The *Master* Woolman

December 2015

Lana spes nostra

www.woolmen.com

The Officers for Year 2017-2018

At the Court meeting in January 2017, the following officers were elected for the year ensuing:

Master
Christopher Michael Thierry
Upper Warden
Alderman Vincent Thomas Keaveny
Under Warden
Mark Sutherland Johnson

As many of the Livery will know, Alderman Vincent Keaveny is standing as the Aldermanic candidate in the 2018 Shrieval elections, and so the Court has agreed that the succession plan for progression of Court Assistants through the role of Master will be:

2018/19 – Court Assistant Andrew Dawson (currently chair of the charity committee)
2019/20 – Court Assistant Mark Sutherland Johnson (currently Under Warden)
2020/21 – Court Assistant Alderman Vincent Thomas Keaveny (currently Upper Warden)

The elections for the Masters and Wardens for the year 2018/19 will take place at the Alms Court meeting before the Alms Court Dinner on 17th January 2018 in the usual manner.

Clerk
Duncan Crole
153 Leathwaite Road
London SW11 6RW
Telephone 0207 193 4448

Forthcoming Events

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

- Carol Service – the Church of St Bartholomew the Great – 19th December 2017
- Alms Court Dinner – Cutlers Hall – 17th January 2018
- The Northern Dinner – York – 9th March 2018
- The Installation Dinner – Stationers Hall – 24th April 2018

...and The Livery Committee will be organising the following events – look out for more details:

- A visit to the Royal College of Arms
- A tour of Inner Temple
- A tour of Old Warden Aerodrome
- The Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London

Woolmen's Shop Stock

The following are available from the Clerk:

TIES AND SCARVES

Woolmen's silk Ties	£30
Woolmen's polyester Ties	£15
Woolmen's bow ties	£15
Woolmen's silk scarves	£20

BOOKS

There is No Substitute for Wool	£15
The Woolmen's Tale	£10
Commentary on the Woolmen's Register of Freedoms 1666-1948	£5

OTHER WOOLMEN GOODS

Cuff links	£30
Shields	£30
Notebooks	£5

SHEEP DRIVE BRANDED GOODS

Sheep Drive branded mugs	£4
Sheep drive branded tote bags	£4
Sheep drive branded coasters	£2.50
Squeezee sheep key ring	£2
Plastic key ring	£1
Badges	£1
Biros	£1

Please make cheques payable to the *Worshipful Company of Woolmen*, and arrange collection with the Clerk.

Contents

4 From the Livery Committee

5 Introducing the New Clerk

6 Letter from the Master

8 Our new Woolmen

10 The Lord Mayor's Appeal

11 Uses of Wool

12 Wool is therapeutic for the skin

13 The Installation Dinner

15 Mary Berry opens the 2017 Sheep Drive and Wool Fair

16 The Princess Royal dines with the Woolmen

18 Round up of the Agricultural shows

20 The Data Protection Act 1998

21 Sheep Recognition

22 The Master's weekend

24 Master's Reception for the Guild of Young Freemen

25 Old wool invoices used to trace ancient cities

26 The Worshipful Company of Woolmen

27 Court News

28 Civic Dinner 25th October

30 The Lord Mayor's Show

The early ape-men (Pliocene)
Were men of squat and crouching mien.
And yet... what fascinating brutes
They might have looked in woollen suits!
For wool can flatter, wool can mould,
It dignifies with every fold.
This truth all tailors learn at school:
There is no substitute for Wool.

From "There Is No Substitute For Wool" with acknowledgements and thanks to Richard Proctor and the Woolmark Company who retain the copyright ownership of the poems

From the Livery Committee

Welcome to this edition of the Master Woolman, produced on behalf of the Woolmen's Livery Committee. You will find reports of many recent events in these pages, and news about forthcoming events during the rest of the current Master's year.

Chris Thierry, Master Woolman 2017/18, has certainly made his mark on the Woolmen, and on the City. Apart from his infectious enthusiasm for Wool, Woolmen, the City, and the Livery Movement in general, he has packed into his first six months many important events. Not only did he succeed in tempting Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal to come back and dine with us at our Summer Banquet, but he also raised the finance and enthusiasm for a Woolmen's entry into the Lord Mayor's Show – no one since Past Master Emeritus Richard Pickance (Master 2005/06) has succeeded in pulling off this double! But he was also invited to the Lord Mayor's Mansion House Banquet for the Prime Minister on Monday 13th November (only a couple of other livery Company Masters were invited).

In his own letter, The Master will give you much more detail about the events he has attended on our behalf and as our representative, but it is clear that the Master's year is getting busier and busier; and the profile of the Woolmen in the City is getting higher and higher – the two are not unconnected. The sheep drive and wool fair do a lot to help to maintain our profile, but the ability of the Master to relate to people, make many useful friends, win support in the City and promote the Woolmen is also a very important factor – and Chris does all this extremely well.

Chris has also embarked on a review of governance of the Woolmen. The current document was produced in 2012 and suited the shape and financial size of the Woolmen's Company and the Woolmen's Trust at that time. But times have changed, as have our circumstances, in terms of the finances of the charity, our profile in the City, and what is expected of a Livery Company like ours. This has presented challenges and opportunities – and the greatest opportunity is for all liverymen to become more engaged with the way the Woolmen carries out its business as a Company and as a charity.

Also in these pages you will see short articles about some of the new Liverymen who have joined us over the last year and a half, and I am sure you will join the Livery Committee in welcoming them and encouraging them to take a full part in all the Woolmen do – and perhaps taking the plunge and joining one of the committees that manages the Woolmen's business.

The Livery Committee

The Livery Committee

Visit our Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=the%20worshipful%20company%20of%20woolmen for photographs of Woolmen events.

The new Clerk, Duncan Crole with the Beadle, Ernie Brocklehurst

Introducing the

New Clerk

I often hear it said that the Woolmen are the most welcoming of all the City livery companies and after three months with you I can now testify to the truth of this. I have felt the great warmth of the Woolmen at both the Master's weekend in Dorking as well as at the Civic Dinner at Clothworkers' Hall last month. I'd particularly like to thank the Master for being so supportive to somebody with so little experience of the livery in helping me settle in as your Clerk.

The work is certainly varied and every day brings a new learning experience. I now have enough of these that I feel I am just starting to make a modest contribution to the running of your company!

If you didn't get a chance to read the introduction that I sent to all members in September here it is again.

I was educated at Radley College, Oxfordshire followed by Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge where I read History. Since then my working life has been spent in sales, marketing and business development roles. My first job in 1976 was in book retailing and from there I went on to have a career in publishing. My last publishing role was as International Sales Director for Automobile Association Publishing where I was responsible for licensing content globally.

In recent years I have been MD of an e-learning company, an e-learning consultant and most recently a founding partner in a US/UK geo-location, mobile marketing consultancy. My love of history is such that in 2016 I trained to be a City of London Guide, qualifying this summer. I also offer a small, highly personal, CV and career advisory service mainly aimed at young people.

I am married to Davina who has been for many years at the sharp end of Foreign Office media relations, handling the complexities of dealing with the UK based foreign press. We have two children in their twenties, Jamie and Fabia. Our home is in London SW11.

A country sports enthusiast, I have a particular passion for salmon and trout fishing. At home I am an avid reader and keen cook.

I also have a couple of ancient wool connections! One side of my family were once involved in the Wormald and Walker blanket factory in Yorkshire and on another side my great-grandfather ran a sheep station in Canterbury, New Zealand in the 1880s. So joining The Woolmen reconnects me with some roots.

