THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF WOOLMEN

WOOLMEN'S NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2018

www.woolmen.com

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Foreword from the Master

I am writing this foreword entitled "A Master's Journey" at 9.00 am, sitting on a concrete ledge, in a queue waiting for tickets for a sold out performance at the new Bridge Theatre. If any tickets are available at 10.00 am, the share out is one ticket per person in line. We are 13 at the moment. I am No 7. It will be a cliff-hanger as to whether I have a chance for two tickets in case the queue is exhausted at share out time. I will have to toss for who has the one ticket, Gill or myself, or being a gentleman I will let her have first choice.

This gives me time to reflect on the first three months of the Master's year, which have been extremely busy. As well as Woolmen meetings, there have been a variety of City functions to attend - all extremely convivial. Possibly the most enjoyable was listening to the one hundred piece London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican as a thank-you to the Livery from the City for the Woolmen's support at the Lord Mayor's Float last November.

The Installation of The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally as the 133rd Bishop of London at St Paul's Cathedral on 12th May was fascinating, with so many other religious Orders participating at the Service.

Other important events I have attended have included a five-hour get together instigated by the Clothworkers, with a 30 minute working lunch with other liveries with Textile links and also industry contacts. The purpose was to see if funding was needed to ensure that Textile skills are not being lost in certain areas and if so, could they viably be recaptured.

A very exciting election for Sheriff took place at Guildhall and our very own Under Warden Alderman Vincent Keaveny was duly elected with a substantial majority. Congratulations to him and we look forward hearing more in the next Newsletter.

There was also a most enjoyable day with the Mistress at the Royal Garden Party.

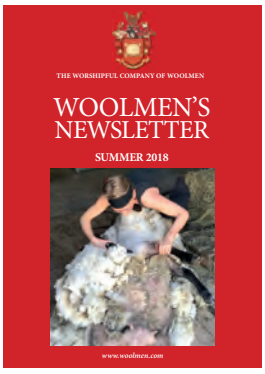
Possibly of highest importance and enjoyment has been attending the various Agricultural Shows at which we support the shearing events and which are reported in more detail later in this Newsletter.

Fast forward: the distribution of tickets started and at No 7 I was the last one to get a ticket. The young Finnish lady at No 8 had queued yesterday and she was then just behind the last ticket distributed. By the time I had my one ticket in hand, she had disappeared. Just waiting in the line told its story. The Finnish lady had come to London for a few days with her 4 year old daughter and Spanish husband. She loves the theatre, they live in Munich and she will not return to live in Finland due to the long winters and everlasting dark nights. For someone from the North, like myself, with limited experience of the City of London, just sitting waiting in the queue and looking around is an eye-opener as to the wealth and depth of what the City has to offer, especially as regards to the Liveries who are contributing charitable support as the third largest contributors to charity in the UK. This gives an indication of the draw of our great city and it is a great privilege for me to become Master Woolman. The Woolmen's Company is renowned for bringing together a wide cross-section of people from the City, our industry and happily, second and third generation members.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the range of events planned for the year ahead.

Andrew Dawson - Master

"A VERY EXCITING ELECTION FOR SHERIFF TOOK PLACE AT GUILDHALL AND OUR VERY OWN UNDER WARDEN ALDERMAN VINCENT KEAVENY WAS DULY ELECTED WITH A SUBSTANTIAL MAJORITY"



FRONT COVER IMAGE:
The Lady Mayoress of the City of London, Woolman Samantha Bowman, shearing one of her Suffolk sheep "very big girls and difficult to hold"!

Latest News

The Installation Dinner Held On 24 April 2018

In the early evening of a fairly drizzly April day, we gathered in St Michael's Cornhill to witness the installation with all due ceremony of the Master Andrew Dawson, his Upper Warden Mark Johnson and Under Warden Vincent Keaveny, accompanied by the sublime singing of the choir of St Michael's Cornhill and an enthusiastic and heartfelt rendition of some favourite, traditional hymns by the Woolmen.

After the ceremony it was a short walk to Stationers' Hall for the Installation Dinner, where we were treated to a menu of Bream and Venison, followed by Cinammon and Pear Sticky Toffee Pudding and a final course of Fillet of Cornish Sardine, which did take some of us by surprise but was appreciated nonetheless.

The musical interlude was provided by students of the Guildhall School of Music Ashley Beauchamp (pianist), Emily Kyte (soprano) and Paul Coll (French Horn) who gave a very polished and enjoyable performance, particularly impressive on the part of Paul Coll, who had come straight from the airport after visiting family in Minorca.

