do my best! Bill has left the Company in good heart and with a very full list of activities for me to continue and for all of us to enjoy! I am most grateful to Bill for volunteering, after last year's success, to again mastermind this year's Sheep Drive, with Court Assistant Howard Venters, on October 5th. Last year's event was a truly fun day and I hope you can support this great City event again. Please put the date in the diary!

We have a strong, long term strategy that ensures continuity that embraces our Industry, the City, our military affiliation, our heritage and educational charity.

Each Master brings their own area of focus and mine will be to build on our special position as the Champion for Wool in the City. The Global Wool Industry is worth US$80Bn at retail and involves thousands of companies and countless employees around the world along the pipeline from the farm to the consumer. We are fortunate to be in such a unique position for a Livery Company to have such a dynamic large global industry with such an enduring special product and with our wonderful history!

My main area of focus this year is to lead the development of the City Wool Project (CWP) which was launched at our Installation Dinner following an 18 month Feasibility Study. It will provide a new and unique commercial opportunity for many of us in the Livery to use our varied professional skills, our business networks and family connections.

Our Company will work closely with three of the most important Wool Organisations. They are The British Wool Marketing Board, The Australian owned Woolmark Company and the Campaign for Wool which has HRH the Prince of Wales as its Patron and focusses on global consumer wool promotion. In a unique decision in our 800 year old history we have invited them to become Strategic Partners as part of CWP and they will attend three of our dinners with their guests. I am sure you will make them most welcome.

Each of these Organisations has a substantial global network of corporate members, licencees and client companies. Their prestigious membership stretches from multi nationals to high profile designers to entrepreneurs and start-ups. These businesses require continuous easy access to the skills of a full range of Financial and Professional Services and experience at every level in their companies. Through CWP we hope to assist in the making of those introductions to them that will help improve the competitiveness of our fibre versus the alternatives. I should be clear that the Company is not becoming involved through the CWP in the financial services sector. CWP will simply allow connections to be made between the wool industry and independent business and professional advisers. What happens after that is not something in which the Company has any interest or stake.

The Court has appointed a City Wool Advisory Board (CWAB) consisting of: - The Master (Chairman), Court Assistant Peter Ackroyd (Deputy Chairman), the Upper and Lower Wardens, Past Master Simon Bailey and Alderman Sir David Wootton.

You will read elsewhere about the

Photo: Gerald Sharp

retirement of our Learned Clerk but I am delighted to announce that Gill will be taking up the post of City Wool Development Officer once her successor has been appointed.

The City Wool Advisory Board would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to become involved in the network and use your business skills and contacts. It promises to be interesting and rewarding! Please contact me by letter, phone or email (richardexcell @btconnect.com.)

We have a very full year of exciting events organised by the Livery Committee and Carolyn and I look forward to seeing you during the year. ■

> Each Master brings their own area of focus and mine will be to build on our special position as the Champion for Wool in the City.

Exciting times at RAF Brize Norton

In March the immediate Past Master and I were invited to visit Group Captain Eddie Cole and his team at RAF Brize Norton as a result of the recent development of an exciting new affiliation with the RAF. I wish to record our thanks to Air Commodore Stephen Skinner, Secretary of the Farmers Club, Whitehall for his kind help and assistance in progressing this extremely harmonious new relationship. An action-packed day involved an introduction to the new Voyager, a guided maintenance tour of the huge C-17 transport, weapons and abseiling demonstrations, exploratory discussions over lunch in the Officers Mess culminating with Bill and I attempting to fly a C-130 Hercules under the Severn Bridge in their multi-million pound flight simulator. The results of that particular endeavour will be revealed in a full report within the next issue of *The Woolman* together with details of up and coming events planned with the RAF. Watch this space … ■

Howard Venters
Military Liaison

Bill Clark and Howard Venters 'earning their wings' on the flight deck of the new Voyager

Howard Venters landing a C-130 Hercules at Camp Bastion

Installation Service and Dinner

The Church of St Michael's, Cornhill, provided a fitting setting for the Installation of our new Master. Although a church has stood on this site since 1133, as with most buildings in the City, it was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666, and the present building was begun in 1672. The design is traditionally attributed to Sir Christopher Wren. In the late 1850s, the Drapers Company, (*motivated by legislation that would have forced them to hand certain funds over to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners if they were not spent on St Michael's*), decided to fund a lavish scheme of embellishment. Among many alterations, an elaborate stone reredos, incorporating paintings of Moses and Aaron, was constructed in an Italian Gothic style. The lower chancel walls were lined with panels of coloured marble and richly painted above. Stained glass was installed, including a representation of Christ in Glory in the large circular east window. Further work was carried out in the late 1860's with richly painted decoration to Wren's columns and capitals. In 1960 the Victorian polychrome paintwork was replaced with a more restrained colour scheme of blue, gold and white.

After the Installation of the new Master- Richard Excell, Upper Warden- John Brewer and Under Warden- Deputy Kenneth Ayers MBE, the choir began the service with Vivaldi's 'Gloria in Excelsis Deo'. Readings were made by the Master and the Upper Warden and several hymns were sung including 'Love Divine' and 'Now Thank We All Our God'. We were then addressed by the Honorary Chaplain who reminded the congregation of the historic importance of wool to the country and to our language. The Choir sang 'Nimrod' from Elgar's 'Enigma Variations' and also 'Zadok the Priest' by Handel. The service ended on a rousing rendition of 'Jerusalem'.

The fact that it was St Georges Day was marked by red roses for everyone and the tables in Carpenters' Hall decorated in red and white. An excellent dinner followed, after which we were entertained by students from the Guildhall School of Music with several very rousing and patriotic pieces including 'When Britain Really Ruled the Waves' from Iolanthe, 'Hearts of Oak' and 'Rule Britannia'. Speeches and presentations followed. We were informed that three new Court Assistants had been elected: - Sir David Wootton, Howard Venters and Andrew Dawson. The Master made a presentation to the Winning Squadron from the Queen's Own Yeomanry, on this occasion 'D Squadron, The Northumbrian', based in Newcastle but who have recently been in Afghanistan.

Sir David Wootton, who proposed the toast to the guests, said the good thing about the Woolmen Company is that it is less London-centric than other Livery companies. He welcomed all the guests, but in particular those from our new Strategic Partners, The British Wool Marketing Board, Australian Woolmark Company and the Campaign for Wool. The Lord Cameron of Dillington responded and proposed the toast to the Company.