Letter from the Master

Dear Woolmen

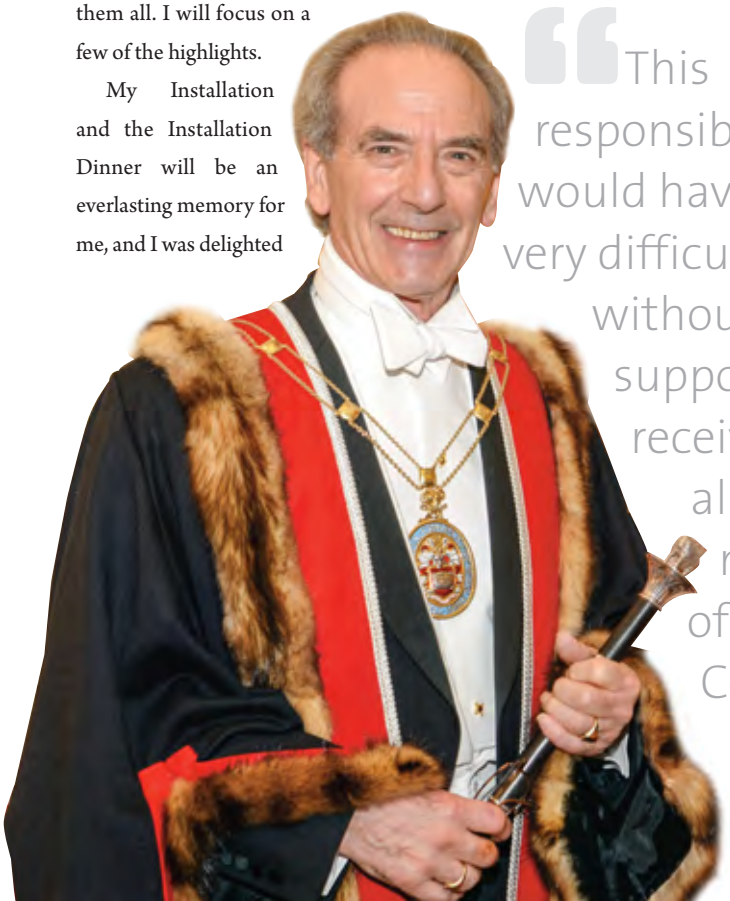
I am delighted to be able to write to you about my year so far as Master; and to thank you all for the great honour and trust you have placed in me, and my pride and joy in serving the Livery.

Balancing my business and the responsibilities as Master is challenging, though most rewarding. The months have passed quickly; I am now halfway through my term of office, during which time I have learnt the true meaning of the fellowship of the livery movement. It is something quite wonderful and remarkable. The people I meet are so friendly and helpful, supporting each other at every opportunity. The events, lunches and dinners I attend are unique, and many take place in the most incredible surroundings.

This responsibility would have been very difficult without the support I have received from all the members of the Court. This support has enabled me to reach the goals I outlined in my Masters Strategy document way back at the Alms Court meeting in January this year. Although demanding, no one has flinched from providing their help. The Court is made up of volunteers, and like all of you, Court members have many pressures on their time. I am forever in their debt, and the only way I can repay this kindness is to provide the same support for future Masters.

There are so many amazing things I have done which I want to share with you, though too many to list them all. I will focus on a few of the highlights.

My Installation and the Installation Dinner will be an everlasting memory for me, and I was delighted that my daughter and son could be there. It was for me an evening full of fun and laughter from the Church Service at St Michael's and on to the beautiful surroundings of Carpenters Hall. My guest speaker, His Excellency Alexander Downer, High Commissioner of Australia, was a most entertaining speaker. I was so thrilled when all of those attending spoke the words of the rhyme I had put together ending with "There is No Substitute for Wool" – I felt the warmth and fellowship of you all.



> "This responsibility would have been very difficult without the support I have received from all the members of the Court."

This was quickly followed by many memorable dinners, lunches and events. Luncheon with the Guild of Young Freeman, who help out every year with our Sheep Drive, and are a great bunch. The Manor of Sal lunch, with five other liveries whose connections with us go back some 350 years. The 25th Anniversary of the Information Technologist at the Guildhall on 4th May, complete with a Star Wars Stormtrooper. A remarkable visit to the Old Bailey, where I sat with the Queens judges and joined them for lunch. This is something they do every day, and I enjoyed some most interesting conversations.

Carol, my Consort, and I enjoyed the Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on May 23rd. I have never seen anything so well organised – over 8000 people attended, no one was kept waiting for long, and Her Majesty The Queen looked amazing, as always, and most of the Royals were in attendance and spent many hours chatting to everyone.

On to the Summer Banquet where I was most fortunate to have our Past Master HRH the Princess Royal in attendance. Drapers Hall with its magnificent surroundings made the whole evening very special. My guest speaker, the CEO of Australian Wool Innovation, had flown over specially from Australia. Stuart had been made an Honorary Freeman of our Company the Monday before at the Guildhall. Australian Wool Innovation and The Woolmark Company are the innovation and marketing arm of the Australian Wool Growers – Australia provides 90% of the worlds wool for use in apparel. This cements the long-standing friendship between our two companies.

I had a good chance to meet and get to know fellow Masters during the Ironbridge weekend. This was pretty non-stop visits and functions from the Friday through to Sunday and the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs were in attendance. The bonds formed that weekend with other Masters are still with me today and will be long into the future.

I was also most fortunate to have been invited to the Guildhall State Banquet for the King of Spain, which was another amazing evening. The City certainly knows how to look after its guests; no wonder it has such a world wide reputation.

The Sheep Drive and Wool Fair provided another most memorable day for myself and the Woolmen and all those participating. The weather was wonderful, and I had the chance to meet and greet one of this country's national treasures – Mary Berry. Mary gave so much of her time, and the press coverage has been extraordinary, firmly putting the Woolmen on the map in the City of London for many years to come.

The money raised from the Sheep Drive over the years has improved the ability of our Charity to support young people. I understand there is an impatience to see this money is spent. There are larger projects in the planning stage that take time to put into place, and this year will see them come to fruition. The money will be spent well to provide opportunities for young talent. Andrew Dawson, Master Designate and Charity Chairman, will have much to tell you at next year's Civic Dinner. This leads me on to my own Civic Dinner at the Clothworkers Hall; again I was blessed with our guest and speaker, the Lord Mayor accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Sheriffs. The Lord Mayor's speech set the tone for the whole evening and provided a party atmosphere for the night.

At the Garden Party

Bringing you up to date, I placed a cross in St Pauls Garden of Remembrance following an outside service held by the Royal British Legion on Monday 6th November which was most humbling and moving.

I must not overlook the Agricultural Shows where on behalf of the Woolmen I presented awards for shearing and wool handling. The shows are the Royal Ulster in Ireland, the Royal Bath and West, the Royal Highland in Scotland, The Great Yorkshire, and then culminating at the Royal Welsh. This year we also supported the South of England Show. These awards are so important to the shearers and handlers as the more shows they win or take part in, the greater the opportunity for employment around the world.

On Friday 10th November I attended the Silent Ceremony, followed by the Presentation of Addresses, during which I presented the new Lord Mayor with a length of superfine merino cloth for a two-piece suit, made at Joseph H Clissold, one of the words greatest weavers.

On Saturday 11th November, I lead the Wolmen's entry in the Lord Mayors Show – 50 walkers, Bill Clark driving a quad bike towing a trailer of sheep, and two sheep dragons weaving in and out of the crowd; and sheep dogs. It was most important to support the new Lord Mayor during his term of office, and the Lady Mayoress, Samantha Bowman, Citizen and Woolman. The Woolmens Coat of Arms flew proudly on the Gloriana and were also carried throuhout the Lord Mayor's Show. I have been given the great Honour of attending the Lord Mayors Honour Guard at Mansion House, and also attending The Lord Mayors Banquet on the Monday following.

With my best wishes

Christopher Thierry

Chris Thierry
Master Woolman 2017/18

Outide St Paul's

Robyn Allardice-Bourne studied Law in New Zealand and then moved to London, worked in Eurobonds as a fiscal agent, then bought a hat business and won various awards for her work. She designed the hats for the films, television series and for members of the Royal family. She was also involved with the 'Spitting Image' political satire team of the 1980's and 1990's and has had a varied writing career which she continues with a writing team producing scripts and fiction. She is a Senior Consultant Solicitor at Setfords Solicitors in London and sits on the Family Law Advisory Committee of the Law Society of England and Wales. Robyn is an ambassador for 'Code First Girls', a social enterprise scheme, which encourages girls and women into technology; a patron of Firstlight, a charity providing grass roots support to ex-forces suffering with PTSD; and a supporter of other charities supporting women. She is a keen bee keeper. She sits on the Inner London Committee for the Army Benevolent Fund having spent part of her married life as the wife of the British Defence Attaché based in central Europe. Robyn is the immediate Past President of the NZ Society in London and maintains a strong link with New Zealand and the New Zealand High Commission in London.

Alex Campbell is a securitisation and structured finance partner at the international law firm Fieldfisher in London. He lives in Oxted in Surrey with his partner and their two daughters. He family has a long-standing association with the Company. A relative, Mr Ernest Reginald Canham, was Master in 1954, his grandfather, Mr Leslie Canham, was Master in 1975 and his father, Mr Alan John Campbell, is a current Woolman. In his free time, Alex enjoys participating in local theatre amateur dramatics and broadcasting on local radio.

