The Woolman

The Worshipful Company of Woolmen

Autumn 2014

Lana spes nostra

www.woolmen.com

Noticeboard

The Alms Court Dinner
Jan 14th 2015

Sheep Drive
27th September 2015

Visit to the Fashion Textile Museum
Jan 15th 2015

Curry Lunch
Friday 13th March 2015
HQS Wellington

Installation Service and Dinner
April 29th 2015

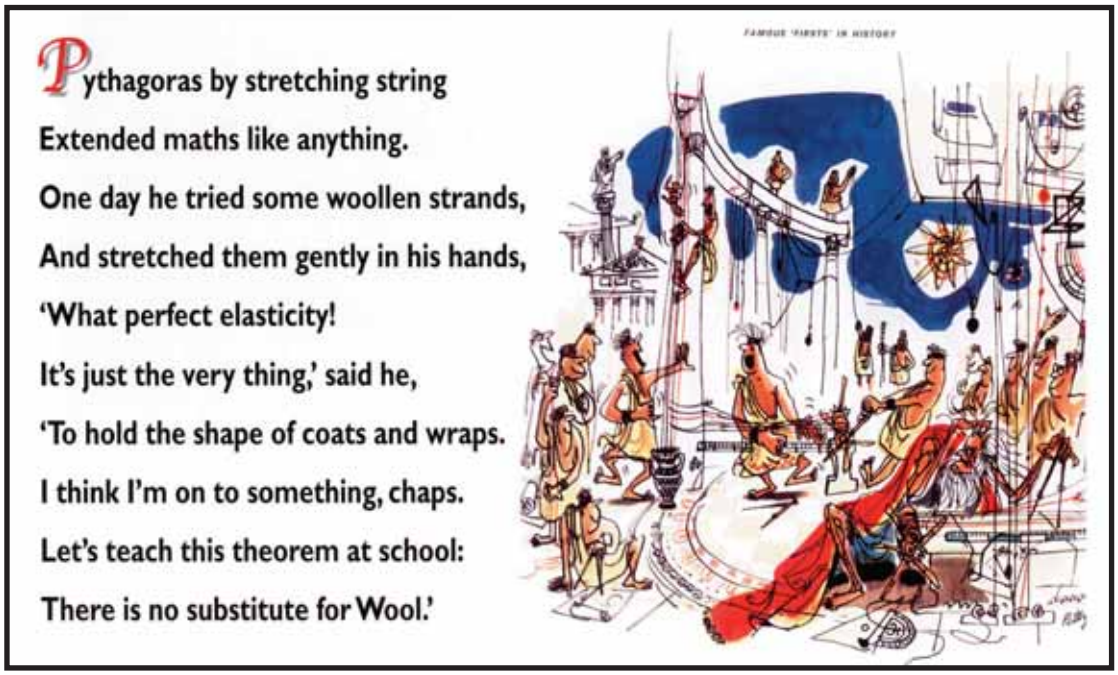
Lord Mayor's Show
November 14th 2015

Obituary

David J Rogers

With sadness we report the death of Liveryman David J Rogers in July 2014. David was admitted to the Livery in 1985. His funeral was attended by The Clerk, Gill Wilson also Liverymen John Bishop and Rex Johnson.

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

Welcome

As Bill states below this year has been a busy one. As we approach the calendar year end we have some exciting events planned for 2015, not least the third Sheep Drive to be organised by the Woolmen planned for 27th September following on from this year's hugely successful day as reported within these pages.

Much of my time has been spent developing our military affiliations. With the help of Bill and Jean Skidmore we had a very enjoyable visit to the Queen's Own Yeomanry in August with a view to setting the scene for a much larger event provisionally scheduled for next August and I am in discussions with the Army. Our more recent affiliation with 131 Commando Royal Engineers is developing well. Our intention is to organise a visit to a commando training centre where friends and family can have a fun day out. Our newer affiliation with RAF Brize Norton develops harmoniously with the Master recently attending a dinner and we will be arranging a visit to the base in due course.

Court Assistant Howard Venters, Publisher

As Chair of the Livery Committee, we have planned a number of social events for next year starting with a visit to the Fashion Textile Museum in January and there will be a Woolmen's presence at the main agricultural shows details of which will be announced in the January issue.

Howard Venters
Publisher

This summer has been even more hectic than usual. Textile Degree and Fashion Shows started earlier than ever. This means that with the teaching year starting later and finishing earlier, time available for tuition is decreasing. I sometimes think, people forget students are participating in a degree course, not a craft or hobby? Consequently, in some cases, their technical knowledge is not what it should be. We are, (in this country), losing our technical skills, due to an aging work force in the industry. This is not the case in some of our competitor's countries.

Later in this issue you will read about the STEM exhibition held in the Guildhall during the summer. This, (like the previous Livery Schools Link exhibition), was aimed at secondary school pupils. However, this was to encourage girls especially, to look at Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics as possible career paths. Also, to emphasise other alternatives to Higher Education, like apprenticeship schemes and on the job training. This was totally acceptable in the past and many successful companies had managers at the helm who had 'worked their way up', consequently knowing many aspects, (if not all), of their production.

The above comments are illustrated every day, by consumers being misinformed by High Street retailers. If this applied to the food industry it would make media headlines.

We are continually being told how *The Woolman* magazine has grown in strength. With the introduction of some of the articles, we hope it will bring an awareness, about what a prominent textile industry we have, the world class leading products and the vast amount of exports achieved.

One final note, I am very honoured to announce my Presidency of Bradford Textile Society. I hope this connection will strengthen ties, between the Yorkshire industry, our Company and Woolmen in the North of England.

Liveryman Bill Skidmore, Editor

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Master's Half Term Report

It has been a great honour, privilege and hard work but enormous fun, representing you as your Master over the past 6 months! Carolyn and I have tried to attend and represent you the Livery family at as many events as possible.

We are incredibly lucky as a Livery Company to not only have such an ancient and important history from 1180 but to have such a vibrant global industry that is worth $80Bn at retail values. Few other Livery Companies are in such a fortunate position.

Before I mention some of the events I wanted to let you know of the significant progress that has been made with some of the important aspects of our 3 year rolling Strategic Plan that aims to make us a 'Livery of Choice' for those in the wool Industry, the City, the military and those with a love for education and charitable aspects.

Firstly you will have seen that we have appointed Major Steve Wake as our new Clerk. Steve has an outstanding service record and amongst other roles he is a member of the Queen's Personal Bodyguard. Our current learned Clerk Gill Wilson will take up her new part time role as the City Wool Development Officer and will work closely with our three City Wool Strategic Partners - The British Wool Marketing Board, The Australian Woolmark Company and The Campaign for Wool with HRH Prince of Wales as their Patron.

Steve Wake as our new Clerk will be working full time for the Livery. His most important role will be to lead activities with the Membership Committee to make real progress in increasing the size of the Livery to the higher numbers authorised by the court of Alderman. So if you need help introducing a friend to join our Livery with our increasing activities that we now have to offer then Steve will be your first point of contact.