Major Phil Valentine (left) and Captain Tim Miller (right) represented the Queen's Own Yeomanry and were presented with the Woolmen Trophy by the Master (centre). This trophy is awarded to the Squadron that has contributed the most to Operational Deployments within that year and was accepted by Capt Miller on behalf of A (Yorkshire) Sqn in the City of York for their contribution to Op Cabrit in Poland and Project Trias in Tunisia. The Woolmen were also able to make a donation to the QOY Regimental Fund, which was very much appreciated.

The toast to the Guests was proposed by Liveryman Nigel Gosse and the response given by our principal guest Peter Bennett-Jones CBE, the TV producer and agent. Peter is perhaps best known as the former owner of TV production company Tiger Aspect where he was the executive producer of a number of shows including Vicar of Dibley and Mr Bean and we were entertained to a wealth of anecdotes from his rich and varied career.

Once again, a most enjoyable occasion.

Introduction

Our last edition came at the end of a long winter; this year we seem to have slipped straight into summer without any spring. We have already had some fine, warm days with glorious sunshine but we should not forget one of the joys of spring – new born lambs!

Woolman David Wood and his wife Izzy were taking a break from lambing to enjoy a social evening playing bridge with neighbours PM Richard Excell and Carolyn when they had a call to go up to the lambing shed - what a delightful result.

Thanks and congratulations to David, Izzy, Richard and Carolyn.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Past Master William Clark on receiving a Highly Commended in the City Livery Club Root and Branch Award at a lunch in Guildhall on 2 July 2018, with members of the Woolmen present.

A full report will be featured in our next printed newsletter.

Congratulations also to Emma Edhem (pictured right), who was elected to the City's Court of Aldermen after emerging victorious in Candlewick and Cheap aldermanic election. Emma took the post vacated by Dame Fiona Woolfe, having been encouraged to stand by Dame Fiona.

Wool is EVERYWHERE!

Having seen a lot of wool shops in Turkey, Sharanne Basham-Pike commented on how few wool shops there are in Wales these days. Then she saw a pom-pom pouffe, much bigger than one she had previously made. But she absolutely loved it so decided to make one for a friend, not realising what she had taken on. Over 250 pom-poms went into this pouffe!

Appointments

- **New Steward and appointment of Chief Steward**

The Installation Court welcomed Ulrika Dadley (right) as our newest Steward.

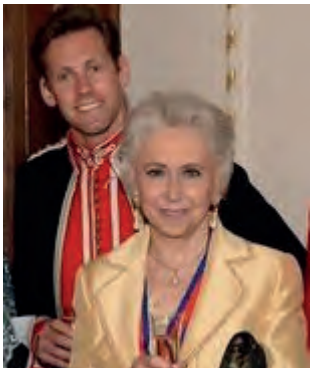
We are also delighted to announce that the role of Chief Steward has been taken on by Stephen Rowland-Jones. He will have the responsibilities of guiding and co-ordinating Stewards in conducting their duties at our events.

- **New Court Assistants**

The Installation Court also saw the installation of four new Court Assistants, namely Kevin Barlow, Margaret Miller, Judith Pleasance and Greg Craig Waller. Greg and Kevin have both joined the Finance Committee where Greg takes over from Simon Bailey as the new Honorary Treasurer. Greg is stepping down after having served the company in this role so well for many years.

- **New Liverymen**

Two new liverymen were clothed at the Installation Court. Philip Hicks seen here on the left and Giles Schofield pictured on the right. Philip and Giles both have backgrounds in insurance and have come to the livery through Upper Warden Mark Johnson. We welcome them both.



ELIZABETH PEACOCK IPM AWARD 2017-18

In 2010 Immediate Past Master Elizabeth Peacock gave a silver woolsack on a wooden plinth to the Company. This is presented every year by the Immediate Past Master to a person or persons within the Company who during the year has done something that deserved recognition. The recipient is the personal choice of the Master, who presents the trophy at the Installation Dinner as the Immediate Past Master. This year the award has been made to Margaret Miller. Margaret has worked tirelessly over the year chairing the Livery Committee, organising events and encouraging and supporting Liverymen to contribute their time or talent to the Company. Margaret is shown on the left here with Installation Dinner guest Captain Tim Miller of the Queen's own Yeomanry.

Agricultural SHOWS

An important element of our charitable giving is to support sheep breeders and shearers, particularly the young. This is brought about by the awards we present but also our presence at the Shows gives us an opportunity to promote membership of our Livery.

