THE MASTER woolman

Lana spes nostra | Summer 2015

THE MAGAZINE OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WOOLMEN

www.woolmen.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Royal Welsh Show
20th -23rd July

Visit to Queen's Own Yeomanry, York
25th July

Master's Weekend
25th - 27th September

Sheep Drive
27th September

Election of Lord Mayor
Monday, 29th September

Civic Dinner
Stationer's Hall
6th November

Carol Service
St Bartholomew The Great
15th December

Alms Court Dinner
Cutler's Hall
13th Jan 2016

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WITH ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS TO THE WOOLMARK COMPANY WHO RETAIN THE COPYRIGHT OWNERSHIP OF THE POEM

King Arthur's Knights sat sullen eyed.
"What ails thee all?" the Monarch cried.
Said one, "It's this round table, sire,
The lads out here can't feel the fire."
Quoth Guinivere, "Poor faithful knights.
I'll knit them all a pair of tights."
Morale was saved, which proves the rule,
There is no substitute for Wool.

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 Wool mark Company who retain the copyright ownership of the poems. If you can't wait for the next instalment of these amusing advertise ments, you can contact the Clerk to purchase your own copy of the collection.

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Welcome

Following discussions at the last Finance, Investment and General Purposes committee meeting it was decided to make new arrangements for printing the Woolmen's newsletter. It is hoped this will help to put the magazine on a more commercial footing and why there is a new look and new title for the magazine. We are very grateful to Howard Venters and Shepherd Publishing for their sponsorship and support of the magazine over the last four years. It is also hoped to achieve better integration with electronic media – the website and social media – by bringing them all together under the Communications Committee.

Bill Clark, Chair of Communications Committee

Further into the magazine you will see reports of dignitaries that have been visiting textile companies in West Yorkshire. Ironically, I had visited the same companies a few weeks earlier. It is always good to know that the industry is being recognised for their products and long standing existence … or just as a vote catcher.

I have been getting 'Cat Walk' blur due to the number of Fashion Shows and Degree shows I have attended in the last few weeks. It has been good to see the number of students who have focused on using wool in their collections … not only the imported finer blends, but also British fleece. One such university is Nottingham Trent. They have always had a reputation for their knitwear and this year one student won two of the five top awards. Menswear and VisionaryKnitwear Awards at Graduate Fashion Week , the largest international showcase for graduating fashion designers in the world. One always expects to see 'the extreme and outlandish' but, it is one of the times when students can really express themselves. With any product design, the concept appears first and then production modifications dilute the original concept, but retain its essence … without the original thinking little would change.

It is a pity that with so much choice available some people do not appear to have any idea what is suitable dress for different occasions. Things have moved on, but not up, as society appears to have changed the ubiquitous track suit for beach shorts, or jeans and trainers for all occasions. We know that the young like to rebel, that is the nature of youth, but to see more mature adults … mainly males … dressed inappropriately really annoys me. The formal suit is not appropriate for all occasions, but, surely there could be a happy medium. Unfortunately, there does seem to be a lack of role models available

Liveryman Bill Skidmore, Editor

Installation Service and Dinner

St Michaels, Cornhill again provided the setting for this year's Installation and Service with 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven' forming a very suitable Processional Hymn. After the Installation of the New Master, John Brewer, Upper Warden Ken Ayres and Lower Warden Chris Thierry. The choir sang a short motet by John Sheppard (16th century). The lessons were read by the master and Upper Warden and hymns included 'The Lord is my Shepherd' and 'All we like Sheep' (from the Messiah) before the address by the Honorary Chaplain gave his address. 'Dear Lord and Father of Mankind' accompanied the collection and the service ended with 'I Vow to Thee, my Country'

All those who attended the service then went in procession to Skinners' Hall. The original property was divided into five shops with rooms above, behind which was the main hall reached via a courtyard. Harbin's "Dictionary of London" states that the Skinners' were in possession of the Hall in the time of Henry III (1216-1272). However, like many other Livery Halls, Skinners' Hall was destroyed during the Great Fire of London in 1666. It was rebuilt around 1670.

Passing through the ceremonial gates and crossing the charming courtyard one enters the Outer Hall with its stunning circular gallery and open fire. The room is oak panelled with a plaster ceiling dating back to 1670. The glass chandelier was presented by Catherine the Great to James Harris, first Earl of Malmesbury, a Skinner and Ambassador to the Court of St. Petersburg in the 1780s. The Master's reception was held in the Old Court Room recently restored under the dir - ection of English Heritage. We then pro - ceeded to the Banqueting Hall, again Oak panelled with Paintings by Sir Frank Brang - wyn. The earliest ones on the long walls date from 1902-1909, and depict ten episodes from the history of the Company.

Sadly the gallery and stained glass windows located at the southern end of the Banqueting Hall were lost in the bomb damage of July 1944.

After an excellent dinner we were enter - tained by students from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama including pieces from Kismet, Oklahoma, Cole Porter and Puccini. Alderman Peter Hewitt proposed the Toast to the Guests who included:

- **His Excellency the Ambassador of Belg - ium,** and Mrs Trouveroy. Guy Trouveroy is a distinguished diplomat with consid er - able international experience, having had postings in many countries including being the Deputy Head of Mission in Beijing where he witnessed the terrible events in Tiananmen Square. He was also Consul General in Los Angeles in 1994, where he and his family found them - selves sheltering from the Northridge

The Master and Alexandra

Photo: Gerald Sharp Photography

Upper Warden Ken Ayres, Master John Brewer, Under Warden Chris Thierry

earthquake. His wife Nathalie is an Art Historian who did her Masters in History of Art and Aarchaeology, with a specialis - ation in Japanese art and calligraphy.

- **Ian Tandy,** the Co-Head of Corporate Banking in London for HSBC.
- **Ian Buchanan; Dudley Hutchings; Ian Hartley** and Daniel Taylor -our friends from the City Wool Project
- **Ian Mclean** is managing director of John Smedley clothing, where they specialise in Knitwear and have a substantial, £17m turnover.
- **Tom Bolt,** who is the Director of Perform - ance Management at Lloyds of London
- **The Master Wheelwright** Ian Armfield is a Chartered Accountant, having spent most of his working life with PwC as a partner
- **Lt Colonel Sean Costello and Major William Bankes** - from our affiliated regiment, the Queens Own Yeomanry.

The Master's Guest speaker was **Professor J Meirion Thomas.** Meirion comes from South Wales mining stock and was the Senior Surgeon at the Royal Marsden Hospital specialising in the treatment of sarcoma and melanoma. He held a personal Chair at Imperial College and has worked for 45 years in the NHS, 33 of those as a specialist cancer surgeon.