As I hope you are aware the launch of The City Wool Project in April and the inclusion of the Strategic Partners I have mentioned earlier is a major development for the Company. It puts us at the centre of the wool Industry from farm to consumer as Wools Champion in the City. Our aim is to simply facilitate connections between the huge global wool pipeline and the extensive Financial and professional service skills that lie within our Livery and our personal networks. It is easy to get involved by contacting Gill Wilson to learn more. I have been delighted to see our Strategic Partners at our dinners and meeting many of you in the Livery. Over time this valuable network will play an important role in helping those whose livelihood depends on wool.

Our charitable giving in support of our industry is so important for many individuals. Carolyn and I attended all the agricultural shows where we present the Awards to the top Junior Shearers. The amounts of money are not life changing but it is so obvious to see how it gives many youngsters the chance and motivation to take part and improve their skills. We owe much to the dedication of the team at British Wool Marketing Board who run the events.

Another area where we are developing interest in the Company is education. We are now firmly part of the City Schools Link which aims to connect Liverymen with an interest in Education to City and London schools which are looking for a wide range of skills. I hope to make an announcement in the New Year on how we can take this forward.

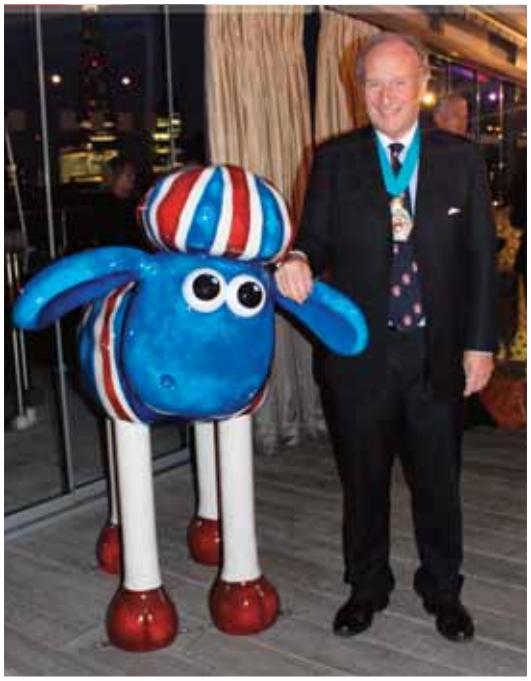
Lastly I must mention the excellent Sheep Drive on October 5th. I think everyone involved will agree it was a splendid occasion, made perfect by the weather. The Young Liverymen in their red cloaks added a touch of ceremony throughout the day and I thank them for their assistance. Thanks must also go to Bill Clark for the organisation and to all those who helped on the day.

"We are incredibly lucky as a Livery Company to not only have such an ancient and important history from 1180 but to have such a vibrant global industry that is worth $80Bn at retail values.

The Master Meets Shaun the Sheep

Giant sculptures of internationally-acclaimed animated character Shaun the Sheep, will be popping up in new pastures in two 'baa-rilliant' art trails to raise money for Wallace & Gromit's Children's Charity helping sick children in hospitals across the UK. *Shaun in the City* will feature 120 giant sheep sculptures decorated by celebrities

and artists, herded on the streets of London and Bristol in a 'trail of two cities'. Each city trail will feature its own flock of 60 giant Shaun the Sheep sculptures, decorated to create a vibrant city landscape of colourful and witty designs. The hotly anticipated charity initiative expects to see visitors from across the globe flocking to the 'ewe-nique' spectacle. *Shaun in the City* will launch in London in March next year, coinciding with the Chinese Year of the Sheep and following the release of Aardman's *Shaun the Sheep the Movie*, when the mischievous character is set to make his big screen debut. The eight-week sheep trail will see sixty 5 feet high sculptures springing up in key, central locations around the capital including the City of London, Westminster, Southbank and iconic tourist destinations.



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

Visit to the Queen's Own Yeomanry

Several Northern Woolmen together with local industrialists, friends and families gathered at Fullford Barracks, York at the invitation of the Queen's Own Yeomanry one of our military affiliates. This had been intended to be a larger visit, but unfortunately, it was rather short notice and at the end of the school holidays, so we restricted it to a smaller number of visitors. After welcoming refreshments, we were given a presentation about the role of the QOY in the planned new 'Army 2020'. As many of you will know it is planned to reorganise the British Army into a force enabled to better meet the security challenges of the 2020's and beyond and, for the first time, to integrate fully Regulars and Reserves within a single force structure.

The QOY used to be a more scattered regiment with units from Scotland, N. Ireland, Cheshire, Northumberland and Yorkshire. It has now been rationalised with squadrons based in Newcastle, York, Wigan and Chester: the Scottish and N Ireland squadrons now form a separate Yeomanry.

The regiment is based on the light cavalry concept and is a light armoured reconnaissance regiment. Its main remit is to find the enemy, understand the situation and environment and to provide focussed intervention. As such soldiers need to be fit, adaptable and self reliant, prepared to work in small teams in any weather conditions to get the job done. The QOY has very close links with the Light Dragoons with whom it regularly trains: they are currently based in Norfolk, but, due to move to Catterick in the near future.

The regiment operated in Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan while it also has been called on to give support during fuel strikes, fire strikes and of course floods... the regular army assists during the week, the reserves continue the work at weekends.

The need for community engagement was explained. Reservists, need support from family and employers though both can gain from the experience. The QOY provide training in many skills including driving skills, increased fitness, increased confidence, and increased discipline. Recruits are required to commit to 27 days training a year, much of which is done at weekends/evenings with other exercises often done over a 2 week camp either at home or abroad. Cooperation with employers is essential though they can also benefit from task orientated experiences for some of their employees at Catterick.

Having been given a lot to think about we retired to the officers mess for lunch before being given a tour of the base and an opportunity to look at and handle the equipment used and to talk to some of the reservists about their experiences. I think everyone learned a lot during our visit and had a very enjoyable time. I know a couple of the industrialists have been in further contact with the QOY with questions they have about encouraging employees to become reservists. In the near future there will be a MOD consultation paper to engage with employers to explain future requirements and to better understand their needs and develop relationships.

Jean Skidmore

Summer Banquet on HQS Wellington

This stunning, unique and historic ship, moored on the Thames Embankment, offered a fantastic location for our Summer Banquet. Built in 1933, HQS Wellington is the last surviving member of the Grimsby class of sloops, which served valiantly during the Second World War. Since then the Wellington has been fully refitted and the ship was purchased to be the Livery Hall for the Honourable Company of Master Mariners.

At the outbreak of WWII HMS Wellington performed convoy escort duties in the Atlantic. During six years of wartime service she rescued over 450 Merchant Navy seamen who had survived the sinking of their ships and was active at Dunkirk and the North African landings. She also shared the credit for sinking a U-Boat.

Reception drinks were served on the Quarterdeck while everyone enjoyed the sunshine and the views over the river. We then proceeded down the impressive teak staircase, through the Model Room lined with marine artefacts including ships' bells, medals, and, (as the name suggests), a priceless collection of antique model ships, to the Court Room which was originally the ship's engine room meaning it now enjoys double height ceilings.