The Master then announced the inauguration of the City Wool Project, (CWP), of which more details are to be sent to Liverymen in the near future; there will also be information on the website. He also announced the retirement of our Clerk, Mrs. Gill Wilson, though on a happier note, advised us that after the appointment of a new full time Clerk at the end of the year, Gill will be taking up the post of CWP Development Officer, so we will not be totally deprived of her company. In recognition of her sterling and unstinting service to the Livery she was made an Honorary Woolman. There is also to be a new level of membership, that of Journeyman for those up to the age of 30. ■

Jean Skidmore

Upper Warden John Brewer Master Richard Excell Under Warden Deputy Kenneth Ayers

Not with a Whimper but with a Bang!

> A fascinating talk from the Master about Liveries in general and ours in particular; the oldest, the most maverick, the most awkward, the most special, the most fun.

There are many ways for a Master to finish his year of office, but one of the best must surely be to come to Worstedopolis, (Bradford); to come to the British Wool Marketing Board; to come to a new member drive.

Woolmen and their guests spent a fascinating evening learning more about the Wool Board. They learnt that it is the last Agricultural Commodity Cooperative left in Europe, (remember the Milk Marketing Board?), and that it was established by statute in 1950. If you have more than 4 sheep you are supposed to ship your "clip" to the Wool Board for them to sell; 50,000 producers (sheep farmers) do just that every year.

A demonstration of grading followed … a skill which takes 5 years to learn … as there are 120 native British sheep … and wool comes in different purities and qualities. This was followed by a demonstration of the Auction system. There are 22 Auctions in the "clip year" (essentially July to May), however the Board doesn't buy the wool; it only sells it on behalf of the producers. The wool price is not bad at the moment with an average kilo price of £1.20 which hides a range of 10p to £3.20. It costs 65p per kilo, (approximately £1.30 to shear a sheep), so at the moment it is worth being a wool grower!

Then our prospective new members heard a fascinating talk from the Master about Liveries in general and ours in particular; the oldest, the most maverick, the most awkward, the most special, the most fun.

I know 2 of my prospects are going to come to the Summer Banquet and I'm sure other prospects were equally impressed!

The evening was rounded off with some highly civilised drinks and canapés and a good time was had by all … so many thanks to Robert Allen for organising, the Master for presenting and the Wool Board for hosting. ■

Judith Donovan CBE

Photographs: Jean Skidmore

Master's End of Year Report

Janet and I have had a fantastic year representing the Company in the City of London and Edinburgh, Harrogate, Belfast, Londonderry, Magherafelt, Bath, Builth Wells, Exeter, Bradford, and RAF Brize Norton.

I would like to thank the Court and Livery for supporting me throughout the year and moving forward a number of initiatives over the last twelve months. We have developed our military affiliations, The Woolmen magazine has gone from strength to strength and the website and the Facebook page are working very well. The two new events (the Past Masters' lunch and Janet's tea in the crypt of St Paul's) were very successful and enjoyable. I was delighted that the Band of the Corps of Royal Engineers was able to entertain us outside Trinity House before the Summer Banquet in July and create a bit of a stir in the City. The Master's weekend in Monmouthshire was well attended and great fun. We held the sheep drive in September and arranged for 600 Freemen, family and friends to drive their sheep across London Bridge, followed by the most extraordinary press coverage – this is quite likely to become an annual event to the great benefit of the Lord Mayor's Appeal and our own trust. We provided a Woolmen's stand at the Livery Schools Link showcase event at Apothecaries Hall in March and many of the school visitors said we had the most interesting display of the 30 companies there. We have updated our Ordinances and presented sheep shears to the Chamberlain. Measures are in place to write a new History of the Company with the aid of a researcher and the memories of Past Masters, and HRH The Princess Royal has agreed to write the foreword. We are about to introduce a new grade of Journeyman for young people interested in the Livery, which may be very pertinent if we continue to move closer to the Society of Young Freemen of the City of London, who gave me the honour of making me an ex officio Honorary Freemen of their Society last month.

Some excerpts from my blog on the Woolmen's website and Facebook page: 10th December – the New Year Service at St Michael's, Cornhill … 17th January – drove up to Yorkshire for dinner with the Fellmongers of Richmond … 22nd January – Gill and I attended the service to commemorate the 650th Anniversary of the granting of a Royal Charter to the Draper's Company by Edward III at St Paul's … 27th January – Gill and I attended the Founders' Court Dinner … 29th January – I went to the Royal Agricultural University Cirencester for their sponsors' dinner and met Rob Hodgkins, who we are supporting on the Advanced Agricultural Business Management course….30th January – a Court Lunch with the Salters in Girdlers' Hall.

19th February – dinner to celebrate the presentation of a Royal Charter to the Honourable Company of Air Pilots (formerly the Guild of Air Pilots and Navigators) by the Duke of Edinburgh.

3rd March – at the Old Bailey for a reception and "Trial and Error", a series of sketches about life in the courtroom performed by judges, QCs, various barristers and solicitors…4th March – luncheon with the Spectaclemakers' at Apothecaries Hall. … That evening I went to dinner with the Saddlers…11th March – Janet and I dined with the Joiners and Ceilers' at Plaisterers' Hall. Jimmy Perry, script writer for such TV favourites as It Ain't Half Hot Mum, Dad's Army, Hi-De-Hi, etc was the principal guest and spoke very well, as did their Master, Tony Bown….13th March – reception for the Reserve Forces and Cadets in Greater London at Yeomanry House, followed by a curry supper … 18th March – the Livery Schools Link showcase event at Apothecaries Hall. More about this elsewhere. … 19th March – Howard Venters and I visited RAF Brize Norton to further our affiliation with the station … 21st March – Chris Dancaster arranged an informal curry lunch on board HQS Wellington for about 30 of us… 27th March – dinner with the Wheelwrights in Cutlers' Hall as a guest of Past Master Richard Proctor (Past Master of both the Woolmen and the Wheelwrights) … 31st March –

> Janet and I would like to wish Richard and Carolyn Excell all the very best for their forthcoming year, and we hope they enjoy their time as much as we

meetings in London and Janet and I attended the Solicitors' Banquet in Mansions House as guests of Alderman Vincent Keaveny and his wife Amanda (Vincent is the Senior Warden, due to move into the chair in June, and the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE is the Junior Warden). The principal guest and speaker was The Right Honourable Lord Thomas – the Lord Chief Justice of England Wales. He spoke very well, but so did Vincent who proposed the toast to the guests.