He spoke about the pre-election rhetoric mainly to do with money but felt a lot of people do not understand the problems facing the NHS. As life saving sciences become more expensive and require funding, another major problem is retention of British qualified doctors, many of whom leave for countries like Australia. We are having to recruit more and more doctors from abroad, (Romania has lost 33% of its doctors), but they are often not as qualified as British trained ones and there can be a language barrier. Another problem is Health Tourism; treatment is free at the point of access but it costs £3 billion a year. There is no system in place to ensure entitlement. He feels we need to look at new patients and make sure all provide ID. He also questioned if people really value the NHS as there is a 10 - 15% non attendance for appointments ... wasting time and money. ■

He also questioned if people really value the NHS as there is a 10-15% non attendance for appointments … wasting time and money.

End of Term Report

Photo: Gerald Sharp

> I am looking forward to enjoying a slightly quieter year although I suspect my role as Chairman of the City Wool Project Advisory Board will keep me busy!

It has been a very special year for Carolyn and myself and I would like to thank all of you for your support. It is an enormous privilege to represent the Company with its ancient history stretching back to 1180 but also to be representing a fibre where its modern industry stretches around the world employing so many people. Wools popularity has started to grow again and we have certainly had a busy year in the Company!

I have done my best to keep up with our many different activities from the City Wool Project to the London Bridge Sheep Drive, to the Livery Committee functions, the Livery Schools Link, our military connections, carol services, golf and shooting days and being involved in our student charity awards – as well as help organise the dinners and much more! It has been nonstop and everything has been a 'highlight' – but enormous fun!

The work of the Court and Past Masters has seen us steadily build up a very wide number of activities that hopefully provides areas that are of interest across the Livery. My thanks to all the Liverymen who freely give their time to provide us with such interesting events. Our dinners have been attended by record numbers and it is always a great moment to visit another ancient Hall.

The year has demonstrated to me that there are two strong elements in our Livery that in a way differentiate us from many of the other ancient and modern Livery Companies.

Firstly, we are an ancient livery with an extraordinary history that was the bedrock for the wealth of our country but that still has an exciting and fascinating modern global industry that comes in all shapes and sizes using sustainable and environmentally friendly wool. That is why the City Wool Project is of such interest and fascination in linking each of us using our wider life skills with innovation at all levels with those more closely involved with wool.

Secondly, we are a very friendly and open Livery and come from all walks of life and interests rather than just a particular industry. We are also unusual for an ancient Company in that we are not a 'closed shop' and welcome new members into the livery. Our common thread is our support for our charitable activities and helping those less fortunate through our giving.

I am looking forward to enjoying a slightly quieter year although I suspect my role as Chairman of the City Wool Project Advisory Board will keep me busy! Thank you again for all your support. ■

Richard Excell, Immediate Past Master

A Warm Welcome to our New Journeymen

The Court was delighted when five of our award winning students expressed an interest in joining the Woolmen's new journeyman scheme, and four have now accepted the offer. Two of the five are also getting involved in the life of the company by running our twitter and facebook accounts, and all of them have bold plans for their future careers, and through the good offices of a number of Liverymen we hope to provide them with mentoring and careers advice.

Christina Charlton attended Heriot-Watt University in the Scottish borders and won her award for her Master's Dissertation. She would like to develop her understanding and interest in British wool and textiles and hopes to work in the industry. She has taken on the challenge of keeping the Woolmen's facebook account going. Originally from Aberdeenshire, Scotland, she is currently living and working in central London. She moved from Aberdeenshire to Edinburgh, where she studied for her undergraduate degree at the University of Edinburgh in Business Studies and Accounting. Then she went on to study a Master's degree in Fashion and Textiles Management at Heriot-Watt. In September of last year, she began her career as a Merchandise Allocator at House of Fraser. Her main interests lie within British made fashion, which drove her Master's thesis – looking at whether a 'Made in Britain' fashion revival could sustain itself in today's fashion economy. Aside from fashion, she has a number of other hobbies, including cooking, running and skiing.

Maria Silies also studied at Heriot Watt and received her award for postgraduate studies associated with wool and hopes to pursue a career in fashion and textiles. Kathryn Chesters, another student at Heriot Watt, won her award for the best second year BSc fashion technology student. She would like to find relevant and beneficial internships to help further her career. Jessica Kennedy, also from Heriot Watt, has not yet taken the next step of becoming a journeyman, but she is looking after the Woolmen's twitter account.

Lucy Smith attended the University of Huddersfield and won her award for her final year as a fashion design student. She would like to further her career in fashion and textiles using wool in traditional and innovative ways. She visited New Zealand and Australia in February.

In days gone by, a journeyman was an individual who had completed an apprenticeship and was fully educated in a trade or craft, but not yet a master. To become a master, a journeyman had to submit a master work piece to a guild for evaluation and be admitted to the guild as a master craftsman. Sometimes, a journeyman was required to accomplish a three-year working trip, which was known as the journeyman years. In other cases, a journeyman was content to practice his craft as a journeyman without wishing to progress further in his guild.

Christina Charlton

The word *journeyman* comes from the French word *journée*, which means a day's work or a day's travel. The title refers to the journeyman's right to charge a fee for each day's work. A journeyman could not employ others and had to make his own living arrangements. In contrast, an apprentice would be bound to a master, usually for a fixed term of seven years, and lived with the master as a member of the household, receiving most or all compensation in the form of food and lodging. The terms *jack* and *knave* are sometimes used as informal words for journeyman. ■

Bill Clark Past Master

"The word *journeyman* comes from the French word *journée*, which means a day's work or a day's travel.

New Liverymen

Haydn Biddle

David Hirst

David J McLaren

Haydn Biddle

Haydn has extensive experience of retailing, wholesaling and production. He worked in a variety of sales and marketing positions with Procter & Gamble and then became Marketing Director of Scottish & Newcastle's beer business. During his eight years with this Company he was variously responsible for International Operations, was MD of William Youngers Ltd, Chairman of William Youngers (Yorkshire) Ltd and MD of Newcastle Breweries Limited. He is currently Chairman of George Bateman & Son Ltd, brewers & retailers, having previously been Chief Executive.

Haydn has a longstanding interest in education & training and is Pro Chancellor and Chairman of the University of Lincoln board. He has been Deputy Chairman of the East Midlands Development Agency, Deputy Chairman and Pro Chancellor of Northumbria University, Chairman of a regional FEC Committee, Chairman of Business Link Lincolnshire, Chairman of Tyneside TEC, as well as having sat on the East Midlands Learning & Skills Council.

The majority of this education work (excluding the development agency) is done pro bono, as is the mentoring of a University student and a member of the local academy. Haydn also chaired the Princes Trust in Lincolnshire between 2005 and 2009.

He holds or has held Non-Executive Directorships with J.D. Wetherspoon, Bullman Pub Company Ltd, Boston, Investors in Lincoln, Lincolnshire TEC, The Newcastle Initiative, Newcastle Enterprise Trust, Lincoln Science & Innovation Park, is a Governor of First College, a Board member of Dicksons Ltd. and was a Board member of the East Midlands Urban Development Fund.

David Laurence Richard Hirst

David was born in 1931 in the village of Wyke, a southerly suburb of the City of Bradford.