After an excellent dinner a presentation was made to Corporal Rob Cowan, a PE Training Instructor with 131 Independent Commando Squadron Royal Engineers (V), for increasing recruitment by 20% over the previous 6 months. We were then entertained by students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with a selection from Gilbert and Sullivan finishing with 'Don't Rock the Boat' – not G&S but very appropriate.

The health of the guests was proposed by Richard Proctor and responded to by Sir Andrew Burns KCMG, who in former roles has been UK Ambassador to Israel, British Consul-General to the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau, and British High Commissioner to Canada and now leads the government's work on Post-Holocaust initiatives. He is also a Trustee of Hestercombe Garden Trust.

He complimented the Guildhall school of Music saying that the very high quality is only matched by the Juilliard in New York. However, on a more sombre note, he stressed that the holocaust must be taught in schools; there are still people who deny it ever happened and countries trying to suppress the truth. Memories are still near the surface but First generation survivors are diminishing in numbers. Many give time to schools to show the horrors still being spread across the world e.g. Nigeria. Such catastrophes must remain at the forefront of our minds and Sir Andrew prophetically gave a warning that what happened could happen again if memories are allowed to fade.

> Memories are still near the surface but First generation survivors are diminishing in numbers

Captain Olaf Dudley, Corporal Rob Cowan and the Master, Richard Excell

Photo: Gerald Sharp

London Sheep Drive

Hello. Thank you very much for such a well organised event yesterday. It was a memorable day, and I am grateful for your hospitality. Thank you. My wife thoroughly enjoyed the day, and my daughter seemed mesmerised. **Philip**

Good Morning Bill, Thank you for a great day and well organised. Put me down for next year. **David**

Blue sky, sun and a glorious autumn day set the scene for the second Sheep Drive organised by the Worshipful Company of Woolmen on Sunday 5th October.

Impeccable logistical planning by Immediate Past Master Bill Clark resulted in 600 liverymen, freemen, friends and family enjoying the experience of driving sheep across London Bridge to exercise their right to do so as Freemen of the City of London.

Court Assistant Howard Venters assisted Bill Clark in the organisation and oversaw the operational running of the event on the day.

A meeting of volunteers was held with the kind co-operation of St Bride's Church, Fleet Street, followed by several site visits and thanks must go to the large amount of help we received from all the volunteers including the Society of Young Freeman headed by Master Laurence Nicholas, who capably escorted the groups of ten to their stations at the appropriate time.

The Bridge was divided effectively into four sections and groups of ten relayed by driving ten sheep kindly provided by professional sheep farmers David and Barbara Seamark, not without a little assistance from Moss, Rex and Kep, their adorable and highly trained sheep dogs.

As in previous years, the organisers and planners liaised with the City of London Animal Health and Welfare Services, and the RSPCA, to make sure that everything was done to ensure the health and well-being of the sheep and the dogs. Every minor concern was taken seriously, and so friend of Howard, Richard Duncan, a rural contractor, manufactured and placed plywood drain covers to eliminate any possibility of accidents to the animals. The sheep were well cared for on every occasion and the whole day went without a hitch under the watchful eye of Imara O'niocail from the RSPCA.

Volunteers from the City farms helped control the sheep under the expert guidance of David Jones. Logistical support including the registration tent was provided by one of our military affiliates, 131 Commando Royal Engineers (V) and cadets from 4th Battalion

Bill, The opportunity to complete my Freedom was a dream come true … Sunday was perfect. Weather, nice companions and enthusiastic young Freemen together with relaxed sheep conspired to find all-comers with broad smiles as we exercised that traditional right. You may guess I thoroughly enjoyed the experience largely due to the efforts of yourself and your team. Many thanks **David**

Bill, Thank you so much for organising the Sheep drive event – my friends and family thoroughly enjoyed the day- Very well organised. Kind regards **Theresa**

Princess of Wales Royal Regiment manned each stage of the bridge. We are grateful to all for their involvement including invaluable assistance from a dozen or so Woolmen and spouses led of course by Master Woolman Richard Excell and his wife Carolyn. Catering was provided by Cook & Butler and photography provided by Gerald Sharp Photography. Pictures of all groups are available and posted on www.sharpphoto.co.uk (go to Gallery – Livery Companies – Woolmen – Sheep Drive 2014). All pictures are available to purchase. We are also immensely grateful to the Fishmongers Company for the use of part of their Hall for the administrative staff.

The purpose of the day was threefold – to maintain and exercise the right of an ancient tradition, to promote the Woolmen's company and as importantly to raise money for charity and 76 livery companies were represented on the day. After expenses the proceeds are divided between the Woolmen's Charitable Trust and the Lord Mayor's chosen charity.

On another sunny autumn morning three weeks later the Master, Upper and Under Wardens, organisers IPM Bill Clark and Howard Venters accompanied by volunteers Malcolm Campbell, Peter and Joyce Hammond and Clerk Gill Wilson, together with Clerk Designate Major Steve Wake, attended a reception at Mansion House where a cheque was presented to Lord Mayor Fiona Woolf for her Lord Mayor's Appeal.

Dear Bill Just to say thank you to you and the Master for a wonderful experience on London Bridge. We all enjoyed ourselves and the arrangements were excellent.
With best wishes.
Stephen

Photographs are available for purchase from Gerald Sharp Photography. Please visit www.sharpphoto.co.uk

Knitwear In Fashion

Chanel to Westwood

Visit Planned
for 15th January 2015 – contact the Clerk for details

The Fashion and Textile Museum's major autumn exhibition, presents over 150 inspirational knitwear pieces from the collection of Mark and Cleo Butterfield, on show to the public for the first time. The exhibition presents highlights from designs by Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel including a rare cardigan suit, 1930s swimwear, rare crocheted evening dresses from the 1930s, vibrant Missoni patterns and 1970s Bill Gibb as well as conceptual garments by Comme des Garçons, Vivienne Westwood and Julien MacDonald.

'Decade by decade, this incredible collection charts over 100 years of knitwear history. It is the first exhibition of its kind to explore not only key designers but also technical innovations in hand, machine and industrial knitting. Knitwear in fashion is often taken for granted, but this exhibition is an opportunity to celebrate knitwear centre stage and to inspire future design directions.'

The exhibition begins by exploring the role knitting and crocheting played in the creation of functional garments, undergarments and accessories in the early 20th century. Women's attitudes to dress changed during World War One and, for the first time, knitted sportswear became an option for modern women who required clothing that was more flexible and chic.

Into the 1920s, the exhibition traces Chanel's introduction of stylish, practical clothing made from jersey, which was traditionally a machine knit fabric used to make men's undergarments. Chanel's easy-wearing twinsets reflected the modernist styles coming out of Paris and her chic fashions influenced a generation of designers.

Futuristic designs by Rudi Gernreich 1969 and André Courrèges 1980

Photo: Dennis Northfruft Fashion Textile Museum

Sisters By Sibling

Photo: Jean Skidmore

Whilst the knitted day dress was popular during the 1920s and 1930s, as a practical and smart addition to a woman's wardrobe, knitted and crocheted evening dresses were also part of the glamorous, sophisticated eveningwear trend. Featuring metallic yarns, deco colouring and exotic details, these pieces represent the café society that grew up in Paris, London and New York.