3rd April – the Lord Mayor's Banquet in Mansion House with Janet… 4th April – our Beadle, Ernie Brocklehurst, arranged for us to present a pair of sheep shears to the Chamberlain Chris Bilsland and he presented us with our new Ordinances for the Company. Then to St Paul's Cathedral for the United Guilds Service, and a new anthem specially commissioned by the Founders' Company to mark the 400th anniversary of the granting of their Royal Charter in 1614. Then on to a jolly lunch at Stationers' Hall on the Woolmen's table. ..10th April – the Army Benevolent Fund (The Soldiers Charity) reception and curry lunch at the Guildhall with Court Assistant Chris Thierry; I was presented to HRH The Duke of Gloucester … 11th April – dinner with the Incorporation of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen of Exeter in Tuckers Hall (an amazing building dating from 1471) and I replied to the toast to the guests…. 15th April – breakfast with the Guildable Manor of Southwark in Borough Market with Terry Waite CBE as the president of YCARE International. He spoke very movingly about some of his experiences in captivity and those of others, as well as describing the work of the charity … To Bradford that evening where Court Assistant Robert Allan laid on a splendid event at the British Wool Marketing Board premises and a most interesting tour of the premises which included the grading process and the auction room … 16th April – back to London for lunch with the Water Conservators in Cutlers' Hall. The Master, Ivor Richards OBE, was introduced by his Beadle in Welsh, and there was a strong Welsh influence on the menu – Pwllheli smoked mackerel, laverbread quiche tart, Welsh black beef, Welsh Amber pudding and Penderyn Malt Whiskey.

And then on 23rd April my final duties as Master were to preside at the Court meeting in Carpenters' Hall and lead the procession across to St Michael's Cornhill for the installation of the Master Elect, Richard Excell. Janet and I would like to wish Richard and Carolyn Excell all the very best for their forthcoming year, and we hope they enjoy their time as much as we have enjoyed ours. ■

As many will know our long serving and popular Clerk, Gill Wilson, leaves her post at the end of this year and moves on to have more time available to spend with her husband Steve. However Gill will remain heavily involved with the Woolman's Company as she takes on responsibility for coordinating the recently announced City Wool Project as CWP Development Officer. For her services to the Company over almost ten years, Gill was made an honorary Liveryman at the Court meeting in April.

Our Clerk Gill Wilson with husband Steve

Publications
available from The Clerk

A Short History of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen
by Gordon Huelin PhD FSA

The Woolmen's Tale
by David Buirski

"There Is No Substitute For…"
by Past Master Richard Proctor

A Layman's Commentary on The Register of Freedom Admissions of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen
by Lt Col (retd) WJH Clark

Woolmen's Umbrellas, Scarves and Ties

The Clerk has a stock of Woolman's umbrellas, scarves and ties for sale.

Woolmen's Scarves	£30
Woolmen's Umbrellas	£25
Woolmen's Ties	£30
Ladies silk scarves	£20
Silk bow ties	£15

Please make cheques payable to the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, and arrange collection with the Clerk from Painters' Hall; this is best achieved at the Installation Dinner. Telephone the Clerk for details: 01525 270116

The Chief Commoner

Ken Ayers MBE KStJ Deputy was appointed Chief Commoner for the City of London in 2011 and took up the post in April 2012.

The Chief Commoner is the Leader of the Court of Common Council. The Court of Common Council is the City of London's primary decision-making body, and meets nine times a year. It works through committees, like many other local authorities, but it is unique in that it is non-party political. Its main business focuses on the reports of committees, motions and Members' questions. There are100 Common Councilmen and 25 Aldermen representing the 25 Wards of the City of London. Each Ward elects between 2 and 10 Common Councilmen, depending on the size of the electorate. The Common Councilmen are elected every 4 years and the next elections will be held in March 2017. Candidates must be 21 or over and a British, Commonwealth or European Union citizen. They must also be registered to vote on the City of London Ward Lists; or own freehold or leasehold in the City of London; or have resided in the City of London for 12 months prior to the nomination date.

Ken Ayers

Year in office

During Ken's year as Chief Commoner he had the good fortune to be in post for the Diamond Jubilee, the Olympics, the Paralympics and Baroness Thatcher's funeral, in all of which he played a part. He found the job fascinating, unending, incredibly tiring and requiring a hands-on approach. During the Olympics he was hosting an overseas visitor in the velodrome when Chris Hoy won his gold medal – which created a fantastic atmosphere, and a lot of noise. When the Corporation suggested that the Freedom of the City should be offered to all the medal winners connected to London, he supported the idea and now there is a hall of fame of the Olympics on the Freedom Rolls. During the Jubilee celebrations Ken, and his wife, Anne, greeted 47 members of the Royal Family as they arrived at Guildhall following the service in St Paul's Cathedral.

Ken became an actuary, reputedly without knowing what one did, but this did not hold him back from fashioning a successful career in the business. He has witnessed and taken part in many changes in the actuarial and stock broking professions and clearly understood the mechanics of the industry, although he modestly insists that his successes were down to good luck rather than judgement. His comments on the recent financial crisis have underlined the uncharted territory in which the City found itself, and in a situation where even the best brains were calling the wrong shots; but important lessons have been learned.

In 1979 he was a founder member of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries and is on their Court as a Past Master. He was the non Aldermanic Sheriff of the City of London in 1995/96, with Sir Peter (now Lord) Levene as Aldermanic Sheriff. Now he has stepped down from his role as Chief Commoner, there is no evidence that he is going to take things easy. He remains the Deputy for the City Ward of Bassishaw and he has accepted a place on the Court of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen as a Court Assistant and is due to be installed as Under Warden on 23rd April 2014. He has no plans to retire! ■

> He found the job fascinating, unending, incredibly tiring and requiring a hands-on approach.

United Guilds' Service

The 72nd United Guilds' Service took place on the morning of Friday 4th April in St Paul's Cathedral. The representatives of the Livery Companies and their spouses and guests gathered together in force, and the Woolmen's row was gratifyingly full. The Master's Lady had her usual seat under the dome of the cathedral where she could appreciate the best of the music and see everything that was going on. The usual grand procession of 22 Masters, the City Officers, the Sheriffs, and the Court of Aldermen preceded the fanfare as the Lord Mayor arrived. The congregation raised the rafters with the opening hymn – John Bunyan's 'To be a Pilgrim' – and the full congregation ensured that the prayers and responses were echoed round the walls. The first lesson was from the first book of Samuel chapter 16, about how Samuel chose Jesse's youngest son, David, to be King before the older, better looking brothers. This was followed by another rousing hymn –' Be Thou My Vision'. The choir sang a new anthem, specially commissioned by the Founders' Company to mark the 400th anniversary of the granting of their Royal Charter in 1614, called 'God The Only Founder', (which is also their motto). The Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf, read the second lesson from John chapter 7, reminding us that Jesus said "Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgement". 'All People That On Earth Do Dwell' was followed by prayers and another anthem; and then the Dean of St Paul's preached a stirring sermon on the same theme about the difference between appearances and the substance of people.