His father was Counting House Office Manager & Cashier of Bradford wool firm, Ellet Woodman & Co. Ltd. After elementary school in Wyke, he secured a Governors scholarship to Bradford Grammar School and went on to obtain school certificate, and then a junior clerk position with Phoenix Assurance at their Bradford Office. He took Chartered Insurance Institute exams and qualification of Chartered Insurer (ACII) and next came National Service in the RAF, during 1949 - 1951.

After gaining experience in the insurance industry in Yorkshire, he secured his first management position as Branch Manager of the Phoenix office in Edinburgh. Further management roles followed around the country the old Phoenix office was taken over by Sun Alliance Group. He accepted a role in Leeds and subsequently retired after 42 years continuous service.

He joined the Round Table in 1960, and went on to the 41 Club and is still a member. He participated in all forms of sport, mainly cricket, and football, and was a useful snooker player. Currently a Tavernier member of Yorkshire County Cricket Club, & a vice President of his local Bradford league cricket club - Woodlands CC.

He maintains interest in his former employers Pensioners Association, as Chairman of the North Eastern Branch based in Leeds.

His wife of 47 years died in 2002. He has 3 married daughters and currently has a partner, Mrs. Maureen Zipfel.

David J McLaren

David lives in Oxfordshire but is originally from Liverpool with an early link to the wool trade by virtue of being educated at Merchant Taylors' School! He has degrees in War Studies (KCL), and History of Art and Architecture (Courtauld Institute). Initially a BBC journalist, then an adman, as CEO of ad agencies KMP and CDP. He worked closely with Richard Excell on the reconstruction of the international wool organisation and the re-positioning of Woolmark in the early to mid Nineties.

Subsequently CEO of the UK and the world's leading PR firm, Hill and Knowlton, and Global Client Director at WPP. Most recently CEO for six years until 2012 of the UK's leading private cancer clinic, Leaders in Oncology Care (LOC).

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and of the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising, a Trustee of the Oxford Literary

Festival, and Eliminating Domestic Violence Foundation, a Board member of the Orchestra of St John's, and Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres. He has also been a Committee member of the National Trust for 9 years and Founder Trustee of the Photographer's Gallery. He was Chair of the Development Board and Trustee of the River and Rowing Museum. Appointed as Honorary Mentor of The Mentor Foundation, Switzerland. He is also a Non-Executive Director of wine merchants Corney & Barrow.

David Wood

After leaving the Royal Marines in 1972 David took the 2 year farming course at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester before moving to Exmoor to farm. He now farms there in partnership with his son Dan who manages about 700 breeding ewes and a commercial pheasant shoot. They currently produce about 1,000 lambs, some of which are for breeding, and They sell about 700 fleeces direct to the Wool Board at South Molton.

During the past 40 years he has set up and run two other agricultural type enterprises.

The first was a pre runner to the interne,t using British Telecom's videotext service Prestel, to provide information and computing to the agricultural industry. After five years as managing director, BT, their largest shareholder, bought the company and added it to their portfolio of specialist IT joint ventures.

In 1999 they, as a family, started selling their lamb and other meats direct to the public, cutting out the middle man, using both direct mail and the internet. The company, Somerset Farm Direct, became quite well known, being one of Rick Steins Food Heroes, supplying fresh meat to a customer base of about 5,000 including some restaurants and cookery schools. The company ran for 10 years ceasing when he attempted to retire!

Howard Tollit

Howard was born in London, and grew up on an 8 acre family small holding in Hertfordshire. He was educated at Berkhamsted School and after graduating from the University of Sheffield, became a Member of the Landscape Institute in 1987. An MBA from Warwick Business School in 1990 opened up the opportunity for a career change and Howard joined the management consultancy practices of Coopers & Lybrand and then PricewaterhouseCoopers. In 2002 he moved to IBM and from 2004 spent six years supporting Defra make some of the changes necessary after the disastrous 2001 Foot and Mouth outbreak.

Although not directly engaged in the UK wool sector, Howard has a keen interest in an industry that has contributed so much to our national wealth and heritage. Working in and around the City of London, his interests include rugby, riding his Triumph Bonneville on a sunny weekend, travelling to both near and far flung places, as well as photography, theatre and the arts. Howard lives in Teddington, South West London, and is married to Julie, a physiotherapist. They have three children at various stages of leaving and then returning to the family flock.

David Wood

Howard Tollit

Lady Diana Farrington

Diana was born in 1953 into a Somerset farming family, which included a flock of Dorset Horns!

She attended Westonbirt School in Gloucestershire and then read Landscape Architecture at Manchester. She became an Associate Member of the Institute of Landscape Architects in 1977, working with Robert Matthew Johnson Marshall Architects on several diverse projects in the UK and abroad.

In 1979, she was married to Harry, after which they moved to West Somerset to run his family arable/beef farm; she has been involved in all enterprises to include forestry, renewable biomass crops, property and development interests-using her design experience. They have two sons, working in Agriculture and Engineering.

Her interests and hobbies include art and textiles, garden design, music, riding, gardening, choral singing and now golf, with the hope of beating her husband and challenging the Immediate Past Master !

The opportunity of having been accepted

Lady Diana Farrington

James Williams

Jean Aslett

Peter Reynolds

as a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen will enable her to link her farming background with their City of London traditions.

James Williams

James was born in Oxford in 1948 and took over the family farm on his father's death in 1996. He was educated at Aldenham and the Royal Agricultural College Cirencester, graduating in 1968.

He worked at MGM British Studios and at a busy London commercial photographic studio before setting up a company in 1977 making wooden loo seats. Now celebrating 38 years they are proud to have supplied many of the most prestigious developments and households across Europe.

During the 1970's he criss-crossed North America for business and pleasure and at one time rode a motorcycle from Florida to Los Angeles and back solo. He has always been a keen shot and at school was 10th in the schools Hundred and 7th the open revolver competition. Now he supports country sports, particularly enjoying shooting and fishing.

He is a keen photographer and enjoys painting large and complicated watercolours. He plays Real Tennis and skis and gained a private helicopter licence in the 1990s. He is married to Janice, a jeweller and knitwear producer, who uses Alpaca wool for baby clothes. They have two children, Oliver and Phoebe. Together they have all made two trips to Mongolia and enjoyed visiting herdsmen in the Gobi and Altai regions producing high quality cashmere wool in very harsh conditions.

Jean Aslet

Jean Aslet is a professional pianist and harpsichordist, working under her professional name of Jean Douglas Tutt. She studied at the City of London's Guildhall School of Music and Drama, both as an Exhibitioner and on the Graduate course. Post-Graduation she studied piano repertoire with Cyril Smith and Peter Wallfisch and accompaniment with Paul Hamburger.

Jean has performed in this country and abroad as a recitalist and accompanist, and has appeared at the Wigmore Hall and other prestigious venues in London. She has also worked with leading professors at the London Music Colleges. However, her main love is working as an accompanist and she plays for a number of choirs in the South East of England, enjoying the opportunities of helping them realise their potential in performance.