Roland Hayes was educated at Cambridge University and qualified as a Chartered Accountant with KPMG, before spending nearly twenty years in the Civil Service at the Ministry of Defence. Apart from Whitehall, he served in Cyprus, Bosnia, Macedonia and the Gulf, and travelled as far as the Falkland Islands. After leaving the Civil Service in 2014, he has worked at a homeless charity and now works for the Apostleship of the Sea, a Catholic charity looking after seafarers' welfare internationally. Roland is the chair of trustees of two charities, and on the Board of another. He studied charity administration at Cass Business School, being awarded the Diploma in Charity accounting in 2016. He is also on various committees supporting fundraising in the Catholic Diocese of Westminster. He lives in Holborn and is married to Angela; they have no children, instead two cavalier King Charles spaniels. Interests include music (a bassoonist and opera lover), football (a Gooner), and the Holy Land.

Our New Wo

The Worshipful Company of Woolmen extends a warm welcome
We include brief notes about some of them here.

Richard Humphreys was called to the Bar (Inner Temple) in 1986 and was appointed a QC in 2006. He specialises in town and country planning, environmental and local government law, practising from Chambers (No 5) in London (Salisbury Court, EC4) and Birmingham. Recent planning inquiries have concerned proposed development in Ticehurst (East Sussex), Semington (Wiltshire) and Hartlepool. He is married to Rosalind (nee Birley) and they have 3 adult children, dividing their time between Northamptonshire and London. Interests include history, conservation, literature, singing, playing tennis and skiing.

His Excellency **Fernando Lopez-Fabregat** is the Ambassador of Uruguay and a career diplomat who entered the Uruguayan Foreign Service in 1987. Before that he worked almost ten years in banking. He graduated as Bachelor in Law (Notary Public) from the University of the Republica in Uruguay and has a Masters degree in Human Resources Management from the Uruguayan Catholic University. He has held diplomatic posts in South Africa, Ecuador, twice in Canada and currently is the Ambassador to the Court of St. James, Iceland and Ireland. In the Ministry for Foreign Relations, among other functions, he has been Director for Human Resources and Director General for Economic Affairs. He is a member of the Program Advisory Committee for the Bachelor of Applied Business (International Business) Humber College, Canada; a speaker in International Business Course (Department of Marketing and Consumer Studies), University of Guelph, Canada; and a contributor in the university text book Hill/McKaig "Global Business Today", McGraw-Hill Business Higher Education. He is married to Carolina Silveira; they have two children, Catalina who is 28 years old and lives in Canada, and Alfonso who is 26 years old and lives in Uruguay. He is a great supporter of Uruguayan rugby.

Martin Odell was born in 1949 in Venezuela going to boarding school in Eastbourne at nine years old. After leaving school he took articles in Accountancy, and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1974. He worked for Taylor Woodrow on construction projects in Guyana, Nigeria, Liberia and Bahrain. In 1978 he joined Wardley, the merchant back arm of HSBC based in Dubai and specialised in equipment finance. He returned to London in 1985 and later became one of the first Compliance Officers in The City, at a Japanese bank now Mitsui-Sumitomo. He later moved to a pensions' administration firm, Gissings and later to Great Lakes Reinsurance (UK) Ltd until 2009. Since then he has carried out compliance consultancy roles at Lloyd's Managing Agents, and now assists Payment Institutions to be authorised by Financial Conduct Authority. He married in 1974 and lives in Fernhurst near Haslemere and also has a farmhouse in France. His main interests are target shooting, stalking and working three black Labradors on the Duke of Norfolk's pheasant shoot.

olmen

Continued overleaf

to all our new Liverymen and Honorary Freemen.

Ulrika Schachner-Dadley was born in Austria, near Vienna. Her father was a prominent Architect and county councillor for Lower Austria, her mother is a business woman. Her maternal Great-grandfather farmed sheep and cows in Styria. She attended the Language Grammar School in Wiener Neustadt and chose IB's in Latin, Math, English, History and German. Whilst at University in Vienna, where she studied Biology and History, she worked for the Ministry at Education and she was also once an Au-Pair near Epsom in Surrey, working for an Iranian Diplomat, a cousin of Queen Soraya. Her claim to shame was falling asleep in a Microbiology lecture wearing still a ball gown, having gone from a Ball at the Hofburg straight to a lesson in the morning. She met her future English husband in 1993 on a ski holiday in Val D'Isere, and subsequently moved to Northamptonshirae in 1996. She chose a career in International Finance and became a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Global Management Accountants, and has worked in Corporate, Global and Limited Companies Director roles for many years now. She is a member of the Austrian Club in London and been the secretary of the County's leading Preparatory School Parent Association for eight years. She has three sons, one at University studying Zoology (including Sheep) and two still at school and a lively gun-trained cocker spaniel, who never chases sheep. She supports many local and national charities and her hobbies include playing bridge, watching her boys play Rugby, beating at shoots, playing piano, DIY, swimming, baking and cooking for friends.

Do you have hidden talents you wish to bring into the open?

- **Would you like to be more involved with the woolmen?**
- **Would you like to do more with your time?**

The Woolmen's new Governance Manual will outline the six committees which will be formed in 2018 to ensure the smooth running of the Company. If you have experience in committee work, fund raising, event or project management, sheep handling, marketing, PR, website administration, capital investment, the law – whatever it might be – and you would like to use this experience to help the Woolmen, please get in touch with the new Nominations Committee or the Clerk and let him know how you would like to be more involved with the Company.

• EDUCATE, TRANSFORM AND INSPIRE • EDUCATE, TRANSFORM AND INSPIRE •

The Lord Mayor's Appeal

The three themes for this year's Lord Mayor's Appeal are: Educate, Transform and Inspire.

The London Symphony Orchestra **educates** young people, using music to develop the skills and talents that young people need to succeed in 21st century Britain. They provide opportunities for people from all backgrounds to experience, participate and learn. None of this transformative work can happen without the critical support from appeals, trusts, foundations, charitable partners, individual supporters and corporate partners. The need to secure the future of these programmes is now more urgent than ever to guarantee access to cultural activity for young people, many of whom are in challenging circumstances.

The LSO and Music in Hospitals support children and young people to **transform** their wellbeing through the joy and therapeutic benefits of live music. Whether performed in parks outdoors or in community centres and hospitals, and whether they're playing an instrument, singing or watching and listening, live music can make people healthier and happier.

The LSO and St Paul's cathedra**l inspire** young people to be the best they can be, raising aspirations and encouraging them to seek out opportunity wherever it lies. They use music to tell an exciting and positive story about what can happen when you set your sights high – and, in music, providing some young people with a way to reach those aspirations.

• EDUCATE, TRANSFORM AND INSPIRE • EDUCATE, TRANSFORM AND INSPIRE •

• EDUCATE, TRANSFORM AND INSPIRE • EDUCATE, TRANSFORM AND INSPIRE •

Uses of Wool

Wool is a 100% natural, renewable and sustainable fibre. Using wool means you change to a healthier and safer environment.

Wool is a natural fibre for the world we live in today. It is a fibre with a true 'green' lineage that is both sustainable and biodegradable – which are now highly valuable assets to the textile industry. This environmental advantage is an increasingly sought after requirement of fibre, but wool has many other inherent benefits that have historically earned it a quality reputation from global manufacturers and consumers.

Performance is critical in textiles, and wool's multi-capable reputation in the finished product is built on a legacy that goes back over 10,000 years. Transcending generations of change shows the vast potential of wool to meet, adapt and fulfil complex product scenarios.

Wool offers practical attributes that far exceed man-made fibres and as it is grown, not made, its physical cell structure is complex allowing wool the natural ability to breathe. Uniquely it absorbs and releases humidity and provides a climate that is capable of adjusting to individual situations which ensures you are warm but never hot.

In addition, it is the safe fibre – a high water and nitrogen content make it naturally flame retardant and it meets many international regulations without the need for chemical treatments. It absorbs unhealthy carbons in the atmosphere providing a better environment.

Wool is a globally traded commodity and its market diversity is vast and ever expanding. It is found in many sectors; apparel and fashion, active-wear, flooring and interiors, aviation, architecture, manufacturing, medical use and protective apparel. These all use wool and with this dynamic versatility, it has proved itself to be the original 'Smart' fibre.