Two more rousing hymns, prayers and the National Anthem and we were watching the processions out of the cathedral, and we were in the crowds making our way to our various lunch venues. The Woolmen went to Stationers' Hall where 22 Woolmen had a very jolly party among 260 Liverymen. We heard some eloquent speeches, enjoyed a pleasant lunch, renewed old acquaintances and made new ones. ■

Livery Schools Link Showcase Event

On 18th March in the Apothecaries' Hall on Black Friars Lane The Worshipful Company of Woolmen participated in the Livery Schools Link's Showcase Event, in which Livery Companies and schools are brought together to enthuse Britain's next generation with the range of exciting career opportunities represented by the Companies involved. Trades and skills were demonstrated by over 30 Livery Companies to an audience of over 400 secondary school students! Schools from across London brought students to enjoy the benefits of a small-scale careers event; hoping to open their minds to possible careers which they may not have considered previously, through meeting the passionate trade ambassadors of the Livery Companies in person and getting to try their hand at some of the skills involved. These students will soon be choosing their GCSE options; this is therefore likely to be the first time they will be really asking themselves "What and who do I want to be in the future?" Hopefully, the Woolmen and other Livery Companies involved helped with that.

The Livery Schools Link encourages schools to develop closer links with Livery Companies to increase collaboration and educational support. With an increasing focus on the proficiency of the UK education system, (whichever side of Michael Gove's fence you sit on), and an on-going concern expressed at the lack of trade skills and knowledge in the UK's younger generations, this relationship has never been more important to nurture. We must inspire these younger generations to embrace the valuable trade skills, and acknowledge their value themselves – through a thorough understanding of the history, but also the skills' place in the modern world - to then pass this on to future generations.

For The Worshipful Company of Woolmen stand, time was spent sourcing different displays of wool fibre: different micron, different stages of processing, British wool, Australian Merino wool; and a wide variety of wool products to highlight wool's versatility: from carpet wools and Camira Fabrics' London underground seating fabric; through to luxurious worsteds and ultra-lightweight wool chiffon (which prompted several comments of "I can't believe that's wool!"). The power of tactility is never to be underestimated. Asking the students – and tutors – to feel the greasy raw wool tops, then onto the scoured wool, carbonised wool and finally the combed wool tops elicited the same reaction each time – hesitation, and slight displeasure at the lanolin smell with the initial greasy sample, yet upon feeling the processed wool top they were mesmerised and surprised by how soft it was. In fact several students asked for small samples to take away with them.

Examples of fashion magazine spreads showcasing designer wool garments from recent campaign shoots in partnership with Vogue and GQ, provided by The Woolmark Company, sought to further contextualise the story we were telling – ensuring the message of fibre to fashion, sheep to shop, gate to garment, (ram to retailer?! … I digress), effectively communicated wool's place in the

> One hopes this means we are effectively correcting this knowledge gap and will have gained some young ambassadors for our worthy wool cause.

contemporary industry. We spoke to them about the process designers go through to source fabrics, create garments and finally to promote their wool products; speaking of wool's many natural performance benefits in fashion, such as excellent drape, breathability, temperature regulation, odour resistance and more!

Central to getting the students involved and engaged with a hands-on activity was a small hand weaving loom which Jean and Bill Skidmore demonstrated enthusiastically, to much intrigue. It is sadly a truth that not many of the students in attendance are likely to have realised, or even been prompted to consider, prior to this event, how the fabric their clothes are made from comes to be, what its story is beyond being 'fashion'.

Additionally, a hand held digital microscope showed wool fabrics as they had never seen them before, enlarged on the computer screen. Many were amazed to see not only the differences in the fabrics on display, but went on to compare them with their own hair and the clothes they were wearing! As Bill Skidmore mentioned in the Spring 2014 edition of *The Woolman*, many people see these commodities in store and in situ without a thought towards their manufacturers, the manufacturing process, the content materials or the supply chain. Without highlighting the many skills involved in these areas of production, how will students realise the opportunities that are out there for them to pursue? Feedback was that our stand was one of the favourites of the attending students and tutors alike! Indeed, Livery members from other companies came through at one point to discover what was keeping the students held up. One hopes this means we are effectively correcting this knowledge gap and will have gained some young ambassadors for our worthy wool cause. **SJ**

Thanks must go to the manufacturers who supplied samples: Haworth Scouring, Camira Fabrics, Westex Carpets and the London Cloth Company; also to Woolmark International and, Salina Jansen and Sixtine Serre who very ably assisted with both the display and with interaction with the students. **Bill Skidmore**

New Liverymen

Rt Rev Peter Hullah

Stephen Woolman

Kim Gillespie-Franklin

John Payne

The Rt Revd Peter Hullah was born in Bradford; the son of a wool textile chemist at Woolcombers Ltd. Peter is a Yorkshireman at heart.

After school at Lady Royd, Thornville and Bradford Grammar School, he went to Kings College, London and Makerere University, Kampala. He trained to become a teacher and chaplain, beginning his career at St Edwards Oxford. After teaching at Sevenoaks School and The King's School, Canterbury, Peter returned to the north as Head of Chethams School of Music.

When Peter was then consecrated a Bishop in the Salisbury Diocese, he was given his shepherd's crook by farming friends from Lupton in Cumbria, his "home" throughout his teaching career.

In 2005, he became Principal of Northampton Academy leading two state schools to form a new independent Academy. In retirement he divides his time between London and Cumbria. He assists the National Society of the Church of England as new Academies models develop across country and he is also a member of the clergy team at St Martin in the Fields. Peter and his wife Penny support the education of disadvantaged and displaced women in Sudan and South Sudan, leading a small charity, Women's Education Partnership.

Both Peter's children are Doctors. Daniel holds chemistry doctorate and works as a venture capitalist in Boston, Mass and Esther, a medical doctor, works in oral medicine at Guy's Hospital in London.

Peter is keen to involve liverymen in helping students in challenging schools. He also hopes to encourage our Huddersfield students in their work with wool and Penny, a former headmistress, is a keen knitter who works in a local wool shop, she understands well the importance of "knowing your wool".

The Hon Lord Stephen Woolman has been a judge in the Court of Session since 2008. He was born in Edinburgh in 1953, but two years later his family emigrated to Adelaide, Australia. They returned in 1960 and he attended George Heriot's school before studying law at Aberdeen University. Stephen was a lecturer at the University of Edinburgh between 1978 and 1987, when he published a short work on contract law.

In 1987 Stephen became an advocate (the Scottish equivalent of a barrister). During the course of his career at the bar, Stephen served as standing junior counsel to a number of government departments, including the Inland Revenue. Shortly after taking silk in 1998, he prosecuted in the High Court for three years.