Jean is married to Graham, and they have two grown-up children, James and Margaret, both of whom are pursuing careers in medicine. Graham was Prime Warden of the Basketmakers' Company in 2013 and Jean greatly enjoyed the opportunities this gave her to participate in City life. She views her membership of the Woolmen's Company as a chance to extend her knowledge of the City, especially as the Woolmen and the Basketmakers have much in common.

Away from her piano, Jean loves her garden, her dogs and the countryside (not always in that order!). Having now been clothed in the Livery of the Woolmen's Company she looks forward to attending its functions and playing a full part in the life of the Company.

Peter Reynolds

Peter Reynolds has spent a working lifetime in agriculture and food industry communications and journalism.

After a farm studentship on a Sussex estate and three years at Seale-Hayne Agricultural College he joined the Milk Marketing Board Breeding and Production Organisation and cut his journalistic teeth on the *Milk Producer* and *Better Breeding* magazines.

He went on to join the staff at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne as Editorial Associate and Press Officer for the Agricultural Adjustment Unit, working on a Kellogg Foundation funded programme on the implications for the UK agricultural industry of entry into the European Community.

At Food from Britain he was Head of Public Relations and managing editor of the *Farming Business* journal for agricultural co-operatives.

After ten years at the helm as CEO of the British Limousin Cattle Society he joined the

Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) communications team handling the BSE crisis and went on to be MLC and EBLEX Regional Manager for the West Midlands and South West of England.

He continues his interest in livestock breeding, production and marketing in semi-retirement in rural Somerset as Managing Editor of Shepherd Publications for fellow Liveryman Howard Venters and Editor of the *Cattle Breeder*, *Sheep Breeder* and *Beef Farmer* journals.

Stephen Rowland-Jones

Stephen was educated at King Edward VI School Stourbridge and The Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. During his 35 years as a professional soldier, his early service included some time with 2nd Gurkha Rifles before becoming a helicopter pilot in the Army Air Corps. He has served from northern Norway to the Falkland Islands and from Central America to Hong Kong and a lot of places in between! Hot spots included Central America, the Falklands, Northern Ireland, the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan, sometimes for months at a time and sometimes only days, depending on the circumstances and the particular role.

He had a particular focus on veterans' issues, welfare, support to families and the Regimental charity and it was this that prompted him to leave the Army in 2007 to start a second career in the charity sector. Currently Stephen is CEO of Music in Hospitals.

Being a keen sportsman he started bob-sleighing while still serving in the Army, and was a 2-man driver and crewman and a 4-man crewman. He did neither particularly well and his only real achievement as a driver was successfully competing on the bobsleigh track in Cervinia, Italy, which was considered by many to be one of the most demanding tracks in the world. Having been involved with the National

Governing Body in a variety of roles he took over as the Chairman of British Bob-sleigh in June 2014.

He is a Fellow of The Royal Aeronautical Society and The Chartered Management Institute, a

Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and a Member of The Institute of Fundraising.

Stephen Rowland-Jones

Trevor Richards

Trevor was born in Ashford, Kent in 1953 and has lived in the village of Westwell all his life. He is a third generation farmer, married to Jane and with three grown up children. After Cranbrook School in Kent and Writtle Agricultural College in Essex, Trevor joined his father on the mixed family farm. The farm comprises 400 breeding ewes for fat lamb production, and crops of wheat, beans and oilseed rape.

Trevor became a Regional Committee Member of the British Wool Marketing Board in 2001, and became a full board member in 2011. He has recently been elected Vice-Chairman of BWMB.

He is currently the Chairman of the Ashford Cattle Market Company with a throughput of 280,000 animals a year and Chairman of his local cricket club. Trevor is an avid follower of many sports, particularly cricket, rugby union and horse racing, plays golf badly and runs a local farmers shoot.

He is delighted to become a Liveryman and hopes his knowledge of the wool industry will be beneficial. He looks forward to meeting more members of the Company at future events.

The following have also been clothed since our last edition:
Margaret Hastie
Kenneth William Senior
Ian Barbour
Adam James Sturt.

Three New Apprentices

Beatrice, Alice and Ben Beckett

In spring 2013 David Keating made history by binding his two grand-daughters as apprentices of the Woolman Company. History has been made again, this time by Martin Olley who has not only bound his two grand-daughters but also his grand-son, making them the third generation of his family to be associated with the company. On 23rd March 2015 Alice Beckett, Beatrice Beckett and Benjamin Beckett were bound for 7 years with a peppercorn salary in the Chamberlain's Court at the Guildhall. This momentous occasion was attended by The Master Richard Excell, the Upper Warden John Brewer, the Under Warden Ken Ayres, Court member Chris Thiery, the Clerk and Beadle as well as members of the Olley family. ■

The Three Generations of the Olley Family

> I first came into the Livery on the same night as the immediate Past Master's father in 1979.

Martin Olley writes...

I am quite proud to be able to involve three generations of my family in the Woolmen's Livery and have been asked to write a few words.

I first came into the Livery on the same night as the immediate Past Master's father in 1979. In the past 36 years the Livery has become bigger and better and the ancillary events such as the excellent Master's Week-ends, the various visits and the golfing society have all helped to make the Livery more intimate.

In the early days I was an infrequent attendee but being responsible for the huge, worldwide property portfolio of Norwich Union (now Aviva) and living in Norwich, it was not easy. Since retiring some 23 years ago I now find the Livery a great delight and try to be a regular attendee.

Initially I had aspirations of incorporating a new livery hall into one of our large city office developments. The opportunity may have arisen when we funded Tony Clegg, fellow Woolman, at Beaufort House, Hounsditch, or David Mc Alpine, Freeman of our Company, at Irongate House but it would have been costly and would have deprived us of visiting all those other lovely halls we so enjoy.

My three children, Matthew, Lucy and Edward were apprenticed to me in the 1980s. Matthew became a Liveryman in 1989, but was sent to Frankfurt to live and work almost immediately afterwards. Although his property focus is still in Germany he now lives in central London and is a frequent attendee.

Lucy Beckett, my daughter, a freeman of the company living in Norwich is the mother of my three apprentices and attends several of our functions.

Edward became a liveryman in 2006. He now lives in Oxford and his claim to fame is that one of his property developments, Peterborough Garden Park, won him the British Council of Shopping Centres Gold Award for the best out of town shopping centre in the UK in 2010.

Beatrice first gave me the idea of involving my grandchildren. She is currently at the Chelsea College of Art, studying Textiles and Design so I thought she had a natural affinity with the Woolmen. She has always been well schooled in Norwich but decided,

Martin Olley and his two sons

like her eldest brother that she would like to board away for two years so she choose St Georges at Ascot, which she heartily enjoyed, and was given Princess Beatrice's old room.

Ben spent five years at Gresham's Hott, my old school, the governors being the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers. He is currently at Edinburgh University reading a Master's degree in Economics. He plans to peruse a career in financial services in London and is a likely candidate to become a Woolman upon completion of his 7 year apprenticeship.