Moving on to the Second World War and the era of 'make do and mend', clothing restrictions and rations meant that women had to find creative ways of recycling garments; sweaters were un-raveled and the recycled yarn was then knitted into multi-colour jumpers that made a feature of the variety of wools used. By the 1940s, the influence of Hollywood stars saw knitting become more fashionable than functional and the 1950s saw the introduction of the cocktail sweater, a glamorous knit with a defined waist and embellishments such as embroidery and beading around the neck and shoulders.

The crocheted mini-dress or mini skirted suit became a staple of the 1960s youth quake style, with patterns becoming available so that young women could create their own quite inexpensively. Fashion designers such as Rudi Gernreich and André Courrèges became leading avant-garde designers, embracing knit and jersey fabrics in their futuristic designs.

The novelty knit appeared in the 1970s featuring bright colours and kitsch motifs as popularised by Fiorucci and Kenzo. The 1970s were also a fertile era of fashion design, Ossie Clark, Biba, Rae Spencer Cullen for Miss Mouse, Bill Gibb and Mary Quant all used knitted fabric to great effect. Leading into the 1980s, when designer fashion exploded in a mix of alternative and high street brands, with Vivienne Westwood, Rei Kawakubo for Comme des Garçons, Zandra Rhodes and Sonia Rykiel all creating unique and sophisticated knitwear collections.

The 1990s collections of Julien MacDonald challenged the idea of the knitted garment. His experimental use of unorthodox materials electrified fashion, leading to jobs with Chanel and Givenchy before the creation of his eponymous label.

Photo: Dennis Northfruft Fashion Textile Museum

1940s Handknit

Visionary Knitwear – new directions

Visionary Knitwear is a display of bold knitting designs from the 21st century, selected by Sandy Black, Professor of Fashion and Textile Design and Technology at London College of Fashion. The exhibits highlight the best of visionary knitwear, both on and off the catwalk, produced by designers educated in UK fashion colleges who are influential throughout the industry including eye catching designs by Sisters by Sibling.

Knitwear in Fashion Photography

A selection of fashion photographs by Norman Parkinson from the Norman Parkinson Archive. This display charts the increasing prominence of knitwear in 20th century fashion with iconic images commissioned by magazines including *Harper's Bazaar*, *Vogue* and *Queen* as well as by knitwear companies.

The Livery Committee is organising a visit to the exhibition on January 15th 2015, the day after the Alms Court Dinner – details to follow.

STEM in the City Exhibition

Julia and Jean on the stand

STEM is an abbreviation for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

After the Livery Schools link exhibition earlier in the year, which concentrated on wool, the Science Council encouraged Bill to organise this science based stand, aimed at London Secondary School pupils as part of the exhibition. The stand was titled **'Fit for Purpose'** Bill Skidmore Design. We tried to show how important scientific testing was in textile production.

The exhibits included children's wear, showing the flammability potential of how easy a toddler's cotton t-shirt could catch fire. We produced a video, (obviously we could not do the test in the Guildhall), of how a t-shirt, caught by a single candle flame, burnt in 15 seconds. The toddler's party dress in Polyester self extinguished, but the molten drops could cause severe burns. There were demonstrations of the importance of wash and light fastness on apparel and furnishing fabrics, the effect of different light sources with metameric samples under daylight and tungsten lighting, abrasion testing results and antimicrobial finishes to fabric.

Talking to visitors

We also showed less obvious/technical developments in textiles – wool insulation for dwellings to fibres like carbon, glass and basalt used in technical advanced textiles for aerospace and Formula One cars.

The pupils and teaching staff were amazed and enthralled at the examples of these fibres and products not normally associated in their minds with textiles. Even the Lord Mayor, Ms Fiona Woolf, was fascinated by the diverse range of textiles.

Companies like C&J Antich, supplied examples of 3-D weaves and machine parts that had been woven, compared to machined aluminium and steel. Camira supplied examples of transport fabric along with antimicrobial fabric and we had an experiment where this and other fabrics were tested to demonstrate that those that had not been treated grew mould. The pupils could look for 'invisible' stains and other fibres with the aid of an ultra violet light source. They could experiment with abrasion and crocking tests.

This exhibition was mainly to encourage pupils, especially girls, to understand how science subjects could lead to employment and looked at avenues via further education and apprenticeships, without, (in some cases), going to university. The Textile Centre of Excellence supplied information regarding routes to apprenticeships and the SDC helped with a banner and other exhibits.

We were assisted by two (female) students, Julia a 3rd year student at Manchester University who at the time of the exhibition was on work placement with Camira Fabrics and Adriana a new graduate from the University of Huddersfield, a recipient of a Woolmen Award. Kevin Barwick, Liveryman also came along to support and assist.

Jean Skidmore

Crockmeter and other tests

The STEM from the City event, a joint partnership between the Science Council and City of London Corporation, took place on 27th June at The Guildhall. The aim was to introduce Year 9 students to the multitude of occupations and career paths available in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, including the less 'obvious' industries i.e. textiles.

I am studying textiles at the University of Manchester and in my third year chose to undertake an industrial placement year; I was given the opportunity to work with Camira Fabrics in the textile testing laboratory. Through this experience I expanded my knowledge of manufacturing processes and textile performance in preparation for my fourth year studies and textile design projects. This experience was all very relevant to the theme of our exhibition stand 'Textiles – Fit for Purpose'.

The stand utilised colourful fabric samples, testing equipment and a flammability testing video to draw in the crowds; it provided visitors with a broad introduction to textiles, colour science and fabric applications in the world around us. Around six hundred students attended the event and we were kept very busy discussing the huge range of possibilities linked to the textile industry, from textile design and fashion, to, applications in aerospace engineering and medicine!

In addition to staffing the stand I was asked to participate in speed networking sessions. These involved short conversations with students, talking about textiles but also providing advice on GCSE options, further education opportunities, including A Levels, apprenticeships and university, and the value of work experience. Each session was limited to three minutes before the students rotated to talk to other industrial volunteers but I hope they all considered textiles, design and technology as exciting areas for further research.

I really enjoyed talking to representatives from other industries about textiles but also learning about how they got into their industry and their job responsibilities; convincing physicists and lawyers that the textiles industry deserved its place as a STEM subject was particularly rewarding. Talking about my studies in textiles proved how much I had learnt to date, but also how much I still wanted to learn – a fantastic and enthusiastic start to my final year at University.

I would like to thank Bill and Jean Skidmore for the invitation to take part in the event.

Julia Lawson

Adriana and pupils

Master's Weekend – Exmoor

Although a few people arrived early and enjoyed a game of golf, the weekend really started just after lunch on Friday, once everyone was settled in to the Castle Hotel at Taunton. Our first excursion, by open topped bus, was to the recently restored gardens at Hestercombe. We were met by Mr Philip White, MBE who was the main instigator of the restoration of the Landscape Gardens, putting much of his own money into the early stages. He explained a little of the history of the garden before escorting us on a tour.