Between 2004 and 2008, he was the Keeper of the Advocates Library and a trustee of the National Library of Scotland. Currently, he is the Vice-Chairman of the Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Stephen's wife Helen has recently retired as a doctor. They married in 1977 and have two daughters. Stephen is delighted to have joined his namesake company.

Kim Gillespie-Franklin was born in South-Western Queensland and brought up on a sheep and cattle station where they ran approximately 18,000 sheep and 3,000 head of cattle so feels it is an honour and a privilege to be associated with the Worshipful Company of Woolmen in the City of London.

She came to live in the UK in late 1988 with her husband John and began their lives over here up in Sedbergh in Cumbria. Apart from five and half years back in Adelaide in the early 1990s, they have been here ever since. Kim is a teacher of English and has taught at Marlborough College and Ardingly College; she is currently teaching at Christ's Hospital in Sussex, a school with a long and valued association with the City of London and where her husband is Headmaster.

They became British citizens in 2006. She enjoys reading, going to the theatre, gardening, walking and travelling.

John Payne lives and works with his partner Elizabeth in the City of Coventry where he was born and educated.

He served as a trainee in 1987 for a firm of estate agents & chartered surveyors within Coventry & Warwickshire. After qualifying he became a member of the National Association of Estate Agents. After 15 years' service to the Association, he was then elected Chairman in 2000. He has his own firm of estate agents, chartered surveyors, and property management, with 4 offices within Coventry,

and employs 28 members of staff.

John was Chairman of Coventry No. 23 Round Table in 2002, Area 45 Chairman in 2007, and after serving over 6 years on the National Board, was elected National President of The National Association of Round Tables Great Britain & Ireland in 2012, and represented the Association at over 164 events, within the United Kingdom and across the world.

During his year he raised in excess of £90,000 for his chosen charity, Round Table Children's Wish, of which he has just become a trustee. He is also a trustee for the NSPCC and a local Coventry charity, Coventry Crossroads.

John is a keen sportsman, regular golfer at Coventry Golf Club, a member at both Coventry & Kenilworth Rugby Clubs, and loves to sail in the summer and ski in the winter.

Major Thomas CA Barker was born in Westow, North Yorkshire into a farming family. He joined the Junior Leader Regiment, Royal Armoured Corps Army at 15 years old. In adult service he steadily worked his way up through the ranks achieving his Queen's Commission and then the rank of Major. He has served in the 13/18 Royal Hussars, Queen's Royal Hussars, The Household Cavalry Regiment and a reserve regiment The Queen's Own Yeomanry (QOY). He has served in many countries on operations including Northern Ireland, Germany, Canada, UN duties, Iraq and Afghanistan.

He is the Quartermaster Technical to the Defence School of Transport where his department oversees the driver training fleet in excess of 1,000 vehicles both armoured (Mastiff, Husky, Jackal etc.) and logistic transport vehicles (MAN trucks; 6, 9, 15 Tonne). In his Army Reserve post he is the Second in Command to the QOY. During his military service he has ridden horses, crewed tanks, armoured cars and flown Helicopters. He has lived in a variety of buildings and on occasions experienced some angry neighbours who tried to shoot or blow him and his colleagues up. He would do it all again if given the chance!

He is married to Wendy with two sons Richard and Luke. He enjoys horse riding, Polo, hockey, skiing and taking his 2 Labradors walking.

Keith Marchington was born in the village of King's Sutton in Northamptonshire. He became a member of the choir of the village church at the tender age of 8 and has been in choirs ever since. He attended Magdalen College School in Brackley, Northants before going to Leicester where he gained a Computer Science degree, and met his wife Dianne. He played many sports (soccer, rugby, tennis and table tennis) at a competitive level in his youth. He has lived in Warwickshire since 1979; has a son and a daughter, 2 granddaughters with a third grandchild due in June.

His early career was as head of I.T. for Alcan Aluminium UK Ltd, based in Banbury, Oxfordshire, until he and his wife formed their family business in 1978, of which he is currently the Chairman and Chief Executive.

Keith is most interested in the Hospice Movement and is an Ambassador for the Myton Hospices in Warwick, Rugby and Coventry, having previously been a trustee for 9 years, 3 years of which was as Chairman of the Board. His only connection with sheep is that of providing 25 acres of grazing land for a local farmer!

Tessa Vivienne Trollope was born in Calcutta, educated in Australia and England and having trained as an SRN at Westminster Hospital, followed a career in nursing. Further qualifications in Health Visiting, Family Planning and Primary Care Mental Health enabled her to work in the UK with spells in both Australia and Spain. She retired from the NHS in 2010.

In 1980 she married Nigel who works for Miller Insurance Services in the City. They live in Haslemere, Surrey and have four children and three grandchildren.

In 2005 Tessa was made a Governor of King Edward's School in Witley. The school has close links with the City and tradition is greatly valued. She will be retiring from the Governing Body later this year. She has a particular interest in the education and pastoral care of young people and is actively involved in her Parish Church and its many community activities and charities.

In her spare time she enjoys tennis and golf and is a member of St George's Hill Golf Club and Fernhurst Tennis Club. Tessa is also a member of the Farmers Club in London.

Major Thomas Barker

Keith Marchington

Tessa Vivienne Trollope

Obituary

Mark Murphy

My friend and colleague, Mark Murphy, passed away on Monday 14th April, aged 56. He only joined the Livery in 2011, so most of you wouldn't know him. However, he made a considerable contribution last year in our Sheep Drive over London Bridge. Mark was a Major in the TA, and brought along soldiers and cadets from his units to assist. They enjoyed themselves and were looking forward to helping again this year.

Mark's family home was in Cheshire, however, he was educated at Ampleforth College, Yorkshire and from there went to London University to read engineering. He joined the Army, went to Sandhurst and served for a time in Northern Ireland. He enjoyed sport, shooting, fishing, hunting and golf and had a few seasons playing rugby for the Harlequins.

He lived for a number of years in Canada, with his wife Pamela and daughters Alice and Emily. On returning to the UK, he worked in financial services. He liked the City, and was very proud to be a member of our Livery Company.

It is very sad that he died at such a young age.