Research and development with wool continually pushes this potential further, opening doors to a future that will safeguard an industry, which is a major worldwide employer and bringing multiple benefits to people, products and the planet.

Despite all these positive attributes, consumers, industry and governments continue to be oblivious of the Health and Safety benefits wool can bring. As a result of subsequent low wool prices, less and less farmers are likely to grow wool in the future. With this in mind, the wool industry needs support to redress this threat to its existence.

The Silent Ceremony and presentation of addresses

For those of you unfamiliar with City ceremonies, the *Silent Ceremony* is the moment when the new Lord Mayor Elect is admitted to office in a ceremony at Guildhall which (as is implied in the name) takes place in complete silence.

This year the Master and the Master Designate with their consorts were both in attendance. Following the ceremony, a deputation of Woolmen were included in a further ceremony of the *Presentation of Addresses* where livery companies have the privilege of making a special gift to the incoming Lord Mayor, in this case a highly appropriate, superb piece of Clissold cloth, sourced by the Master – sufficient to make a handsome suit. As the Master said in his presentation – a gift to ensure that the new Lord Mayor was as well dressed as his predecessor Dr Andrew Parmley; comments which produced a very warm and appreciative response from the 200 or so people assembled!

Past Master Richard Excell spotted a picture in the Daily Telegraph of the *Silent Ceremony* which you can see by following the link http://tinyurl.com/yaz66wq5.

Wool is therapeutic for the skin

We all know that a woolly jumper is warm and snuggly, but in positive news for eczema sufferers, recently published research funded by The Woolmark Company has demonstrated that wearing superfine Merino wool next to the skin is therapeutic for those suffering from the chronic skin condition. This adds to a growing number of research findings supporting the health and wellbeing benefits of wool products.

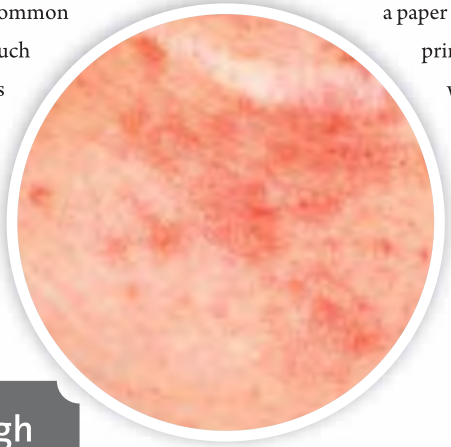
Eczema, also known as atopic dermatitis, now affects 20% to 30% of children; its prevalence amongst adults and children varies geographically and is increasing in many countries, with sufferers having dysfunctional skin that dries out and can lead to cracked skin, bacterial infection, redness, scratching and itching. However, dermatology trials have shown that adult and infant eczema sufferers have reduced symptoms when wearing superfine Merino wool garments next to the skin. When worn next to skin, superfine Merino wool works as a dynamic buffer, helping maintain a more stable humidity and temperature in the micro-climate between the fabric and the skin. Wool garments are the most breathable of the common apparel types, absorbing and releasing twice as much moisture vapour as cotton and thirty times as much as polyester. It appears superfine Merino wool acts like a second skin for these people whose 'first' skin is too dry.

The theory that wool's unique moisture management could benefit eczema sufferers was put to the test in a twelve-week clinical trial, which confirmed the beneficial findings of wearing superfine Merino wool garments with a mean fibre diameter less than or equal to 17.5 micron.

The Woolmark Company has also created a video explaining the therapeutic benefits of superfine Merino wool. A study of approximately 40 babies and young children under 3 years old, at the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute (MCRI) in Melbourne, showed significant advantages of superfine Merino wool base-layers rather than cotton in improving the symptoms of eczema.

Published in the British Journal of Dermatology in July, the study challenges generalisations that wool is to be avoided by children with eczema. The study concluded that traditional management guidelines classing all wool-based clothing as irritants should be modified to include superfine Merino wool as a recommended clothing choice in childhood atopic dermatitis. A highly esteemed group of medical professionals from across the world has reviewed research papers published during the past 100 years to critically assess scientific studies that claimed wool causes allergy. The group has now published a paper "Debunking the Myth of Wool Allergy" with the primary conclusion there is no credible evidence wool is an allergen. It found that if a fabric does cause sensations of itch and prickle on the skin, then it is because of the large diameter of the fibres and not due to the fibre type being wool.

The Woolmark Company



God Speed the Plough

Let the wealthy and great
Dwell in splendour and state
I envy them not I declare it
I eat my own lamb
My own chickens and ham
I shear my own fleece and I wear it
I have lawns, I have rowers
I have fruit, I have flowers
The lark is my morning alarmer
So jolly boys now
Here's God speed the plough
Long life and success to the farmer

The Installation Dinner

Following the Installation of the Master, Chris Thierry, during the annual church service at St Michael's, Cornhill, the Installation Dinner took place in Skinners' Hall. The Master had invited His Excellency Alexander Downer, High Commissioner of Australia, as the principal guest. Liveryman and Steward Emma Edhem, introduced him, and His Excellency then gave a most amusing speech about the world situation, wool growing, Brexit, and could not avoid taking a playful swipe at His Excellency Guy Trouveroy, the Belgian Ambassador, who was also present at the dinner.

In his response, the Master introduced his Consort for his year as Master, Carol Thierry, his sister-in-law, and thanked her for her support; and thanked the Immediate Past Master Alderman Peter Hewitt for his year as Master. Then the Master spoke of the honour he felt to have been elected Master and thanked the livery for its support. He stressed the point that the Woolmen is not just a livery of Woolmen; it is a livery of friends. Since he had been invited to become a Woolmen 15 years ago, he had been most fortunate to enjoy the friendship and fellowship of the Woolmen. He was sure that the warmth and hospitality afforded him would also be enjoyed by all the guests.

Then the Master touched on the Woolmen's historical connections with Australia and the Australian wool industry over some 200 years and mentioned that it was in Garraways Coffee House in London in 1821 that the first bales of Australian merino were sold. He reminded everyone that he came from a woolly background and had learnt about wool in his early twenties when he was a lecturer in textiles at Kingston College, now Kingston University; and then working in fashion buying and management, before working for the Woolmark Company for 20 years. He felt qualified to provide some little-known facts about wool, which he would feed into his after dinner speeches, and started with some facts about Merino wool. Merino wool fibre grows at a rate of around 0.2mm/day; and one single wool fleece contains over 100 million individual fibres. The modern merino sheep is a 24 hour a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, fibre factory, producing nearly 5,500 miles of fibre a year at a rate of two thirds of a mile an hour. The fibres from five merino sheep joined end to end could tie a bow around the world.

He announced that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal would be attending the Summer Banquet in Drapers' Hall, when the keynote speaker would be Stuart McCullogh, CEO of Australian Wool Innovation and The Woolmark Company; the sheep drive and wool fair would take place on Sunday 24th September; the Woolmen would be taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show to support the new Lord Mayor, Alderman Charles Bowman, and mark the fact that the Lady Mayoress is a Citizen and Woolman.

He concluded by saying that he was very much looking forward to his year as Master and serving the Woolmen.

Mary Berry and her family

Mary Berry opened the 2017 Sheep Drive across London Bridge and Wool Fair at Monument on Sunday 24th September. Accompanied by her grandchildren, Abbi and Hobie, she led the way with the Master Woolman, Chris Thierry, and showed she knew a thing or two about sheep. As the drive started, one or two sheep decided they might try and go back to their pen, but Mary showed everyone how to use a shepherd's crook to get them back on track and heading for Southwark.

The well-known cook, food writer and television presenter is a Freeman of the City of London and soon had the sheep under control. The Great British Bake Off judge exchanged her apron and food mixer for a woollen suit and a shepherd's crook for the occasion.

She was joined during the day by 600 other Freemen who drove the sheep back and forth across the bridge in relays, exercising their ancient right, and raising over £26,000 for charity in the process. Mary said: "The sheep were exceedingly well-behaved. I think they have done it before. A lot of people are here who will never have seen sheep other than a roast lamb on a Sunday." Mary

The press starts to gather

Checking the tenderness

Best dressed child

Mary Berry opens the

2017 Sheep Drive and Wool Fair

certainly put paid to the old show biz adage about not working with children or animals! Thank ewe, Mary!