This year the Master has made visits to several shows which have given an extremely warm welcome to the Woolmen. There is a close, almost family, link-up at the shows among the shearers whom we support. The standard of shearing is improving year on year and we are now exporting shearers. As well as the usual "Down-Under" countries, the Falklands, Argentina, Latvia, Estonia and the Scandinavian countries were all mentioned as destinations for the UK shearing brigade.

Balmoral Show held under perfect conditions in Northern Ireland, 13 miles out of Belfast, on their new show ground, gave great hospitality, friendship and the increased development of ladies' shearing in Ireland and we were honoured by a visit from HRH the Princess Royal. Prizes to a value of £1,110 and bronze medals were presented for shearing and wool handling.

Bath and West at Shepton Mallet (pictured right) was extremely hospitable with lunch courtesy of the Fruiterers Livery. Richard Excell, Di Farrington and David Wood attended. Bronze medals and various monetary prizes were presented.

The Royal Cornwall near Padstow, had shearing for the first time under BISCA rules and BWMB Judges. Prizes to the value of £590 were presented and we hope to continue our support in future years.

Royal Highland, outside Edinburgh, gave an extremely high standard of shearing. Noteworthy was that in the Intermediates class in the Final there were 5 UK men and one lady. The Lady from New Zealand won the Class convincingly! Bronze medals and £985 of prizes were presented.

The shearing at the **Great Yorkshire** in Harrogate was really well attended under very warm conditions. The event was supported with a visit from HRH the Princess Royal. Our own party enjoyed lunch together with our friends from the Staplers. Bronze medals and prizes totalling £1,410 were presented.

The Royal Welsh is a very slick event over 3 days with all shearing being beamed live across the world, noteworthy to the extent that due to the hot summer, many of the ewes had to be clipped well before the Show, so the shearers in a number of the classes had to shear 6 month old lambs, all giving a wool length of over 4 inches, with ewe length on average after one year's growth giving 5-7 inches of staple. Many UK shearers will now go to Scandinavia and shear the Scandinavian lambs in the Autumn before the sheep are put inside for the Winter, initially without coats. Bronze and silver medals and prize money totalling £2,460 were presented. A superb day including lunch organised by Bill Clark.

We were represented at the **South of England** show at Ardingly by PM Peter Hewitt and Liveryman Kim Franklin where prizes of £1,800 were presented.

The whole Shearing sector is alive with team spirit. This was all started by our PM (1990/91) Brian Dunn CBE and PM (1984/85) Rt.Hon Sir Robin Auld, together with the BWMB British Wool Marketing Board who from scratch turned round a sector that relied on wool shearers coming into the UK each Spring in gangs, usually from Australia or New Zealand, and clipping the bulk of our Clip for us. Now we are net exporters of shearers and our young ones have a real chance to go overseas to carry on their shearing expertise.

Our thanks go to Peter Ambler for his sterling work as Shows Co-ordinator.

We are always in need of helpers and quite apart from the promotion and goodwill engendered, days at these shows are most enjoyable. Do put your name forward for next year!

I never knew that...

BRITISH WOOL has headquarters in Bradford with small regional offices in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

They receive no financial support, although operating commercially as a non-profit making organisation, returning to producers the market price for their wool, less their own costs.

There are currently approximately 45,000 registered producers and wool from each one is graded at one of a network of depots throughout the UK which, working on contract, amalgamates individual clips to prepare bulk graded lots for sale by auction. This ensures a regular supply of large weights of wool of uniform type and quality for the international textile industry.

The wool graders employed throughout the depots are all highly skilled, having initially served a five year apprenticeship. Each individual fleece is graded into 'types' rather than specific breeds. The categories are:

Fine wool	Charollais, Clun Forest, Dorset, Hampshire, Shropshire, Southdown, Suffolk and their crosses.
Medium wool	Beltex, Bleu du Maine, Border Leicester, Halfbred Scotch/Welsh, Lleyn, Romney, Texel and their crosses.
Cross wool	Masham, Mule, Scottish Greyface and their crosses.
Lustre wool	Bluefaced Leicester, Devon & Cornwall Longwool, Whiteface/Greyface Dartmoor, Lincoln/Leicester Longwool, Teeswater, Wens leydale and their crosses.
Hill wool	Cheviot, Exmoor Horn, Hill Radnor, Lonk, Shet land, Beulah/Welsh Hill Speckled Face and their crosses.
Mountain wool	Blackface, Dalesbred, Rough Fell, Swaledale, Welsh Mountain and their crosses.