Malcolm Campbell

The Big Curry Lunch

The Army Benevolent Fund, (The Soldiers' Charity) laid on a splendid reception and lunch at the Guildhall on Thursday 10th April. This is their major annual fundraising effort which has been staged for about the last ten years, and raises several million pounds each year. The Master was accompanied by Court Assistant Chris Thierry. When they arrived the Master spotted an old friend, Garrison Sergeant Major Bill Mott, who was there to keep all the dignitaries in order. In preparation for the arrival of the Lord Mayor, accompanied by HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Bill Mott called the roll of distinguished Generals, leading City figures and Masters of Livery Companies and ensured they were all in their correct places. On his arrival, the HRH The Duke of Gloucester was led from group to group; when he came to the Masters he started at the end of the alphabet with the Master Woolman. He seemed particularly interested in the taxes raised on wool and the history of the Company. After the reception the Guildhall was full to bursting with people queuing for beer or wine and an excellent plate of curry. There were screens showing the latest bids in the silent auction and stalls selling raffle tickets and memorabilia. The auction closed at 4p.m. Unfortunately neither the Master nor Chris Thierry had managed to secure any items, however, they had met many old friends, made a few new ones, and had a very good day out. ■

Presentation in the Chamberlain's Court

> The Chamberlain kindly presented the Master with a hard copy of the Company's new Ordinances which will also be available on the website.

On the morning of Friday 4th April, the Master, Upper Warden, the Clerk, Court Assistant Peter Hewitt, Court Assistant Vincent Keaveny, Deputy and Under Warden Ken Ayers, the Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court, Our Beadle Ernie Brocklehurst – all in our robes – and Janet Clark – exchanged presentations with the Chamberlain, Chris Bilsland. The Master presented the Chamberlain with a pair of sheep shears and the Chamberlain presented the Master with the Company's new Ordinances. The shears had been rescued from a cellar by our Beadle, who suggested they would look very well in the Chamberlain's Court along with mementoes from other Livery Companies. They had originally been presented to the Company by Past Master Conrad Abrahams (1973-74), uncle of Past Master Michael Abrahams (1996-97). Unfortunately the Company has had nowhere to display them on a regular basis, but the Master had them refurbished and re-mounted and now they will be seen by every new Freeman when they arrive for their ceremony to receive the Freedom of the City of London. Every new Freeman asks about the tradition of driving their sheep across London Bridge and so the shears will feel very much at home in the Court – and of course they can learn about the Woolmen's Sheep Drive each year.

The Chamberlain kindly presented the Master with a hard copy of the Company's new Ordinances which will also be available on the website. These have been updated and in general written in more modern and less ambiguous language, whilst retaining the old formal language for the recitals at the beginning. We all enjoyed a relaxing glass of Bucks Fizz to celebrate the occasion and to fortify us for the United Guild Service which took place later that morning. ■

The development of the Woolmen's new website at www.woolmen.com is now complete, and the website was launched at the Court meeting last November. The new site has been the initiative of the immediate past Master, Bill Clark, who has not only masterminded its very professional new design and features, but has also very kindly funded its development as his gift to the Company. I am sure you will agree that this is not only a significant step forward for the Woolmen, but also a very generous and far-sighted idea from Bill Clark. You will be able to access the Members section of the website with a personal log in name and password. This should have been sent to you by email. If you have not received these details it is probably because we don't have your email address. If this is the case, please let the Clerk know.

From Waterloo to HRH Prince William

> Many people will have come into contact with Hainsworth cloths, seeing them or literally hearing the results (Steinway Pianos) without realising.

The name A. W. Hainsworth is synonymous with textiles, not just in Yorkshire, but as a global brand. The family run company is one of the oldest known companies in the United Kingdom, still producing textiles in many forms after seven generations.

It is very difficult to know where to begin: There is the history, the many different and vast range of 'cloths', the testing and innovation and the many prestigious customers.

The company's roots go back to 1783 when Abimelech Hainsworth started purchasing cloth from local handweavers and selling it on, via the Coloured Cloth Hall, in Leeds. By 1800 he was in a position to open Cape Mills, in partnership with Joseph his brother, employing handweavers. This was the start of the Hainsworth dynasty. However, throughout their history, as well as becoming such a high profile brand, there have been setbacks, a fire, a flood and the depression. In spite of the not so good times, including the First World War, full order books from the War Office helped. Throughout this period they supplied over 314 million yards of cloth in different weights, from shirting to greatcoat cloth.

Today, the mill, situated on the outskirts of Leeds, is one of only a handful of 'vertical mills' still in existence. A vertical mill is one where wool fleece arrives at the mill, and then goes through all the processes of sorting, blending, carding, spinning, warping, weaving and finally, one of the most important processes, finishing. This final process, after the cloth has been woven, can change the appearance, colour and handle of a fabric. They also have a small scale silk screen facility, for printing customer requirements on to their snooker/pool table baize.

Although the company has been producing cloth for many generations, they continue to push the boundaries of innovation and up to date technology. There has been continual investment, in both expansion of the range of products and their mill, to cater for a growing demand in the UK and around the world. 65% of their production is exported, to 41 countries including China, Japan, Dubai, USA and Germany. Their finished products are well known in specialist markets, from apparel garments to furnishings and from snooker table baize to fire-fighters' protective suits, school and college blazers and scarves to Steinway Piano cloth and hammer felts. Their weight range of 'cloths' stretches from 180 gsm to 1500 gsm.

Steinway

Many people will have come into contact with Hainsworth cloths, seeing them or literally hearing the results (Steinway Pianos) without realising. One example is the Woolsack, which the Speaker of The Upper House sits on, is covered in Hainsworth cloth. A wool sack features strongly in the Woolmen's crest.

Prestigious and high profile customers read like a 'Who's Who'; they supply curtain fabric to Windsor Castle and soft furnishings to Buckingham Palace, and for this they hold a Royal Warrant (awarded 2004). They are also a premier world renowned blanket maker under the names of John Atkinson by Hainsworth® and Scarlet and Argent for a more contemporary feel. There are varying qualities, Pure New Wool, Merino, Lamb's Wool and Cashmere and the crème de la crème 100

Scarlet and Argent

All photographs AW Hainsworth

per cent Cashmere. Queen Margaret of Denmark has John Atkinson blankets on her beds. They also supply their luxurious blankets to the Vatican, luxury hotels and liners.

Members of the Royal Family frequently wear uniforms made from Hainsworth's cloth. HRH Price Charles was married in Military Dress Uniform tailored from Hainsworth's cloth, (seen by a television audience of 750 million viewers) as was his son HRH Prince William many years later. They have supplied fabric for soldiers and officers from the days of Waterloo, through the Crimean War, Boer War and Two World Wars to the present day. The scarlet cloth of Waterloo fame was appropriate to distinguish British troops in hand to hand fighting however a new, less conspicuous fabric, for the troops to wear while on duty, was needed for more recent conflicts. Hainsworth were contacted by the military and were proud to help our forces: following colour research Khaki Serge was developed. Due to demand during war times, other mills in England produced the serge however Hainsworth remain the inventors and sole producers of the genuine article. When the Air force separated from the Army in 1918 and approached Hainsworth for colour ideas to allow them to have their own identity, it was Hainsworth that proposed the distinctive blue cloth that they have worn ever since. This worked well for all parties as Hainsworth had a bulk order of light blue cloth ordered by the Czar for his Cossack Regiments, however the revolution came and the order was revoked. Hainsworth supplied the cloth to the Royal Flying Corps hence giving the regiment the nickname the 'Boys in Blue' a name that the RAF retains today.