Alicia, whom I had no wish to leave out is aged 15 and is currently at the Norwich School which nestles beneath the Cathedral in the Close; the governors here are the Worshipful Company of Dyers. She is keen on sport and is in the Norfolk hockey squad who represent the County. ■

Master Richard Excell, Lucy Beckett, Ben Beckett, Alice Beckett, Beatrice Becket, Martin Olley, Mathew Olley, Moira Olley

The Master, John Brewer presenting Major William Bankes of C Squadron, QOY with the Woolman trophy, for the squadron deploying most men in the field over the last year.

Following an official invitation, and based on the findings and conclusions of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, (OSCE), Needs Assessment Mission, men from the unit were deployed in multinational teams of two, as short-term observers, to monitor the opening of polling stations, the voting, the counting of ballots, and the tabulation of results during the October general elections in Bosnia. ■

Photo: Gerald Sharp Photography

Are you sitting comfortably? … then we'll begin

Did you know that almost everyone in the country will have sat on a seat upholstered in fabric manufactured by Camira Fabrics of Huddersfield? Originaly 'Camborne', the company was taken over by the American company 'Interface' before, after a management buy-out, it was renamed Camira … Cam*(borne new era)* ira

Their fabrics are used in a vast array of commercial interiors, offices, schools, universities, movie theaters, auditoria, bars, restaurants, healthcare, retail; for passenger transport on bus, coach and rail and for cruise ships, ferries and airport lounges. They make over 8 million metres of fabric a year, in the UK and in Lithuania, so you're sure to have touched their fabrics either at work, play or on the move.

With a work force of over 600 employees, a £68 million turnover and exports to 80 countries making up 60% of their orders, they supply most of the commercial and transport fabrics in Britain. Their largest customer only makes up 5% of their total sales and they supply about 6000 customers each week. Customer service is of prime importance; they will supply as little as 0.75m of fabric and will usually get orders out the next day for stock materials from their massive warehouse.

"With a work force of over 600 staff, a £68 million turnover and exports to 80 countries making up 60% of their orders, they supply most of the commercial and transport fabrics in Britain.

Part of the warehouse

They are textile innovators recognised for designing and manufacturing the most innovative, adventurous, environmentally sensitive fabrics in the world. as shown by countless awards over the years. They are most proud of their hat trick of Queen's Awards, achieved across the three different Queen's Award categories:

- Export Achievement in 1997 – recognising their international outreach
- Innovation in 2005 – industry firsts putting them on a par with science and engineering
- Sustainable Development in 2010 and 2015 – validating their environmental product and manufacturing stewardship.

Camira is a truly vertical operation taking part in all stages of production from growing bast, (plant), fibre crops in Britain to blend with wool, to the final fabric production and in some cases to making actual seat covers. They blend the fibres, spin yarn and extrude polypropylene; they work in partnership with their polyester yarn supplier, enabling them to return yarn and selvedge waste to be upcycled into new yarns and then woven into closed loop ranges. They dye yarns in their own dye plant, and weave on over 100 dobby, jacquard and plush looms to create beautiful fabrics. So they control their own supply chain to ensure continuity of supply for customers far and wide

Polyester yarns are also knitted at their technical knitting plant providing fully finished component covers which are knitted as three dimensional upholstery or as a fabric mesh variant. This is waste free manufacturing with just three basic inputs – yarn, electricity and gentle steam finishing, and of course no off-cut waste. Designed for disassembly the products can be fully recycled.

Their fabrics cover applications for both seating and vertical surfaces in a vast array of compositions, colourways and price points. They have a wide choice of environmental fabrics, made from recycled raw materials, or rapidly renewable sources such as the wool and innovative fibers from nettles and hemp. They even make fabrics from recycled coffee sacks. All their fabrics meet international technical standards and come with a minimum 5 year wear warranty.

So, how do you go about choosing fabrics for furniture? We see fabrics first, sit on them

the most, yet spend little time making sure they're right for the job? Well, colour and design will understandably come pretty high on the list, but once that's sorted then fabric composition, technical performance and end-use should really drive fabric decision making. Fabrics can make or break contract furniture. Choose well, and they'll look good for years. Choose poorly, and they will look old before their time.

Fabric composition – wool. Wool is the ultimate performance fibre, with multiple smart abilities which are unmatched by man-made fibres. It has a microscopic armour-like coating that preserves its beautiful appearance for longer. It has natural crimp which prevents flattening and resists wear, while its luxurious drape and stretch make it perfect for soft seating. It enjoys a natural cell structure, making it a "feel good" breathable fibre which can absorb and evaporate moisture for total user comfort. And it is fire safe thanks to its high moisture and nitrogen content, making it difficult to ignite, char forming and in a fire does not melt, drip or give off noxious fumes. The Blazer range is made from 100% Laneve™ wool, sustainably produced and traceable right back to the individual farms in New Zealand.

Fabric composition – bast fibres. Nature doesn't stop with wool. The options for natural fibres are growing, with "bast fibre" plants producing textile fibre in the stems of nettles, hemp, flax and jute. Camira grow their own hemp as an agricultural crop under licence from the UK Government Home office on farms in Leicestershire, produing 21,000kg of fibre going into 113,400m of our Hemp fabric. The process also produces hemp shive as a by-product, utilised as sustainable animal bedding. In addition to this, the field margins are left wild to encourage bio-diversity. Nature's own collection of rapidly renewable bast fibres is the perfect complement to pure new wool, providing further enhanced performance and aesthetics. Nettles, hemp, flax and jute have historically been cultivated for their strong and flexible stem fibres. When blended with wool, the combination harmonises to create sustainable fabrics which are inherently flame resistant, Medium Hazard. They are also biodegradable and contribute to the biodiversity of the fields in which they are grown. These fabrics include the Nettle Collection,(previously known as Sting), and Hemp which contain 60% wool 40% bast fibre.

Fabric composition – polyester. This is the most widely used textile fibre in the world today. Originally introduced in the 1950s as the magic fibre which didn't need ironing, its popularity has been driven by fast, throwaway fashion. This plays up its positive properties like being light weight and smooth to touch, while playing down its negatives such as being prone to dirtying, flattening and becoming shiny, meaning it can quickly look past its best. The most common type is PET, basically a plastic which is lifeless, non-absorbent, non-renewable and non-degradeable but it can be recycled, (plastic bottles are a major source of PET), and has it uses in certain places.. Camira healthcare fabrics and vinyls are designed to look good, feel soft and

> Their fabrics are used in a vast array of commercial interiors, offices, schools, universities, movie theaters, auditoria, bars, restaurants, healthcare, retail; for passenger transport on bus, coach and rail and for cruise ships, ferries and airport lounges.