Mary Berry's career has encompassed a wide variety of experience including radio, television and writing books. Best known recently for the wonderful BBC series of The Great British Bake Off, which has run for seven years.

She has received many awards for cooking, baking and television programmes; and for her books. In 2014 she became a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Bakers and then a Freeman of the City of London.

She was appointed CBE in 2012 Birthday Honours and the same year was awarded an honorary degree by Bath Spa University; and she has Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Guild of Food Writers, Aga Rayburn and Observer Food Monthly.

Sheep confront the press

Master with tankard

The Worshipful Company of Woolmen was delighted when Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal found time in her busy schedule of events to attend the Woolmen's Summer Banquet at Drapers Hall on Wednesday 14th June, earlier this year. She was met by the Master, Chris Thierry, who introduced her to the Wardens and a selection of Past Masters before dinner.

The Princess Royal dines with the Woolmen

Then the Honorary Chaplain, The Right Reverend Stephen Platten, introduced his Grace with a moment of silence in memory of the victims of the terrible fire at Grenfell Tower. The pre-prandial Grace made many suitable references to spinning, weaving, shearing and wool before the diners tucked into a splendid menu of gravadlax, pot roast guinea fowl and strawberry mousse.

The Guildhall School of Music provided the musical entertainment with a varied programme encompassing opera and songs from the musicals, followed by the traditional rose water and the singing of post-prandial Grace. After the loving cup ceremony, the Master proposed the toasts to The Queen, The Royal Family and the Lord Mayor and the City of London Corporation.

Past Master Bill Clark proposed the toast to the guests, pointing out that The Princess Royal was present as a Past Master Emeritus of the Company and not as a guest. Apart from guests representing the wool industry he was pleased to welcome Nicholas Coleridge CBE of the publishers Condé Nast, and the Mad Hatter, Ian Wright. He then introduced the guest speaker for the evening, Stuart Mc Cullough, CEO of Australian Wool Innovation. Stuart responded in very good

A gift from the Company

Master and Wardens

HRH with the Court

The Master in full flow

humour with a speech about the wool industry and the important role younger people have to play in its future. He was struck by the similarity in aims and objectives of AWI and the Worshipful Company of Woolmen in supporting young people in the wool industry. He concluded with the traditional toast to the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, root and branch, coupled with the name of the Master.

Then the Master regaled the company with stories about the guest speaker, and an amusing incident involving a Star Wars blaster that he had agreed to collect for Chris, expecting it to be a sensible-sized plastic model – only to find he was collecting a life size metal replica which had somehow made it through customs. He spoke about the importance of collaboration between Livery Companies, businesses and charities. As usual, the Master imparted a few tips about wool and its use in fashion. The quality of wool is defined by the measurement of the diameter of the fibre, expressed in microns, its most important characteristic, because it determines its value. The human hair is approximately 80 microns; the ladies table gift scarf is 17.5 microns. Wool can be very fine: each year there is a Golden Bale which is auctioned, which is around 11.50 to 12.50 microns, much finer than cashmere and Vicuna and more robust.

The Master was delighted to be able to congratulate Alderman Vincent Keaveny on his selection by the Court of Alderman as the preferred candidate for Aldermanic Sheriff for 2018/19.

The Princess Royal left the banquet shortly after the Master and his principal guests left the dining room, and the company enjoyed a stirrup cup before returning home.

Stuart Mc Cullough

With the Loving Cup

Round up of the Agricultural shows

As usual in May, June and July, the Master visited the major agricultural shows to present the prizes and medals for shearing.

Royal Ulster Agricultural Show

The Royal Ulster Agricultural Show was held at the permanent showground at Balmoral Park 10th/13th May – the fourth year the show has been on the new ground, which was the site of the Maze prison some years ago. In pride of place in the shearing shed is situated the Maurice Megahy shearing stand, which was opened by HRH Prince Edward in 2013, commemorating the contribution to shearing in Northern Ireland by Liveryman Maurice Megahy who died in 2012. Maurice's son and daughter, Brian Megahy and Sandra McCullough, are both still very active with the show.

Royal Bath and West Show

The Royal Bath and West Show took place on 31st May/2nd and the Master accepted the invitation to lunch with the Fruiterers Company before the competitions. The cider flowed freely and the talk was of more than fruit and sheep, but the shearing was of a very high standard, and the master was delighted to see another very good day's shearing. After the competition he attended the Cider-makers reception where there were an amazingly wide range of ciders on hand to try. Wisely he did not attempt to taste them all!

Royal Highland Show

The Royal Highland Show 22nd/25th June meant a flight to Edinburgh and the usual running of the gauntlet through security with The Master's badge and all the medals the Master needs to carry in his hand baggage to present to the winners – which triggered all sorts of alarms, but diplomatic skills were deployed, the nation's security was not deemed to be at risk., the Master was permitted to board the aircraft in time. The Royal Highland Show is always very well attended.

Great Yorkshire Show

The shearing at the Great Yorkshire Show took place on 11th/13th July, so the Master travelled up to Harrogate for the occasion. The show was cancelled in 2012 due to flooding brought on by horrific rainstorms, but that is now a distant memory. Many spectators crowded the benches or sat on the open grass in front of the stand to watch the excellent shearing competitions. The shearers put on another grand display.

Royal Welsh Show

The Master has been a regular attender at the Royal Welsh Show since the Woolmen first organised a sponsors' lunch for the Livery at the show. The main shearing competitions were on the second show day (25th July), and the Master arrived in good time, supported by Court Assistant (and Master Designate) Andrew Dawson, Liveryman David Keating and his family, and Past Master Bill Clark.

The Master was very impressed throughout by the closeness, friendship and camaraderie of the shearing community. Young shearers and the older shearers, and some ancient shearers, judges and stewards, all knew each other and their capabilities, pulled each other's legs mercilessly, and many of them were at several of the shows.

The Recalcitrant Master

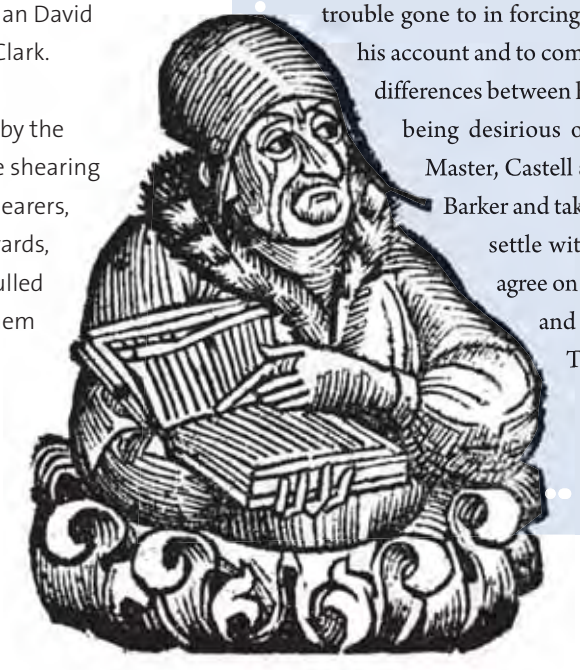
A 17th century entry in the Court Minutes catches the eye.

In times gone by, but particularly during the 17th century, the Master was more or less the Treasurer of the Company, and at the start of his term he had to provide a £200 bond to cover the company's expenses, and at the end of his term (which was for two years until 1845 when the Master's tern was reduced to one year) he was required to account to the Court for the monies spent and received during his year.

There was one Dr Richard Barker who was installed as Master in May 1660 and May 1662 – so he did four years in the chair. However, a special court was held on 17th October 1664 to examine the reasons why the late master had failed to produce his accounts for his time in office. Another special court on 1st December 1664 ordered the late master to bring in his accounts, letters and keys; but on 8th December it was reported that he had refused. The following March two Court Assistants were ordered to "go to him and demand all deeds, bonds, writings in his custody and to give him a discharge for them – the Clerk to attend them". There are no further records of Court meetings for two years, but in June 1666 the then Master gave £200 bond to account at the end of his tenure. "The Master, Warden and 4 others to peruse all documents, ordinances of Court and all deeds & writings in the Company's chest".

The Court "considering the great charge and trouble gone to in forcing Dr Barker to bring in his account and to compose the late unhappy differences between him and the Court and being desirious of peace" charged the Master, Castell and one other to go to Barker and take his final account and settle with him "and what they agree on the Court will stand to and abide by".

There is no further mention of this Dr Barker.