Waterloo

Hainsworth are regarded as the world's leading manufacturer and supplier of speciality ceremonial fabrics. They supply the 50,000 strong Danish Home Guard with cloth for uniforms and also the Indian Government, Egyptian Brigade of Guards, Chilean Navy uniforms, the Royal Ulster Constabulary and our own RAF. However, they make sure that they update old and out of date specifications. Recent developments for the MOD include a new long life cloth for the

Stage costumes

Household Division- Scarlet Tunics and Dark Navy trousers. These are worn by The Blues & Royals, The Life Guards and the Foot Guards and a new Army Dress Khaki Barathea. The next time you see the Trooping the Colour, think Hainsworth, Yorkshire.

The mill's fabric is used as headlining in Rolls Royce, Bentley and Aston Martin cars. Many theatres have curtains of Hainsworth cloth, and they have been commissioned to produce cloths for theatrical productions and film sets, Harry Potter and Mary Poppins to mention just two. Six million viewers, who watch EastEnders each week, will no doubt have seen a pool table in the Queen Vic, (I am told, Ed;). This is covered in Hainsworth baize. Just like the snooker table owned by Rod Stewart, which once belonged to Prince Albert (a present from Queen Victoria). When it requires recovering, there is only one baize to use – Hainsworth 'Smart' one of the 'fastest' baizes produced. They also supply Olhausen, the largest American manufacturer of pool and billiard tables in the USA. Their innovative printing has also been able to print onto the baize, their 'Ghost Print' does not affect the speed and run of the ball.

> When you next eat a McVitie's Digestive biscuit, you can be sure it has travelled along a conveyor made of Hainsworth's wool cloth.

Carding

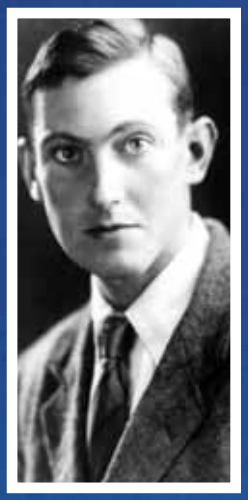
However, the development of technical fabrics is world beating. When you next eat a McVitie's Digestive biscuit, you can be sure it has travelled along a conveyor made of Hainsworth's wool cloth. Or when you load your shot gun cartridges, the wadding could well be made by Hainsworth.

Back in 1975 in association with DuPont of the USA they manufactured Nomex®, a breakthrough fire and heat resistant fabric with many uses from fire fighting to use by armed forces and constabularies for protection. They still produce ranges of technical fabrics using Nomex® and Kevlar® to produce breathable and stain resistant finished products for ultimate protection against heat, fire and personal protection. Their Nomex® fabric is also used in hot air balloon scoops to protect the envelope from the vicious hot flame.

It is not possible to do justice to A W Hainsworth in a few hundred words. The extent of their knowledge, commitment, innovation, diversity of product range is outstanding. This is evident in the number of prestigious awards they have received.

However, one final comment, Hainsworth can offer you the chance to be able to 'Rest in Peace' with one of their wool and totally natural fibre coffins. This was the choice last year of our Past Master Eric Wilson. ■

RAF



George Mallory

Mallory on Everest in 1924

No one knows whether George Mallory climbed Mount Everest, and died on the way back as some now believe, or whether he died on the way up. It was believed that he had died because his clothing was inadequate, and was no match for modern synthetic specialist climbing gear. However, the recovery of his body in 1999 has enabled detailed research to be carried out on what he was wearing.

The Mallory Replicas project began in 2001 when artifacts found with Mallory's body on Everest in 1999 were transferred to the National Mountaineering Exhibition in Cumbria. Funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Pasold Research Fund Ltd, the £30,000 project aimed to produce testable replica clothing to assess its effectiveness and performance.

The project involved a lot of detective work. Historical sources were used to determine how the garments were constructed. The original textiles, recovered from Everest, were analysed to determine what the clothes were originally made from and the thermal insulation values of the original fabric was looked at. Suppliers were tracked down who could recreate the fabrics and in many cases, the original suppliers such as Burberry, wove the cotton gabardine for the jacket. Gabardine was patented in 1888 by Thomas Burberry and is a twill weave cotton. The name is derived from the name for a loose flowing garment tied at the waist called a 'Garber dine'. Burberry clothing was also worn by Roald Amundsen the first man to reach the South Pole in 1911 and Ernest Shackleton who crossed Antarctica in 1914. *John Smedley of Matlock, produced a replica wool-silk vest.*

In 2006, the climber Graham Hoyland tested, during an Everest climb, a replica version of Mallory's clothing which had been made from seven layers of gabardine, wool, cotton and silk, and was amazed at his findings. The layered natural materials trapped the air next to the skin. The outer layer of gabardine was hard wearing and water resistant but breathable.

It was calculated that the clothing had a Tog value of 3.5. The weight was 4.160kg compared to 4.825kg for the modern equivalent. It was also found that the Mallory clothing was much less bulky and there was better movement because the layers of clothing slid easily over each other.

Although the zip had been invented in 1914, it did not come into general use in clothing until the 1920s. Until then hooks and eyes were used or buttons. Many of the woollen items were knitted by the families of the expedition members causing Bernard Shaw to remark that the climbers looked like 'a Connemara picnic surprised by the snow'.

There were three layers of socks, three layers of long johns and puttees. *Mallory's boots were 50 per cent lighter than modern equivalents, made using* 10mm of felt lining to insulate the feet *and* hobnails set in the 3mm leather sole *for gripping.* They weighed only 0.8kg compared with the 1953 boots weighing 1.2kg and Chris Bonnington's boots 1.8kg.

Climber Graham Hoyland said, after he had tested the clothing, 'I immediately found the underclothes warm to put on, whereas the modern polypropylene underwear feels cold and clammy. When exposed to a cutting wind blowing off the main Rongbuk glacier, I found the true value of the Gabardine outer layers. These resisted the wind and allowed the layers beneath to trap warmed air between them and my skin'.