Many influences have been brought to bear on the design of the gardens. The Landscape Garden is rooted in an eighteenth century taste for idealised classical landscapes; the intricate patterns of Victorian bedding schemes had their origins in the formal parterres of the 17th century. While in 1903, in the Formal Garden, Lutyens fused Elizabethan style raised walks with a pergola and water features, influenced by Italian and Moorish gardens – the whole set off by Gertrude Jekyll's sophisticated Mediterranean palette. What is unusual at Hestercombe is that as new garden ideas have evolved and new gardens laid the older gardens have not been replaced.

The Formal Gardens were very run down in 1973 when the Somerset County Council, initiated what was to become one of the first major garden restorations in the country. Fortuitously some of Gertrude Jekyll's original planting plans were discovered in the potting shed at Hestercombe and as more information became available it was replanted in 1998.

The Landscape Garden was designed between 1750 and 1786 as a circuit with surprises, variations and subtle changes of mood together with a number of carefully orchestrated views, each composed as if they were a landscape painting.

However, when in 1995, the Hestercombe Gardens Project started, it had been managed as a commercial forestry following the clear felling of the eighteenth century parkland for its timber in 1963. The lakes, had become completely silted up, and buildings fallen into disrepair. Much of the restoration work has been based on contemporary drawings, paintings and descriptions, so many of the buildings have been reconstructed on their original foundations. Though much work is ongoing it is now possible to see these fine gardens as they were originally planned. Views across the tranquil Pear Pond and beyond give way to a mood change when entering the rough woodland of the Valley of Cascades, with the Great Cascade as the dramatic centre-piece – mystical and ringed by trees and decorated with large boulders of white quartz. Further on a varied selection of 'temples' and other resting places allow visitors to sit and take in the views before returning to the more formal gardens near the house. Unfortunately, there was not enough time to linger as we had to get back to Taunton. The evening started with an hour of Jazz by pupils from King's College followed by a relaxed dinner during which we were able to meet old, and make new friends.

David Butt, David Bawden and The Master Richard Excell

Saturday dawned a little misty. However, undaunted, our group set off for Shalden shooting school. Very few of our group had previous experience so it was with some trepidation that we headed up the steep partly wooded valley. We were separated into two groups; Matt Brammer, the schools owner in charge of the ladies while one of his

King's College Orchestra

Landscape Garden Hestercombe

assistants took care of the men. Matt was an excellent tutor as he gave each of us his individual attention while the rest looked on and took note of his instructions. By the end of the morning we had all successfully hit a number of clays and, with feeling of elation, we returned to the house for coffee.

We met the other half of our party at Dulverton Town Hall for a light lunch and a short presentation about Exmoor Horn Sheep from David Bawden, President of the Exmoor Horn Society and David Butt of Exmoor Horn Wool. These sheep are one of the few hill breeds with a relatively fine fleece, 33-36 micron I have been told. A company has been set up by members of the Exmoor Horn Sheep Breeders Society in collaboration with the Exmoor National Park to add value to the fleece by bringing it to market in the form of knitting wool and ready knitted shooting hose.

After lunch the two groups went separate ways again, one to the coast to Porlock, though they took an easier route and did not attempt the notorious Porlock Hill in their 1947 coach; the other to search for the Red Deer, unsuccessfully, though we did see the horses of the staghound hunt on the horizon. Both groups were regaled with stories of the moor and of course the tale of Lorna Doone, as we passed Badgworthy Water and valley – the setting for the story.

In the evening we met in the Museum of Somerset where we were free to wander for a while and were entertained by Kings College Orchestra during the reception, before adjourning to The Castle for an impressive dinner with further entertainment by three Students from the Guildhall School of Music. The principal guests were Richard and Jane Lloyd High Sheriff of Somerset

Sunday morning dawned bright with sunshine, unfortunately a day late for sightseeing, as people were setting off for home. However, a few had taken up the Master's offer and were able to enjoy the extensive views towards Exmoor while partaking of an excellent late lunch on the terrace of his home. A fine ending to another very enjoyable Master's Weekend. ■

The Great Cascade

Some of the shooting party

Another use for British Wool

> Recently we have all been urged to insulate our homes; sales of fibre glass and rockwool have rocketed but no one seemed to think of 'real' wool, in spite of its excellent qualities

What do Balmoral, Hampton Court, the Houses of Parliament, Edinburgh Castle, Chatsworth House and the Bodleian Library have in common? All important well known historic buildings you might say. However, if you add Buswells Lodge Primary School Leicester and Dartington Village Hall the answer may be more difficult to guess. However, they all share British wool insulation.

For a number of years 'Thermafleece' in Penrith has been the UK's leading provider of natural insulation and Christine Armstrong of Thermafleece sits on the advisory committee of the Campaign for Wool, together with representatives from the fashion, bedding and carpet industries.

Virtually every household has wool in it somewhere, be it on the floor in a carpet, curtains, bedding or in the wardrobe with wool suits and jackets, jumpers and socks. For centuries, sheep have shaped our landscape while their multipurpose coats have provided livelihoods for generations of families, but our love affair with wool has been on the wane. Ten years ago there were 21 million breeding ewes, today that is down to 14 million.[1] Sheep are nature's lawn-mowers. Lose the flocks and we lose the wildflowers on our downs. As importantly, whole livelihoods will be put in jeopardy, from farmhouse B&B's to local pubs and communities. We mustn't turn our back on Britain's home grown fibre! It is both an ancient fibre, and the fibre of the future! Few, however, think of its excellent properties and over the years our love of wool has been on the decline with the rise of 'easier care' synthetic fibres.

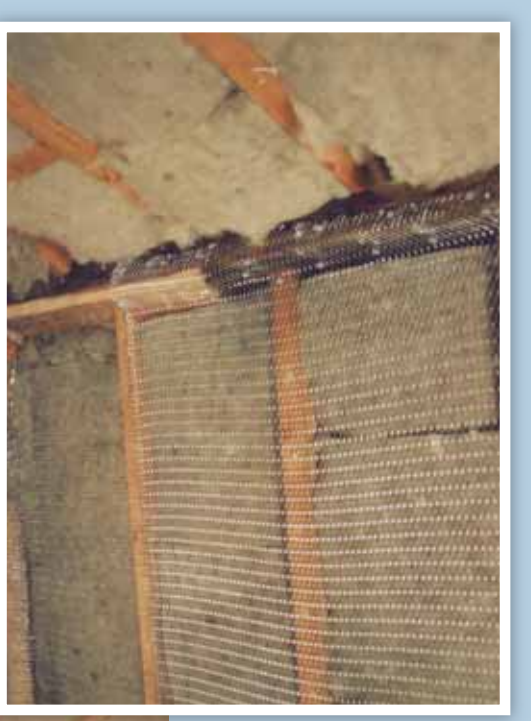
Bodleian Library The library houses over 8 million books and manuscripts including rare and incomparable collections. The moisture buffering which regulates humidity levels was of special importance.