Your personal information is stored on the Company database and used to produce address lists to send you Livery publications and information, to compile the Members List and for other notifications and announcements. The Company takes great care to guard your information and will not divulge it to anyone not authorized to receive it. Should you not wish to have your details published you must inform the Clerk and the Company will comply with your instructions. If you do not contact the Clerk, the Company will continue to use the information it holds on you in a responsible and secure manner.

In return for the Company's commitment to you, the Company expects you to keep the Clerk informed if you change or need to update your personal information and be careful how you dispose of the information you hold on other members of the Livery.

All Liverymen will be aware that organisations need to protect the data they collect and store about their members, and only use it for the specific purposes for which it is intended. The Worshipful Company of Woolmen needs basic information about its members so that it can administer the Company efficiently. This basic information – name and contact details – is published in the Members Book (sent to every Liveryman annually) and the City of London Directory and Livery Companies Guide, re-printed every year and available from City Press. A few Liverymen have exercised their right not to appear in one or both of these publications.

The Worshipful Company of Woolmen only uses the data it collects internally, and does not provide it to any other companies or institutions, except as stated above. The Company would like to hold details about professional backgrounds and interests so the Company can better understand its Liverymen, and the Livery Committee can arrange events that appeal to all members – but this information must be accurate. To this end, please ensure you keep the Clerk informed of any changes to your personal information.

If any Liveryman is concerned about the Company's data management practices, please could they contact the Clerk.

General Data Protection Regulation – effective 28th May 2018

It is clear that Livery Companies need to comply with GDPR 2018 so that they can continue to collect, use and store members' personal data. A significant change to the law requires the Clerk to confirm whether members would like to receive communications from the Woolmen in the future. This applies to all individuals, whether they have received communications from us in the past. The regulations also ask us to be more specific about the communications we send. People must be allowed to opt in or out of regular mailings, magazines, sales material etc; and how they receive communications: by telephone, post, email or texts. Many organisations are achieving this by a general email, posted letter or online service outlining the options and asking members to tick the relevant boxes. It is worthwhile pointing out that regardless of members' preferences, members can continue to receive communications relating to their membership – but members need to be informed of this. A communication from the Clerk to all members will follow soon.

Some of the Key Principles of the Data Protection Act 1998 are:

- Data may only be used for the specific purposes for which it was collected.
- Data must not be disclosed to other parties without the consent of the individual whom it is about, unless there is legislation or other overriding legitimate reason to share the information (for example, the prevention or detection of crime).
- Individuals have a right of access to the information held about them, subject to certain exceptions (for example, information held for the prevention or detection of crime).
- Personal information may be kept for no longer than is necessary and must be kept up to date.
- Personal information may not be sent outside the European Economic Area unless the individual whom it is about has consented or adequate protection is in place, for example by the use of a prescribed form of contract to govern the transmission of the data.
- Subject to some exceptions for organisations that only do very simple processing, and for domestic use, all entities that process personal information must register with the Information Commissioner's Office.
- The departments of a company that are holding personal information are required to have adequate security measures in place. Those include technical measures (such as firewalls) and organisational measures (such as staff training).
- Subjects have the right to have *factually incorrect* information corrected (note: this does not extend to matters of *opinion*).

Sheep Recognition

Sheep recognition is no longer about sharp-eyed farmers knowing their blue-faced Leicesters from their Devon Closewools. It appears that sheep can recognise humans!

A recent discovery shows clear evidence that sheep can process facial features in the same sophisticated way that humans do.

The results could help researchers to test new drugs for dementia and other neurodegenerative conditions on sheep, whose brains are a better proxy for ours than those of mice or rats. Experiments in the past have shown that animals as various as dogs, mockingbirds and horses can distinguish between individual members of other species simply by looking at their photographs. This has led some neuroscientists to speculate that there may be an ancient part of the brain dedicated to making sense of things that look like faces, the same mechanism that makes people respond to winking emojis or light switches that appear to be grinning at us.

The research involved tests comprising of a handful of crunchy cereal pellets, two television screens, three pictures of the Antiques Roadshow presenter Fiona Bruce and eight Welsh mountain ewes that a scientist rescued from the slaughterhouse.

A team led by Jennifer Morton, professor of neurobiology at the University of Cambridge, taught the sheep to walk through a series of pens and into a room with the two screens on one wall, each displaying an image. If the ewe activated the infrared sensor beneath the correct picture she received a treat.

The sheep quickly learnt to discriminate faces from blank screens or other objects about 90 per cent of the time. Then the researchers found that the ewes could tell photographs of Watson, Bruce, Mr Obama and the actor Jake Gyllenhaal apart from other people's faces in roughly 80 per cent of the trials.

When the faces were tilted to one side, the success rate fell to about 66 per cent, much as it does in human versions of the test. The trick worked regardless of different hairstyles, indicating that the sheep were relying on some aspect of the celebrities' facial features.

Sometimes the sheep did a "double take" as they appeared to raid their memory banks for information about an unfamiliar face. The results, published in the Royal Society journal Open Science, do not imply that sheep have somehow concealed a penetrating intellect. "Sheep do some really stupid things," Professor Morton said. "They're not going to build a rocket and go to the moon. But they do have a social structure, they remember where food is and sometimes they use their brains in quite an interesting way." So... there is no pulling the wool over sheep's eyes.

The Master's weekend

Guildford – September 2017

The Master, Chris Thierry, and his consort, Carol, took the Livery away for the weekend of 15th/17th September to Guildford and the surrounding area.

We started on Friday afternoon at the Guildford Guildhall, where we were met by the immediate past Mayor, Councillor Gordon Jackson, a previous guest of the Woolmen and a friend of the Master. After a pleasant champagne reception, we were told the history of the 600-year old building, which is intertwined with the history of Guildford, dating back more than 1400 years, by the Remembrancer. He also regaled us with many stories and produced interesting artefacts, including the clock that projects out of the front of the building over the High Street – as old as the building itself – a fifteenth century mace, the Onslow tankard (which is embossed with a silver coin from the reign of every monarch since William the Conqueror – including a Barbadian penny to mark the brief accession of Edward VIII), the Mayor's badge (unusually embossed on the obverse with the Royal Arms and on the reverse with the arms of the donor – which is highly irregular!) and the Baden-Powell casket which contains the scroll recording the Freedom of the Borough presented to Major-General Baden Powell in1903 to mark their appreciation of his defence of Mafeking in the Boer War.

That evening, we were all invited to the Gomshall Mill for an excellent supper of lamb – and quantities to satisfy the greatest trencher-men. Gomshall appears in the Domesday book and was held by William the Conqueror and subsequent kings, until 1154 when Henry II divided it and in 1240 West Gomshall was granted to the Cistercian Abbey of Netley (the Cistercians kept large flocks of sheep); East Gomshall was granted to the Abbey of St Mary graces, Tower Hill, London – so the area has close connections with both sheep and the City of London. In fact, the Mill at Gomshall was a water mill for grinding corn although other mills in the village were used for leather tanning and other purposes.

On Saturday morning, we boarded coaches for Denbies Wine Estate. The tour started in the cinema with a film about the history of the site and how the owner was persuaded to use it for growing vines; and then we had a tour of the various stages of pressing and fermenting