BBC MediaCityUK The home of the BBC in the North of England Salford Quays, Manchester.
The project was masterminded by award winning architectural practice Sheppard Robson who worked with the BBC to create a workplace that's a thriving urban neigbourhood, enlivened by the way people share its spaces and amenities. Part of the project included a Design Challenge to involve talented university design students in creating an original fabric to capture the creative essence of the BBC. Winning entrant was Miriam Trent from Leeds Metropolitan University, whose design was based on a binary theme, made up of 0s and 1s in a bold

Photo: Barry Mellor

Creeling

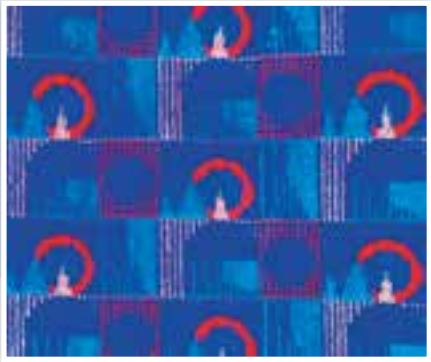
work hard … suitable for end-use areas requiring extra protection such as nursing homes, assisted living, hospitals and doctors' surgeries. From bright colours and dementia friendly designs to the use of their own recycled polyester waste in many of the patterns and of course, all treated products are water proof, stain proof, flame proof and germ proof. Whether you want to scrub it, wash it or just wipe it down quickly.

Camira is trying to make a material difference in what they do. That's why they have always put sustainability at the heart of their business philosophy. For them, it's not only about products and process. Their Sustainability Strategy guides their progress so they can build their legacy. So they can leave behind both nothing in terms of waste and everything in terms of influence. They work with schools, colleges and universities to recruit young people into textiles and untap talent. They have been actively supporting a Modern Apprenticeship Scheme for 3 years, enlisting enthusiastic recruits who are mentored by training associations and industry experts. The Modern Apprenticeship Scheme allows people to further their education whilst gaining valuable skills in the workplace resulting in industry approved qualifications.

The 'Camira Way' is unique in that they select the right candidate for the right role based on how they perform during work placement during the Easter holidays. During this placement they will experience 8 different departments throughout the company. They then select apprentices from this group.

They have achieved a 32% reduction in electricity consumption per metre of fabric produced between 2009 and 2013 by staff awareness and investing in new technology. They have already introduced light sensors, efficient LED lighting, voltage optimisation technology and new efficient machinery. They have also reduced water use by 2.9% at the UK manufacturing plant despite an increase in finished metres and installed a borehole at the finishing plant to provide a more sustainable water supply for future years.

The London Tube, is the oldest metro system in the world. It carries more than one billion passengers a year, with three and a half million journeys made each day, on 11 lines serving 270 stations.. Recently the Tube has undergone a rebuilding and refurbishment project to ensure it remains world-class. Historically, custom made moquette has been designed with the colour of the fabric allowing passengers to identify each underground line. Recently, however, a competition was held to produce a new design. Wallace Sewell's design casting London landmarks in abstract shapes beat 350 entries to become the new fabric. The fabric, red and blue, depicts iconic structures through circles, triangles and squares. It was first used on refurbished Central Line trains then on the Jubilee line.



New London Underground Moquette

Their business resilience programmes help companies adapt to climate change and their charity support extends around the world, from Kirkwood Hospice in Huddersfield to the New Zealand Whale and Dolphin Trust.

For Camira, it's more than just producing sustainable products to the highest standards. ■

Mending

Where the Lambs look after the Dolphins … and other stories

Blazer a classic wool felt upholstery fabric produced by Camira, Huddersfield

Laneve™ wool from the Banks Peninsula, NZ, is consistently strong, white, pure and bright, making it perfect for deep dyeing into a vast array of beautiful colourways.

White faced Romneys and Perendales are reared to produce the highest specification wool in terms of colour, micron and length, as well as absence of "vegetable matter", such as thistles, gorse and bracken. Of course things are upside down and back to front in New Zealand, so the first lambs arrive with the spring in September and are ready for shearing by early summer in January and February. This first time lambswool shearing, when the wool staple is 2" – 3" in length, is what gives the end fabric its unique softer handle compared to other competitor products. It's all down to the fact that the tip of each individual fibre strand ends in a very fine, soft point rather than a harder blunt edge once it's been cut. It's probably the only time that a point is soft rather than sharp. So they take the wool when it's at its newest, softest and freshest. . It all goes to make a superior fibre which is not just fit for purpose, but which is actually softer because it comes from lambs whose wool is shorn for the first time.

Warping

Laneve™ is the wool integrity brand from Wools of New Zealand, which not only gives the wonderful assurance that its source of origin is traceable to individual farms, but also the confidence that it's produced responsibly by farmers who are independently audited and meet the highest standards for sustainable farming practice, animal husbandry and land management.

- Free range, non-intensive farming
- Animal welfare for health, nutrition and safety
- Pasture rotation and stock management for productivity
- Environmental management for water quality, biodiversity, soil fertility.
- Comprehensive documentation to demonstrate sustainable practices
- Not just traceable, but ethical & sustainable

Many of the farmers come from families who have worked the land for generations. So their farms are not merely businesses employing the latest technology and best practices, they are also homes cared for by real people who treasure the region's naturally diverse plant, bird and marine life.

One of the farms Camira source from is Barry's Bay Estate, a 1,000 hectare property which is owned by Biddi and Mark Shadbolt who look after 3,000 Romney sheep. Located in the picturesque Akaroa harbour area of Banks Peninsula, Barry's Bay the estate has sustained the Shadbolt family for six generations.

After leaving the farm, the shorn wool travels just over the hills to Kaiapoi, Christchurch, where it is cleaned and scoured, before being transported in compressed bales on container ship from Lyttleton to Southampton. This 13,000 mile journey equates to just 0.315kg of CO_2 for every kilogram of wool, which is actually less than driving the average sized petrol car just one mile to the shops!

The end product, which started out in the natural beauty of the Banks Peninsula, becomes a beautifully soft, woven upholstery fabric, with a milled, compacted felted finish. It comes in an abundant array of deeplydyed, solid colourways, as well as a tasteful, coordinating selection of mélange shades. There's even a lighterweight version for panels.

Hector's Dolphins: We've kept you in suspense, so it's about time we told you the incredible story of Hector's Dolphins. Named after the scientist, Sir James Hector, who examined the first specimen in 1875, Hector's Dolphin is found in the clear blue waters of the dramatic Akaroa Harbour and the deeply carved coastline of the Banks Peninsula. It's one of the world's smallest and friendliest of dolphins, yet – sadly – it is also among the rarest, with a total population of just 7,000 it is classified as an endangered species.

So what's this got to do with lambs and

Dolphins – hectors

> This 13,000 mile journey equates to just 0.315kg of CO_2 for every kilogram of wool, which is actually less than driving the average sized petrol car just one mile to the shops!

Laneve™? Well, the crystal clear seawaters support the squid, red cod, flatfish and yelloweyed mullet which the dolphins and other wildlife feed on, so it's crucial that the watercourses and ocean stay pollution free. Thankfully, the Banks Peninsula farmers are passionate about protecting this wonderful creature and this spectacular part of the planet. Their careful, sustainable farming practices mean the delicate eco-system is kept in balance, with no risk of harmful biocides entering the food chain. So selecting Blazer fabric made from Laneve™ wool supports the very best farming practices which protect both communities and wildlife. And for every metre of Blazer fabric Camira sell, they make a donation to the New Zealand Whale and Dolphin Trust. So that really is why the lambs look after the dolphins.