Recently we have all been urged to insulate our homes; sales of fibre glass and rockwool have rocketed but no one seemed to think of 'real' wool, in spite of its excellent qualities. It is a natural product, renewable, easy care, odour resistant and naturally flame retardant. It is also durable, breathable and a natural insulator and its unique structure allows it to absorb and release moisture so helping to regulate moisture levels in the air. It can 'fix' many airborne chemicals and, as it contains 50% of non fossil carbon, it is an excellent carbon sink. It also has excellent acoustic properties so is useful for noise reduction.

Fibre glass will eventually disintegrate and must be disposed of in landfill, but wool is biodegradable and breaks down in a relatively short time returning nutrients to the soil. Fibre glass is also an irritant and needs care when being handled; wool does not have this problem and can be produced in rolls and batts as with fibreglass.

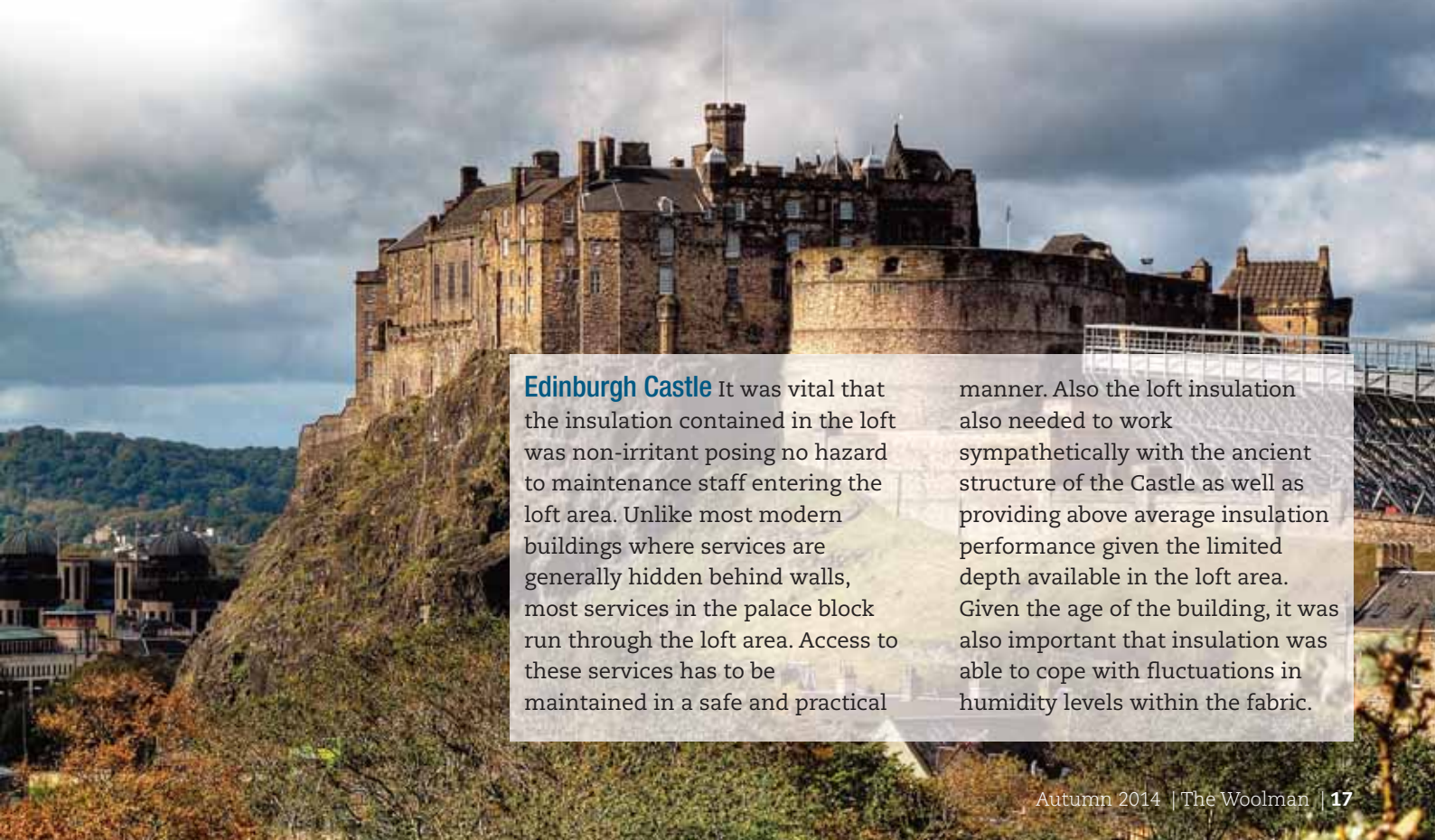
'Thermafleece' uses coarse 'coloured' wool from British sheep in their products i.e. wool from coloured sheep, often the mountain breeds. Fawn, brown and black wool tends to be disliked by other wool users e.g. the carpet industry, as it is difficult to colour and there is also a trend at the moment for light coloured carpets. The wool is scoured in Bradford and manufactured into rolls and batts. The product contains 75% wool and 25% PET, from recycled plastic bottles. The PET improves the structure of the insulation, helping it to hold its shape both during installation and in use and this also helps to ensure longevity. Research has shown that

18th Century Timber Framed House in Cowes. On a smaller scale, Past Master Richard Hollis used Thermafleece during the restoration of his home. He says that it is easy to use, provides fantastic insulation, makes the house soundproof and does not cause condensation as found with synthetic insulation.



using 75% wool in combination with recycled material outperforms alternative products with a higher percentage of wool. The comprehensive range of thermal and acoustic insulation, rich in home-grown natural fibres, ('Thermafleece' also use a certain amount of hemp in one of their products), that uniquely combine natural and recycled fibres at their optimum proportions and density. This ensures all the wool, hemp and recycled insulation meets the highest demands of traditional and modern construction. ■

(1) Source 'Thermafleece' Website



Edinburgh Castle It was vital that the insulation contained in the loft was non-irritant posing no hazard to maintenance staff entering the loft area. Unlike most modern buildings where services are generally hidden behind walls, most services in the palace block run through the loft area. Access to these services has to be maintained in a safe and practical manner. Also the loft insulation also needed to work sympathetically with the ancient structure of the Castle as well as providing above average insulation performance given the limited depth available in the loft area. Given the age of the building, it was also important that insulation was able to cope with fluctuations in humidity levels within the fabric.

Campaign for Wool

Wool Week 2014 October 5th – October 12th

The Campaign for Wool, of which His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales is Patron, returned this year to celebrate its 5th anniversary with the Wool Bike Ride and Wool Collection: Interiors

Wool Ride

The morning of Sunday 5th October dawned bright and sunny, thankfully, after a wet Saturday, as riders began to gather for the Campaign for Wool, Wool ride marking the start of Wool Week. There was the opportunity to have bikes checked over and to hire one if required at Potters Field, under the shadow of Tower Bridge. Riders were interviewed to build up the atmosphere and those in particularly interesting costumes photographed numerous times. All ages gathered from about 4 years to 70, all ready to enjoy the day. Riders wore a variety of styles of clothing from traditional tweed jackets to woolly hats The Wool Room, had a whole team attired in wool filled duvet onesies which, at first, seemed particularly appropriate, as the night before had been very chilly, and until the sun began to warm up there was a distinct nip in the air. I am not sure how suitable they would be once the sun warmed London streets, but wool is breathable, regulates moisture and is warm in winter, cool in summer so they should have been OK. Young Henry Thorley, (aged 5, who has only been riding his bike for the last two months), was dubbed the ride mascot; he showed his prowess, after a shaky start, and did a few circles for the spectators.