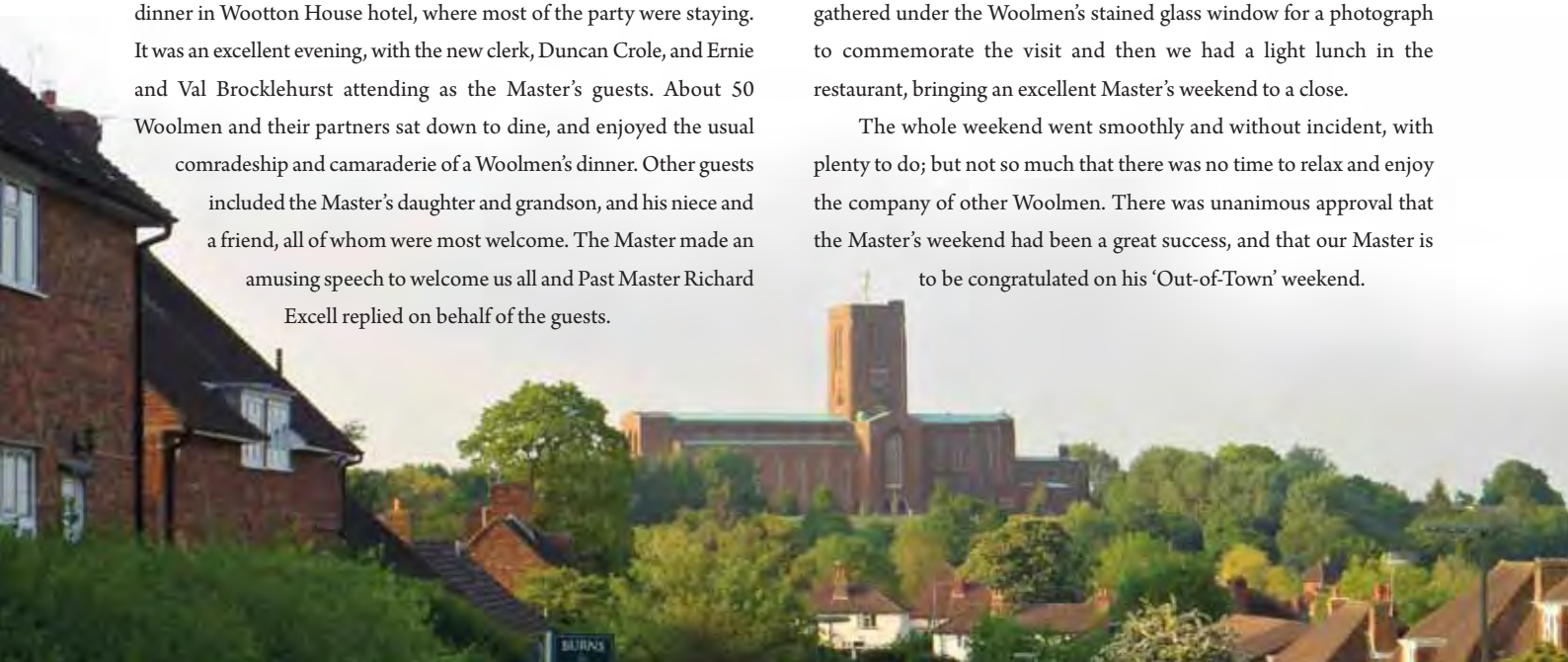
> The whole weekend went smoothly and without incident, with plenty to do; but not so much that there was no time to relax and enjoy the company of other Woolmen.

grapes, bottling and labelling. Then finally to the tasting room, where we tasted three of their wines. This was followed by a light lunch in their upstairs restaurant. In the afternoon we were taken in land rover-towed carriages round the vineyard to see the various planting areas and where the old house used to stand.

That evening, the Master and Carol presided at a formal black tie dinner in Wootton House hotel, where most of the party were staying. It was an excellent evening, with the new clerk, Duncan Crole, and Ernie and Val Brocklehurst attending as the Master's guests. About 50 Woolmen and their partners sat down to dine, and enjoyed the usual comradeship and camaraderie of a Woolmen's dinner. Other guests included the Master's daughter and grandson, and his niece and a friend, all of whom were most welcome. The Master made an amusing speech to welcome us all and Past Master Richard Excell replied on behalf of the guests.

On Sunday morning, about 30 of us visited Guildford Cathedral, where the Master had arranged a special service with many ovine references. The choir, conducted by Katherine Dienes-Williams, sang beautifully. Past Master Bill Clark read the first lesson, and the Master read the second lesson. The preacher, The Reverend Canon Andrew Bishop, gave a very woolly sermon. After the service, all the Woolmen gathered under the Woolmen's stained glass window for a photograph to commemorate the visit and then we had a light lunch in the restaurant, bringing an excellent Master's weekend to a close.

The whole weekend went smoothly and without incident, with plenty to do; but not so much that there was no time to relax and enjoy the company of other Woolmen. There was unanimous approval that the Master's weekend had been a great success, and that our Master is to be congratulated on his 'Out-of-Town' weekend.



Master's Reception for The Guild of Young Freemen

With the express purpose of thanking the Guild of Young Freemen for their support and assistance with the Sheep Drive over the last few years, the Master organised a reception for them in the Guildhall on Wednesday 11th October. Several members of the Court were on hand to host the guests, and we were delighted that Ernie Brocklehurst, our Beadle was also able to attend with the Chamberlin's Clerk, Murray Craig, and the Deputy Clerk, Laura Miller. Over a glass of wine and superb canapes, the City was put to rights and many friendships were re-kindled or forged between the generations.

The Master gave a short speech to welcome the guests and thank them for their pivotal role as marshals for the sheep drive; and the master of the Guild of Young Freemen, Omar Masoud Asfar, replied and thanked the Woolmen for their hospitality and reinforced the bonds between the Woolmen and the Young Freemen. In a convivial atmosphere of fellowship and fraternity the discussions continued, and the Chairman of the Woolmen's Membership Committee was on hand to answer questions from those Young Freemen who expressed an interest in learning more about the Woolmen and their activities.

It was a lovely evening, and many thank are due to Alderman Vincent Keaveny who made the arrangements at Guildhall and ensured that the evening was a great success.

Old wool invoices used to trace ancient cities

More than half a dozen lost Bronze Age cities have been tracked down in Turkey through a mathematical analysis of the accounts left on 12,000 clay tablets by ancient Assyrian traders. Using ancient tablets economists have been able to work out the location of other cities. Researchers in the US found the sites by reconstructing an economic network of wool, wine and precious metals that sprawled across the Anatolian plateau in the 19th century BC.

The merchants, whose homeland lay in what is now Iraq, began to settle in central Turkey 4,000 years ago, chiefly swapping tin and fabrics from their native Assur for gold and silver from the local kingdoms.

In the ruins of Kanes, near the modern Turkish city of Kayseri, excavations have turned up contracts, shipment manifests and detailed business letters. Not even a hardened Assyriologist could love them as works of literature. "I met with the king in Ninassa," one trader wrote, "but ...he did not buy a single textile." There is a good deal about donkeys, and begging letters from sons to their fathers. The real worth of the texts lies in the volume of transactions they document. Using this raw data and the work of historians, statisticians can work out not only roughly where the missing cities should have been, but also how big they probably were.

For example if you know where London, Manchester and Bristol are and how much wool they all trade with Liverpool, for example, you can have a reasonable stab at working out where Liverpool should be.

The city of Sinahuttum turns up 14 times in the Assyrian records as the home of a "market for donkeys" and a bustling wool exchange. The academics' "structural gravity" model places it northeast of Hattusa, near modern Bogazkale. The same approach has narrowed down the sites of nine other cities including Durhumit, Kuburnat, Suppiluliya and Washaniya. Sometimes, as with Sinahuttum, the guesses are more or less in line with previous estimates. Others are dozens or hundreds of miles away.

The Worshipful Company of Woolmen

Charitable Trust
Registered Charity
No 262211

The objects of the Woolmen's Company Charitable Trust are:
To promote the wool industry and interest in wool, wool products, sheep farming, shearing, wool production and textiles and design; research into appropriate veterinary procedures and practices; education relevant to the wool industry; and to promote the City of London in general and the Livery movement in particular.

Bursaries, Scholarships and Awards
The money raised by the Woolmen through donations and sponsorship for the sheep drive is divided between the Woolmen's Charitable Trust and the Lord Mayor's Appeal. All other donations and income, such as the regular donations from Liverymen, go direct to the Woolmen's Charitable Trust. The Woolmen's Charity Committee meets three or four times a year to discuss benevolence and awards and prizes.

The academic awards include prizes at Heriott Watt University, Huddersfield University, the Scottish Rural University, Harper Adams, the Glasgow Centre of Textile Conservation, and the Textile Centre of Excellence. The Wool Innovation Award is jointly sponsored by the Woolmen and The Merchants of the Staple of York. Other academic awards are available for the Archbishop Tenison School, the Livery Schools Link and occasional individual awards.

Practical Awards – Shearing
The Woolmen sponsor shearing competitions at the five major UK agricultural shows – the Royal Ulster Show, the Royal Highland Show, the Great Yorkshire Show, the Royal Bath and West Show and the Royal Welsh Show. These are always fiercely contested, and all Woolmen are encouraged to visit these shows and watch the shearing competitions. At some of these shows the Woolmen lay on hospitality, or arrange for Woolmen to meet up, and so it is worth checking with the clerk to see what arrangements have been made.