'We got too hot working on the glacier so we felt that Mallory's clothing would have been more than adequate to climb to the top in, although it would be hard to survive a bivouac near the summit. Like most mountaineers, I am used to synthetic outdoor clothing: polypropylene underclothes and outer fleeces which are bought pre-sized, off the shelf and never quite fit properly. "They are unforgiving in stretch, and begin to smell unpleasant if worn for more than a couple of days. There is a harsh synthetic sensation next to your skin. By contrast, the Mallory clothing was made to fit me. This meant that the shirts didn't ride up, exposing my kidneys when I stretched, and the whole ensemble felt of a piece when walking. Instead of feeling bulky, the layers fitted very well."

Recent research indicates very severe weather conditions occurring at the time Mallory was on Everest so maybe he did not succeed, but he might have and could have done. If he did not succeed, it was not due to inadequate clothing. ■

Now the search for a new Clerk!

The current Clerk Mrs Gill Wilson will retire on the 31st December 2014 after 8 years in post. The Court wishes to appoint a successor from 1st September 2014 to ensure a managed handover.

We are one of the ancient Livery Companies tracing our roots back to 1180. Wool was the economic backbone of the country for many hundreds of years. The modern Global Wool Industry is worth over US $80Bn at retail and has a high consumer profile coupled to its significant green credentials.

The 2014/17 Strategic Plan includes a significant number of exciting developments aimed at increasing the profile and the membership of the Livery. The primary role of the Clerk will be to lead the company in the delivery of the Strategy and its plans.

The Clerk therefore will need to be someone of good energy and self-motivation, capable of leading the volunteers within the Livery, managing the administration and finances of the Company and in the organisation of Company functions.

The post is full time and is home based.

An attractive salary and benefits will be offered. If you know someone you feel would be interested in the position please ask them to contact the Clerk.

Silver Woolsack awarded to Bill Skidmore

Having been the proud recipient last year, I was delighted to see the Silver Woolsack awarded to Bill Skidmore at the Installation Dinner this year. Always a close-kept secret between Master and Clerk as to who the recipient will be, this delightful trophy, presented to the Company by Past Master Elizabeth Peacock, is awarded annually to a liveryman for outstanding achievement to the Company. Clearly surprised when the announcement was made, Mr Skidmore said he was overjoyed to be chosen. "As much as I am delighted to be awarded the Silver Woolsack, I would like to accept this on behalf of both Jean and I. We have worked as a team for many years and Jean helps me with considerable input into *The Woolman*, as well as with other Livery matters", he said in his usual gracious manner. Both Bill and Jean work hard within the publishing team to help build and develop *The Woolman* and Bill is an active member of the Livery Committee.

Howard Venters
Chairman, Livery Committee

Curry Lunch

Members of the Woolman's Company enjoyed a wonderfully prepared curry lunch in March kindly organised by Liveryman Chris Dancaster. The venue was HQS Wellington, moored at Temple Pier and the ship is the HQ of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners. A drinks reception prior to the lunch in the Master Mariner's Hall allowed us to greet a number of invited guests and the allocation of 30 places was soon sold out. Wellington has an interesting history being one of 13 sloops commissioned in 1934 to patrol the coasts of the Commonwealth countries and being one of the few ships who survived the Battle of the Atlantic. She served as convoy escort throughout the war and following lunch we were given a fascinating tour of the ship by Commodore Angus Menzies RN.

Charity Matters

Bursaries, Scholarships and Awards

The money raised by the Company through donations and sponsorship as a result of the sheep drive in 2013 was very impressive, raising about £30,000, half of which will go to the Lord Mayor's Appeal and the rest to the Woolmen's Charitable Trust. This additional income to our Trust has already been used to provide immediate support for an additional student. Robert Hodgkins wishes to attend the Advanced Agricultural Business Management course at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, studying how the genes carried by sheep affect the length of the staple, and therefore how the staple can be increased. This will be jointly funded with the Worshipful Company of Farmers. We are also looking at support for two more students at the Chelsea College of Art and Design, but the final details have not been agreed at the time of going to press.

Legacies

Solicitors advise us to revise our wills every five years so that we can make sure that our wishes can be accommodated by the changes in our circumstances and changes in legislation. If you are planning to update your will over the next year or so, please consider leaving a legacy to the Worshipful Company of Woolmen's Charitable Trust. If you would like to leave us a legacy, please contact the Clerk who can provide the relevant information.

Fundraising

And don't forget to look out for information about the Woolmen's Sheep Drive in 2014! This is planned for Sunday 5th October 2014 and the organisers have set their fund-raising sights higher than ever! It will be another great family day out, so if you missed it in 2013 you will have another chance in 2014. ■

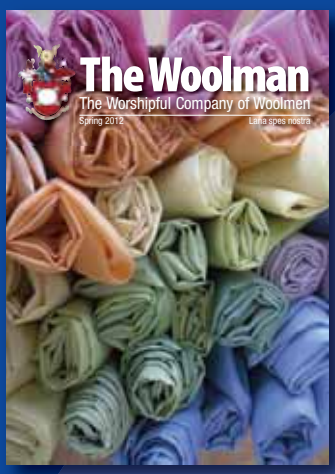
Sheep Drive

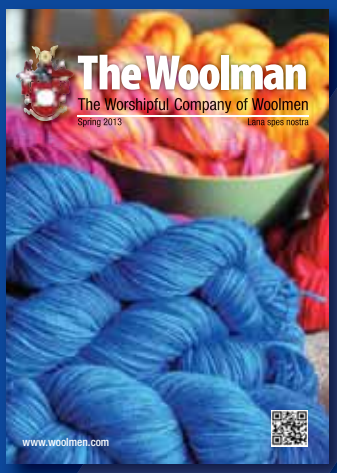
Looking good for October – don't miss it

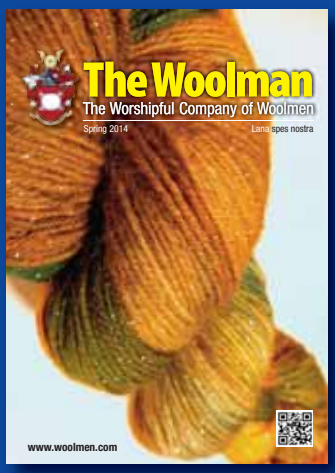
The immediate past Master met with last year's organising team in early April which was the first gathering of all interested parties since the success of last year's sheep drive which raised significant funds split between the Lord Mayor's and our own charity as well as giving significant profile to our Livery Company.

This year's date is set for Sunday 5th October and all Woolmen are welcome to attend. We hope you will come along. Any enquires to sheepdrive2014@gmail.com. ■

Howard Venters







No woolly ideas here

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