At last everyone started to line up for the start of their tour through some of the streets made famous by London's most prominent wool supporters, including the archetypal Jermyn Street. Participants also took in some of London's key sights and hotspots, passing iconic scenery such as; London Bridge, Buckingham Palace, Westminster, Knightsbridge, Park Lane and Regent Street as they followed the 13.4 mile meandering route, with time to soak up the atmosphere and enjoy the sights of the capital at a leisurely pace. This was no race, just a time to enjoy the Capital and celebrate the Wonder of Wool. Prizes for the Best Dressed Male and Female went to some very stylish members of the public. The Best Dressed Team went to Jigsaw, (luxury clothing and accessories chain), for their beautiful striped merino cycling jerseys and the Wackiest Wool Ride costume was awarded to Thermafleece, (wool insulation), for their incredible woollen helmets. Henry, I am told, completed the 13.4 mile course with his father John Thorley, OBE, Honorary President of the Campaign for Wool.

Ready to roll

Desert Rose Rug, Edward Fields by Tai Ping

Interiors Collection Exhibition

The Campaign for Wool Interiors Collection was also launched on Sunday October 5th part of the fifth anniversary celebrations of HRH The Prince of Wales' Campaign for Wool at the iconic Southwark Cathedral, London and will later move to Yorkshire, (venue tbc). This thoughtful collection sits within the shadows of Southwark's spire in its covered and transformed courtyard and also in parts

Competition winners, right Rug by Charlotte Wildsmith, De Montfort University,

Zoology Rug by Rose de Borman for Anthropologie

of the Cathedral itself designed to enhance the historical features.

The exhibition consists of fifty of the best individual wool interior items of different styles from around the world. There is something of interest for everyone and at all price ranges in a broad range of fabrics; flooring, furnishings and lifestyle items including craft and creative pieces have been gathered together to show the story of wool interiors. Covering High Street, Designer, Bespoke, and Commercial sectors, it has a special focus on stunning carpets and rugs in which the majority of British and New Zealand Wool is used.

The exhibition has been garnered from selected pre-existing products to those that have been specifically commissioned. All items are available to buy via retail stores or online. Items from John Lewis, Marks and Spencer and Heals are featured alongside

> Ultimately, it was a mere snapshot of the story that wool offers to interiors …

Rugs by Roger Oats, Orwell Wing Chair, Kirsty White for Heals

Atmosphore building as rider interviewed

stunning rugs from Edward Fields, Roger Oates and Christopher Farr. There is much more to this than meets the eye as special stories support many of the items.

There was also a small textile student collection from the Bradford Textile Society Design Competition celebrating new talent and the importance of young designers and makers to the wool industry

Ultimately, it was a mere snapshot of the story that wool offers to interiors, but, it highlights how wool is the superior natural fibre of the future and forms a styled capsule follow-on from the critically acclaimed Wool House, that showcased at Somerset House in 2013. Bridgette Kelly and Olga Dorojevic are to be congratulated on a superb exhibition.

Woolsies by the Wool Room

Golf in the Woolmen's Company 2014

North v. South Match

(Left to right) James Barker, Robert Allan, Hugh Furber, Jonathan Lee, Peter Meredith, John Payne, Peter Ambler, Alan Morrell, Roger Bowers, Holmes Johnson and Richard Excell

On the 16th and 17th June the North v South Match was held at Hawkstone Park, Shropshire with the golfers enjoying good weather throughout. The Northern Team of Robert Allan, Roger Bowers, Peter Ambler, Alan Morrell, Peter Meredith and James Barker (guest) won The Tankard for the Stableford Competition. The Southern Team of the Master, Richard Excell, Hugh Furber, Jonathan Lee, John Payne, Peter Holmes Johnson and Ian Allan (guest) gave a good account of themselves, with the match being played on the picturesque and beautiful Hawkstone Course. The prize for the best individual score went to James Barker, with the runner's up prize going to Peter Holmes Johnson.

In the evening, the golfers enjoyed an excellent dinner with the Master presenting the Tankard and the other prizes. A collection was held for The Soldiers' Charity to assist the rehabilitation of wounded service personnel through the medium of sport. There followed an evening of good fellowship and lively discussion.

On the following day, the Foursomes Competition was played on the tough Championship Course. The winners were the pairing of Alan Morrell and James Barker with Richard Excell and Jonathan Lee being runners up. The Golfers departed after an informal lunch and there was enthusiasm to repeat the fixture in 2015. Provisional arrangements have been made to play the event on the 15th and 16th June 2015 at Greetham Valley, in Rutland.

"The Ryder Cup" at the Verulam Club at St Alban's on 8 July

A Woolmen's team of Hugh Furber, Martin Olley, John Poppleton and Chris Dancaster took part in this highly enjoyable Inter-Livery Competition organized by the Worshipful Company of Marketors. The Verulam Club, which was the home course of Sam Ryder, (donor of the Ryder Cup), offered interest and challenge to all the golfers. As our team left the Course and headed for the Club House, they just avoided a torrential rainstorm. The Woolmen's team were not among the prize winners, but spent an excellent day in good company. A first class dinner followed where the Woolmen shared a table with the Worshipful Company of International Bankers.

Next year's competition will be held on the 29th June 2015 at the Verulam Club, St Albans.

Any Liveryman who is interested in Golf and possibly playing in matches please contact Hugh Furber hugh@hffurber.co.uk

Hugh Furber

Sailing: To Sail or Not to Sail

This was the dilemma which faced the race team for the annual City Livery Yacht Club Regatta on Saturday 17th May; the reason, a high level cloud cover and no breeze to speak of. The race was postponed at first for a hour, but it was actually two and a quarter hours later when they eventually got away on a leg down to Quinnell buoy with the tide. This was successfully negotiated by everyone, despite a fickle breeze causing a navigational night-mare for the competitors. Once they arrived at the buoy they started to pick up a SW sea breeze giving them a run along the shore to Royal Thames against the tide. Despite the difficult conditions everyone finished the course with the top 9 boats all finishing within 10 minutes of each other.

Once all the results were calculated it emerged that our own Richard Hollis had won in his Half Tonner Crackjax representing the Woolman Livery Company. Past Master Richard Hollis, ably assisted by his wife Ursula and their crew improved on their third and second places in the previous regattas. They were delighted to win this year. Richard commented " Living in Cowes it is helpful to have a little local knowledge … and some luck"

Cycling

On June 5th 2014 John Brewer, Upper Warden, completed the first stage of the Tour de France in Yorkshire – 200km in 10 hours of cycling, with a few well deserved rest breaks raising just **over £2,100** so far… He says 'It is a great course, challenging hills and descents and some fabulous scenery.

The weather managed to provide the full Yorkshire menu, of rain, wind and heavy showers which added to the enjoyment of the day!'