Say Hello to Titus: the iconic silverback gorilla. He's famous from Dian Fossey's book and film "Gorillas in the Mist" and is the inspiration behind designer Emma J Shipley's elaborately detailed pencil line drawing, translated on to luxury silk scarves and now Camira interior fabrics.

There are two fabrics in the collection: Titus which features the famous silverback gorilla himself, and Tangled which forms a beautiful coordinate or standalone pattern showcasing entangled branches and patterns in nature. Both designs are printed on to Camira's luxurious wool felt, Blazer fabric.

Camira are pleased to support the UK charity the Gorilla Organisation which works internationally to protect the world's last remaining gorillas in their natural habitat in Central Africa. ■

Titus and Tangled

Photos Courtesy of Camira

HRH The Princess Royal Visits Wyddean

On 24th February 2015 Wyedean hosted a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen. Other dignitaries included the Vice Lord Lieutenant, Tim Hare who is also a Woolman.

The Royal Visit incorporated a tour of the premises illustrating the intricate work the Company produces for the Armed Forces, including the accoutrement worn by the Household Guards and Cavalry Regiments. All of Wyedean's staff played an important part in the day and Her Royal Highness stopped and spoke to many, showing a real interest in their work, skills and their role in the Company.

Robin Wright MD with HRH The Princess Royal

The Royal Visit coincided with the Company's first overseas exhibition to promote its export trade at the International Defence Exhibition in Abu Dhabi. After the factory tour The Princess Royal unveiled a plaque in recognition of her visit and in celebration of Wyedean's 50 years of manufacturing in Haworth. ■

Photographs Courtesy Of Wyedean Weaving

Visit to Queen's Own Yeomanry, York

Fulford Road, City of York, YO10 4ES

Saturday, 25th July 2015, arriving at 10.30am

The Livery Committee have arranged an exciting visit to the Queen's Own Yeomanry on Saturday 25th July, arriving 1030 hrs and departing early evening (we anticipate this to be approx. 2030hrs)

The purpose of the visit is to highlight the important work of HM Reserve Forces and in particular the QOY and to profile the Worshipful Company of Woolmen's connection with Yorkshire and our affiliation with the regiment.

We encourage you to bring friends, family and guests, as many as you wish. Please endeavour to invite friends, family, colleagues and business associates and if possible identify those who will have interest in our affiliation with the regiment and potentially interest in joining the Woolmen's Company. We also wish to help achieve recruitment interest in the Queen's Own Yeomanry so any young potential candidates should be encouraged to come along, male or female.

We will arrive at Fulford Barracks at 1030 hrs for tea and coffee and gather for an introduction to the QOY, its strategic role, function, requirements and geographical structure. The Master Woolman will address the gathering to explain the history, significance and aims and objectives of the livery company. We will then take a light lunch at the barracks where we will be given a demonstration of equipment and vehicles. Thereafter transport by coach/minibus to the QOY's selected training area to see some of the military activities of the regiment. This to be followed by supper (in the form of either a hog roast or a barbeque) with transport back to the barracks circa 2030 hrs.

We have been asked to restrict younger visitors to 16 years or above. However, there may be an opportunity to allow a small number of children of a younger age and this can be arranged by speaking to organiser Howard Venters direct. If you wish to bring children under the age of 16 please contact him on 01684 565533 or 07971 792449.

The charge per person for the day will be £10.00. ■

Please return this form (or copy) to
Major SJC Wake
The Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Woolmen
52 Cumberland Drive
Bexleyheath
Kent, DA7 5LB

I wish to attend the visit to the QOY on Saturday 25th July 2015.

Name.....

Email.....

Telephone.....

Guests are welcome – there is no restriction on the number of guests.
Please indicate your guests below (continue on another sheet if necessary).

Guest(s): .....

Relationship to applicant .....

Cheque enclosed for £ .....

for ..... places (please make cheques payable to *The Woolmen's Company*)

GL RFCA Awards Ceremony

Thursday 19th March

> It has been an honour and privilege to present so many awards to London's very special sons and daughters who serve us.

Whilst the Master was working hard at the Mansion House attending the Lord Mayor' Banquet with Carolyn, the Immediate Past Master stood in for him at the Greater London Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association annual Awards Ceremony. Because all the Masters were at the Mansion House banquet, the Livery Companies were mainly represented by Immediate Past Masters, so it was a bit of a reunion for all of them. The President of GL RFCA, former Lord Mayor Sir David Brewer CMG.CVO. JP, presented the awards. Forty three members of the Reserve Forces and Cadet movements from all three services – Sea, Army and Air – were recognised with awards and certificates in recognition of their dedicated service. The President has also appointed three Lord-Lieutenant Cadets for 2015/2016 who will accompany the Lord Lieutenant and the Vice Lord-Lieutenant on engagements for the next twelve months. In a moving ceremony held at Yeomanry House, in Handel Street, which was also attended by family, friends and colleagues of those receiving awards, he congratulated all the award winners and said, "It has been an honour and privilege to present so many awards to London's very special sons and daughters who serve us". The awards ceremony culminated in the presentation of the prestigious Greater London Volunteer Reservist of the Year 2014 Award.

The President also presented Stepping Forward, to the Livery Company representatives, a tribute to the voluntary military reserves and supporting auxiliaries in London and their history dating back to the 19th century and throughout two World Wars. A pleasantly surprising guest speaker was Beatie Wolfe, the eighteen year old singing phenomenon. She talked about her 3-D album and her work with abused and disadvantaged children, and we learned that her favourite book is It's Not Easy Being Green, by Jim Henson, the creator of the Muppets. After the ceremony the GL RFCA served a very good curry and we all had the opportunity to meet the cadets and chat to them. Sir David is also the Lord Lieutenant of Greater London, a post which he will relinquish later this year after seven years in the role. At the end of the formal part of the evening he was presented with a photograph album containing many memories of his years in office. The Queen has been pleased to appoint Mr Kenneth Olisa OBE FBCS FRSA as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London to succeed Sir David when he retires on 28 May 2015. Ken Olisa is a businessman and philanthropist, the founder of 2 technology merchant banks and the first British-born black man to serve as a Director of a FTSE-100 company (Reuters). ■

David Cameron and Jason McCartney, MP Colne Valley, talking with apprentices at Camira.

Photo: Huddersfield Daily Examiner.

Livery Industry Dinner May 14th

When Elizabeth Peacock was Master a few years ago her Master's Weekend was in Yorkshire and she invited members of the local textile industry to attend. This gave the idea for a less formal dinner to be held in Yorkshire again. Invitations were sent to Northern Woolmen and prominent members of the textile industry.