The City of London
The Woolmen provide funds for some City charities as part of their involvement in the Livery Movement and support for the Lord Mayor. These include the Sheriffs and Recorders Fund, Mansion House Scholarships, the Big Curry Lunch, the Dean of St Paul's Discretionary Fund, the United Guild Service Trust, and St Michael's Cornhill (our City church) to name but a few.

City Farms
Traditionally the Woolmen have supported the City farms at Hackney and Spitalfields. In more recent years, the City farms have been most supportive of the sheep drive and provided much needed sheep handlers to assist the participants, and the Woolmen have responded by supporting some of their educational initiatives.

Military Affiliations
There is a long history of military affiliations between the livery companies and military units, dating back to the days when the Lord Mayor called on livery companies to support the kings' wars (and apprentices were required by statute to practice archery regularly!). The Woolmen have affiliations with several military units and provide benevolence for their welfare funds to support servicemen and women.

Legacies

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

Fundraising

And don't forget to look out for information about the Woolmen's Sheep Drive in 2018! This is the Woolmen's premier fundraising event which we organise for the Freemen of the City of London. It is planned for Sunday 30th September 2018 and the organisers have set their fundraising sights higher than ever! It will be another great family day out, so if you missed it so far you will have another chance in 2018. We are delighted that this event has become an important date in the City diary and attracts more and more people every year.

Master with Wardens and Mary Berry

Court News

At the April Court meeting it as suggested that a group was set up to examine the Woolmen's governance manual and make recommendations for its modernisation. The original had been written by a group led by Past Master Richard Pickance in 2012, and much had changed in the intervening years. At the June Court meeting, it was agreed that Past Master Richard Excell would chair the Governance Review Committee and the Master, Wardens, Master (designate), and Past Master Bill Clark would form the committee. After consultation with all members of the Court, much discussion and several meetings they produced a first draft which aimed to address five principles which had been raised during the consultation. These were: no more than six committees; the formation of a Nominations Committee to ensure a proper succession through the role of master, and through the committees; a new Wool Committee to safeguard our wool heritage; a new and more central role for the Finance Committee; a three-year rotation of Court Assistants so as to involve more people in the governance of the Company and so the Court as a whole can see more Liverymen in action. The Court approved these five main principles at the Civic Court meeting and commended the draft document; which, subject to further discussions with the Chairmen of the Membership Committee, Finance Committee and Charity Committee were agreed. When the document has been revised it will be available for all Liverymen to read.

One of the roles of the Nominations Committee will be to speak to as many Liverymen as possible at regional meetings throughout the country, and to make themselves available to all Liverymen for discussions so they can understand the wishes of Liverymen with regard to their progression through the Company. If you feel you have hidden talents – or not-so-hidden talents – which you would like to bring to the attention of a committee chairman or the Court, please do not feel restrained in letting the Nominations Committee know about it.

Above: The Award winners. Below:The Master with Megan Lovett and the Master of the Staple

Civic Dinner 25th October

The Woolmen's Civic Dinner on Wednesday, 25th October was a glittering occasion in the Clothworkers Hall with the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs in attendance. The Lord Mayor, Alderman Doctor Andrew Parmley, was the principal guest and the sheriffs were also in attendance, along with the Duty Officer. The Master, Chris Thierry, and his consort, Carol Thierry led the top table into the dining room in the usual manner and 150 Woolmen and guests sat down to dine.

In his speech, the Master made reference to the support for the Lord Mayor's charities, and his motto – Educate, Support, Inspire – and the three good causes he had focused on. These are the LSO Discovery programme, St Paul's Cathedral Music Outreach, and Music in Hospitals, selected to further the education of young talent, using music to develop their skills. The Master also made reference to the 26 countries the Lord Mayor had visited, as well as visits to the UK regions, in support of the City and its ambitions in a world context.

In recent years, the Lord Mayor, assisted by the Master and the Chair of the Charity Committee, presents the awards to the students at the Civic Dinner, and this year was no exception. The 2017 Woolmen Award winners were Jolene Guthrie from Heriot-Watt University for her MA in knitting design linked to wool textiles. Robyn Grainger of Heriot Watt University for her fashion communication linked to wool; Emily Burnett from Huddersfield

The Civic Dinner

Master with the Lord Mayor

University for her Batchelors degree in fashion design linked to wool (The Peter Valpy Millennium Bursary); Karolina Kaseja from the Scottish Rural University for her PhD research on genome data linked to sheep breeding; Keira Miller from the centre of Textile Conservation, Glasgow, for her research into conservation of museum costumes; Oliver Clegg from the Textile Centre of Excellence at Huddersfield for the most promising young person under 24 working in wool textiles (Lord Barnby award); and Megan Lovell who was awarded the joint Woolmen/Merchants of the Staple Wool Innovation Award 2017 for innovative assembly of woven and knitted all-wool materials.

There were two students who were unable to attend the dinner, but Hayley Wilson from Heriot Watt University was awarded the Roger Flemington award for the best BSc student studying fashion and retail linked to wool; and Jessica Moore from Huddersfield University won an award for her final year researching wool development in textiles containing 50% or more wool.

Wool is Natural

- Renewable
- Sustainable
- Biodegradable
- Low carbon impact
- Energy efficient

Wool is Safe

- Flame resistant
- UV protection
- Static electricity reduction
- High thermal resistance

Wool is Healthy

- Breathable
- Humidity control
- Low allergy
- Toxic chemical absorption
- Sound reduction

The Wool Industry

- Produces wool on several million small-hold and commercial farms world-wide sells US $80billion of wool products annually at retail

WOOL FACTS

Commercial farms worldwide sell US $80bn of wool products annually at retail

- In the EU alone, is made up of thousands of industrial manufacturing companies working with wool as a raw material
- Takes care of more than 1 billion sheep around the world maintaining high standards of animal welfare.
- Employs millions of people in wool production, harvesting and throughout its many processing stages
- Produces around 2.1 million tons of greasy wool per year.

David Seamark and dogs

Cadets lead the way

Janet and Bill Clark

The Lord Mayor's Show

On Saturday 11th November 2017, for the first time since 2011, the Woolmen participated in the Lord Mayor's show with our own entry. This was part of celebrating and commemorating our very great pleasure and privilege of having a Woolmen, Samantha Bowman, as our new Lady Mayoress.

It was a superb and joyful day. Brilliantly organised by Bill Clark, Stephen Rowland-Jones and Margaret Miller, ours was one of the most popular floats as we were baaad through the city over several hours. Our biggest draw were the sheep in their buggy and trailer and accompanying dogs – all supplied by those great friends of the Woolmen, David and Barbara Seamark who do such a superb job for us on the London Bridge Sheep Drive.

It has to be the first occasion in the 802 year history of the Lord Mayor's Show when a Past Master of the company has driven a show vehicle costumed as a dog – Bill Clark – the Woolmen salute you for this and all your many other efforts for us!

We were fully supported by our affiliated cadets from the 43 Army Cadet Detachment in East Ham who staunchly carried our flag with the Woolmen coat of arms (gifted by the Master) for the whole show.

The Master, Carol and the Woolmen were greatly honoured to be invited to join the Honour Guard at Mansion House that greeted the Lord Mayor on his return to Mansion House in the Mayoral coach, to

Sheep dogs and walkers

43 RHA Det Cadets on parade

Dogs sheep and walkers

Getting ready for the Lord Mayor's Show

watch the return procession and then join him for lunch.

If you missed the BBC TV programme, you can still download it from BBC iPlayer, which will give you a real flavour of the day from the full BBC coverage. The link below will be available until 7th December. https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b09ffqph/the-lord-mayors-show-2017#

The Master gave a terrific interview to the BBC as we approached the Lord Mayor's stage outside Mansion House; you can see this at 37 minutes into the programme. Watch out for three Baas for the Lord Mayor! But before that, at 2 minutes 10 seconds, see Samantha Bowman herself riding along with her two daughters. The very first occasion that a Lady Mayoress has appeared in the procession on horseback!

We were also privileged to fly the Woolmen flag (also gifted by the Master) on the barge *Gloriana* which carried the new Lord Mayor to the start of the show. You can see *Gloriana* on the BBC programme at 5 minutes 10 seconds although our flag is not visible in the clip.

A big thank you to all those Woolmen, friends and families who contributed to make the day such a success including all of you who made pledges to support our entry. If any participating Woolmen have any photographs of the day that they would like to share, please send them to the Clerk.

The Lady Mayoress and her daughters

Giant Sheep

Giant Sheep and Quad Bike