A massive thank-you to all those who sponsored him, and to anyone else who is thinking about it. In total the ride has raised **£73,000 for the JDRF Charity** which researches the cure for diabetes in children.

Left to right: Peter Wade, Mike Stone, Tim Collingwood, John Brewer, Richard Excell, Simon Boardman-Weston, Jonathan Lee, David Mclaren, Andy Mullins, James Williams, Nigel Hamway, Mark Sutcliffe

Livery Shoot

This year the Woolmen and their guests were able to field three teams at the annual Inter Livery Charity Clay Shoot, which has become one of the highlights of the City of London charity events.

Since its revival in 1993 it has been a hugely successful fund raiser for charities nominated by teams involved in the day. It was attended by in excess of 400 guns in four man teams, representing over 55 Livery Companies. The guns battled it out over a ten stand, 80 bird Sporting layout interrupted only by the four man, 80 bird, flush from the high tower.

The venue was once again the Holland & Holland shooting ground at Northwood Middlesex, which is a beautifully laid out professional circuit and home for shooting of all disciplines. The shoot mantains a comfortable, friendly, esprit dé còrps atmosphere, whilst creating a pool of money for donation to charity.

As usual, it was an extremely well run day, given the huge number of participants and though no prizes were won by the Woolmen and their guests, Simon Boardman-Weston must be given credit for coming =19th in the rankings.

Next year's event takes place on Wednesday 20th May 2015 and we hope to have even more Woolmen's teams participating. Please contact Jonathan Lee by email at jonathan.lee@talk21.com to register your interest.

Jonathan Lee, BA (Hons), MSc, DipM

Le Tour de Yorkshire …

Bill Skidmore asks why so many wool and sheep references?

After the Tour de France left Yorkshire I received a number of phone calls to say how good the Tour had been, how people had loved the coverage and congratulating the people of Yorkshire for the wonderful support … *but why were there so many images of sheep?*

Well I have been told "There are more than 30 times the number of sheep in the Dales than people – that's almost 600,000 sheep. They're of real economic importance, shape the scenery that people know and love, and really *knit* the Dales community together," and as all Woolmen should know Pennine sheep formed the basis of the Yorkshire woolen industry… which contrary to popular opinion is still going strong.

In order to celebrate the importance sheep and wool have on Dales' life a year-long Woolen Hills Project was set up and supported by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. A host of farms, businesses and visitor attractions across the Yorkshire Dales, Ripon, Harrogate and Knaresborough participated in the 'Lost Sheep' campaign by creating and displaying images and models of sheep wearing yellow jerseys – a nod to the fact that the Tour de France was coming to the region in July 2014 and a competition was run from July-September 2013 to find more than 200 'lost sheep'.

This was just the start.

An Arts Festival, the first Arts celebration to build up to the Tour in its 111 year history, was officially launched on March 27th but people had already started thinking up woolly projects as towns and villages, individuals and groups prepared to welcome the Tour. Tour de France fans in Harrogate showed their enthusiasm by pledging to knit woolly jerseys in yellow, white, green and white with red dots to decorate the town as bunting. The local council set the target of 3000 jerseys but this number was far exceeded as young and old, experienced and amateurs took up the challenge and turned their hand to knitting. Eventually, virtually every town, village and hamlet and many individual homes had its own display. Craft shops stocked the yarn and patterns could be obtained in many places including on line. Masham had a problem.... the local council thought that if they got wet they would be too heavy for the lamp posts they were strung between and ordered them to be removed … However, the inhabitants refused to give up the jumpers and attached them across their houses and along fences instead.

Many people along the route painted their bikes yellow or made wooden cutouts to display in their gardens at the end of the drive or attached to fences and trees. Several farmers dyed their sheep in 'tour' colours, one even dyed his whole flock yellow. Where the idea of sheep on bikes came from I don't know but throughout the region they began to appear – perhaps an image from the Black Sheep Brewery was the catalyst but whatever it was, numerous example appeared. Even the Oxfam shop in Ripon took up the challenge with two of its donations taking pride of place in the shop window sporting the notice ' I am busy on my Le Tour … So at the moment I am not for sale … Baaa'; while the primary school in Masham created an enormous image in the village square that was best seen from above. ■

Polly Granville, Seating Coutourier

Blue Chair 2

www.pollygranville.com
polly@pollygranville.com

Recently called a "Seating couturier" Polly Granville is not your average upholstery company.

Yes, of course you can go to them with Aunt Flo's old sofa and they will do a fine job of re-covering or re-upholstering it, but really the USP of the company is to create one-off pieces of furniture. Each one upholstered in "a wild and idiosyncratic" way.

Inspired by the green ethos of the upholstery tradition, Polly Granville start with old frames. Stripping them back, working with craftspeople all over the British Isles and using the finest of fabrics they create small works of art that will become family heirlooms.

Over the years PGV has teamed up with Interior Designers, Architects and also private clients to collaborate in a step by step process so that the most personal and specific of pieces can be crafted for a home or corporate setting.

When speaking to Polly Chetwynd Stapylton, the founder, her passion for the unusual shines through – her attention to detail when recreating cross-stitch motifs from vintage tapestries or sourcing exactly the right Liberty Tana lawn for piping is extraordinary.

The company is drawn time and time again to using pure wool as the base fabric for a chair. Felt is an absolute favourite. "The softness, warmth and durability of wool is just fantastic to work with . We use companies like Bute and Hainsworth often as clients are always delighted to know we are using fabric spun here in Britain" Polly says. "Another favourite fabric of ours is a 60% wool and 40% hemp mix which gives the fabric a wonderful natural slub, whilst still being extremely smart."

"Wool seems to be having a resurgence within the design world, not that it ever went away, but people are getting really innovative – I have recently been approached by a company who have been researching digital printing onto wool, they are coming up with some exciting designs and I hope to be able to collaborate with them in the future to create something really spectacular."

Capturing the zeitgeist for sustainability and natural fibres means that using pure wool is an obvious choice for a company like this.

Map Chair

Lions feet main

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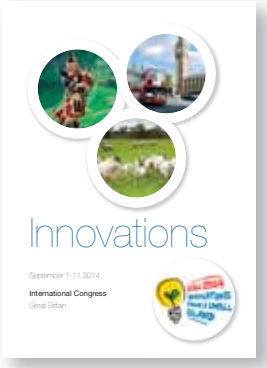
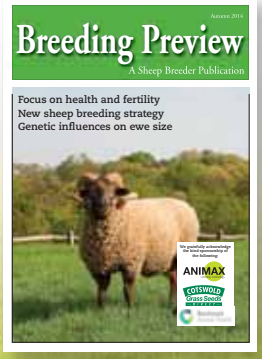
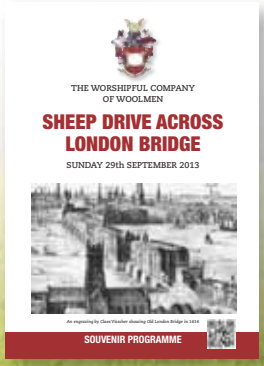
Does your Wool Business need Promotion?

Do you need promotional material?







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