Members of both Huddersfield and Bradford Textile Societies attended as well as representatives of all areas of the textile industry, from dying, weaving, finishing and textile training. As well as several Past Masters, including the Immediate Past Master Richard Excell, and the Treasurer, Past Master Simon Bailey, there was Under Warden, Chris Thierry and also several Court Assistants.

The main speaker was Lord Christopher Haskins who spoke of the importance of the north and its industry to the country's economy, suggesting it was the power house for future development. Immediate Past Master Richard Excell also spoke about the City Wool Project and what it is doing to encourage and assist small business. As the main point of the evening was to promote dialogue between the Woolmen and the industry much of the time before, during and after the dinner was spent in exchanging ideas. Hopefully, this is the start of closer links. ■

> Hopefully, this is the start of closer links.

Photos: Jean Skidmore

The Woolmen's Sheep Drive across London Bridge

confirmed for Sunday 27th September 2015

The City Corporation has agreed that the Woolmen's Sheep Drive can take place again this year, and the date has been set for Sunday 27th September – so put the date in your diary. In fact the City Corporation has also indicated that the Sheep Drive can be considered an annual event in the City, and future sheep drives will be organised on this basis. The demand for places suggests that the City already sees the event as an annual occurrence in the City diary. This year the Sheep Drive coincides with the Master's Weekend, so many of you will be in London anyway. Participants are organised into groups of ten, and leave the start point at seven minute intervals. I should be able to hold a number of spaces (until the end of June) on the drives starting between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, so if you want to form yourselves into groups of ten, you will be able to choose your companions on the drive. Alternatively you can book any slot and I will do my best to get you your first or second choice of timing. Spaces get booked up very quickly – our experience of 2013 and 2014 suggests that only odd spaces will be left by July and we will be fully booked by August. Some of you may wish to help out with the administration on the day – we need up to sixteen volunteers to assist the Marshals provided by the Society of Young Freemen – and those who volunteer their services for at least half a day will be able to take part in a free drive across the bridge with all the other volunteers at 5 p.m. Please let me know if you wish to help out.

As last year, all proceeds will be donated to the Lord Mayor's Appeal and The Worshipful Company of Woolmen's charitable trust. If you wish to take part in this ancient and honourable tradition, please book your place on the drive by completing an application form and returning it to me. We are happy for family and friends to accompany Freemen on the drive for the same donation to enable family and friends to drive sheep together.

I look forward to seeing you on the day. ■

Past Master Bill Clark
Chairman of the 2015 Sheep Drive Committee

Application forms and information about the Sheep Drive are available on the website and all queries should be addressed to sheepdrive2015 @gmail.com.

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.

Master's Speech

Wardens, your Excellency, Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Can I first thank you Meirion for those stimulating and insightful words on the NHS……. As my friend and neighbour for almost 20 years, I can attest to your passion for the NHS and utter commitment to providing the best possible care for patients, while performing life-saving surgery every day.

As you all know, the Livery movement has been around even longer than the NHS and it too is complex, eccentric and constantly evolving to stay relevant to the world we live in. It was 25 years ago that I joined the Livery ….having been a guest of my father for several years….In those days, at this stage of the evening, the room was full of smoke from the Havana cigars that were generously handed out at the end of the meal. You struggled to see the Master let alone hear him at the end of the dinner. It was a different place. Times have moved on and so has the livery.

I'm very grateful to the Immediate Past Master Richard Excell for his tireless work for the Livery and his inspirational leadership with the first year of the City Wool Project. I'm delighted that Richard continues in the role as Chairman as he takes this project to the next stage. Consistency is very important and I know Richard will further develop the project successfully in the year ahead.

I'm also most grateful to Past Master Bill Clark for many many things – in particular taking on the role of organising the Sheep Drive – for the third year running – it promises to be bigger and better than ever…This has become an important part of our fund raising calendar and for new Liverymen from across the Livery movement a way in which they can exercise an ancient right ….. I urge you to book early for this year's event on the 27th September.

I was recently asked what livery companies do. I think that the current Lord Mayor, the right honourable Alan Yarrow, has a motto for his year which encapsulates things very well:

"Creating wealth, giving time, supporting people"

Six simple words which reflect the role and responsibility of the City. They also reflect the work of our Livery company:

Creating wealth and giving time with the City Wool Project is a *good thing*

Supporting people with our charitable endeavours and educational focus is a *good thing*

Our forebears in the Woolmen knew that in order to protect and promote the highest standards in trade and industry, they would need to invest in a future workforce. They would need to support and strengthen society. Ever since, we have been looking for new ways to train, educate and mentor young people. As our industries have evolved, the livery has invented brilliant ways to provide cutting edge support…….Tradition is innovation. Well the Woolmen's company is keeping up!

In my year as Master, my focus will be on the combination of Charity, Membership and Education.

Charity is a crucial part of the work of a Livery company. It is part of the glue that binds the livery together……With that in mind, I'm delighted to announce that Court Assistant Peter Hammond is our new Charitable Fundraising Officer and Almoner. Peter has a wealth of experience in this area and I know he will be sharing his fundraising ideas with you all over the next few weeks and months. I'm also pleased to announce the appointment of Court Assistant Andrew Dawson as our new Charity Officer. Andrew will be carrying out a review of our charitable giving and a adopting a laser sharp focus to this process which I greatly welcome. In the spirit of openness and communication, Past Master Bill Clark in his role as new Communications Officer, has agreed to publish the first annual newsletter on our charitable activities in the spring of 2016.

My second area of focus is on **Membership and Participation**. I'm delighted to welcome seventeen new members of the Livery here tonight with their guests. You are most welcome and I hope you all have as long and fulfilling an association with the Livery as I have and at some stage in the future, I look forward to seeing you in this chair. However, we are not holding back – we need more like you and I urge you to engage with the Membership Committee and membership Ambassadors to help grow this livery in a consistent manner. You are a very valuable resource – and we look to harness your enthusiasm and commitment. However, I encourage all members of the Livery, both new and old, to, in the words of Sheryl Sandberg of Facebook, *lean in* – to get involved – there is plenty to do.

My third area of focus will be on **Education and the Livery Schools Link**. More than 80 livery companies have already indicated their support of this initiative. They are getting involved as governors, offering bursaries, apprenticeships, funding, work experience, and sponsoring new schools. This is life-changing work…..I'm delighted that Liveryman Peter Hullah has agreed to lead our education group and participation in the Livery Schools Link. Peter is very well qualified …and not just because like me he grew up in Yorkshire and is a fellow alumnus of Bradford Grammar School. Peter and the education group will be exploring ways in which we the Woolmen can get more involved. I hope to be able announce more on this at the next dinner.

Overall, it's a good time to be in a Livery company and it's an especially good time to be in the Woolmen Company. I am proud of what we have achieved so far and excited about what we can still achieve in future. As our ancient motto states, Lana Spes Nostra – in wool, our hope.

I would like to close by inviting you all to the Summer Banquet on the 26th June at Middle Temple Hall, a unique location which we are fortunate to be able to use.