British wool is sold across 18 auctions throughout the year, with between 1.5 and 2 million kgs offered each sale.

Wool Statistics

Wool is a freely traded international commodity, subject to global supply and demand and representing only 1.5% world fibre production.

- China 162,062
- CIS 86,686
- Australia 70,910
- India 62,922
- Sudan 55,913
- Iran 50,228
- Nigeria 40,236
- **United Kingdom 33,743**
- Turkey 30,899
- New Zealand 29,121
- Pakistan 29,099
- Ethiopia 29,029
- Algeria 27,832
- South Africa 25,029
- Mongolia 24,933
- Other Countries 404,403

World Production of Clean Raw Wool

*Measured in tonnes

- Australia 276,803
- China 179,535
- CIS 123,312
- New Zealand 114,893
- India 31,330
- South Africa 30,311
- Sudan 28,069
- Other Countries 230,354
- United Kingdom 20,158
- Morocco 22,578
- Uruguay 20,698
- Iran 27,875
- Turkey 25,909
- Argentina 28,432

World Total
(including other countries)
1,160,257

Profile

Each issue we will feature one of our long-serving Liverymen. Patrimony is a tradition of Livery Companies, Woolmen being no exception and something we wish to recommend and expand, with many sons (and hopefully daughters) following their fathers as members of their Company through the stages to eventually become Master. This month it is particularly appropriate with, we hope, Mark Johnson as next year's Master, that his father Rex is our subject. We look forward to more second and third generation future members.

Reflections of a Senior Citizen and Woolman – Rex Johnson

I have always been a joiner and London is my City, despite having a Scottish education, at Edinburgh's Royal High and George Heriot's. My father was a Scot, who, after service in the Royal Navy in the First World War, spent all his civilian life in the City, but considered a Scottish education the only one worth having. As there was a war starting up, north was rather safer than living in London. We lived in Essex and I duly returned there as the war was ending. One day I was cleaning my bicycle by the front gate and a near neighbour passing on his way home after work, knowing my father had passed away, stopped for what might be termed a 'fatherly' chat.

"What are you going to do with your life?" he asked.

"I don't know," I replied, "I am not very good at anything"

"No good at anything!" he exclaimed.

"Well I like drawing"

Just then our next door neighbour's son arrived to visit his parents, turning up in a very large luxurious Wolseley saloon.

"Ah!" my neighbour commented, pointing to the son who was giving us a wave as he got out, "look at that car, he must be doing well. If you can draw maybe you could be an architect too, like him. It so happens I know several and can introduce you to the biggest one in London."

Looking at the car intensely I said, "Well ok then, I will be an architect"

So that's what I did, first as an office boy making tea etc, then two years National Service in the Royal Navy, after which I returned to London to re-join my employer and qualify in my profession. It meant 8 years at night school, which the Royal Institute had introduced due to too few architects for too much work rebuilding blitzed London. By then I had learnt a lot and felt I should get more involved with the social life of the City, for there should be more to life than just work, work, work. I joined the Guild of Freeman in 1969. The Guild is not well known among the Livery but it's the largest social group in the City of London with a membership then of not far short of 3,000. Being a regular attendee at its many functions one of the Wardens noted this and one day asked if I would be interested in joining the Court of the Guild, which I did in 1975.

Guild members are mostly made up of the people who really make London "tick", from taxi drivers to Company Directors and anything in between. I have proudly enjoyed meeting so many wonderfully expert and skilled craftsmen. At one of the many Guild functions I met John William Barratt, a Quantity Surveyor, so closely allied to my own profession. He was on the Court of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen, becoming Master in 1982. "Would you like to join our company?" he asked. Well I did, on February 17th, 1970. Many have asked me, why join the Woolmen? My answer always is that a lot of people tend to think of Architects as rather "woolly minded"! My grandfather was a farmer and the architectural practice I was then in designed the mighty classical style Farmers Union building in Knightsbridge just after the war, sadly now demolished.

The Woolmen's Livery was founded in 1105 and "there is no substitute for wool" - the much loved slogan of the advertising world - was just as true then as it is now. Unlike the Guild of Freemen, holding two or more functions a month, our company in contrast, has but a limited number of functions. Mostly they are formal dinners although there are frequent Agricultural shows, including sheep shearing competitions, up and down the country to visit. They are ones the Master of the day must visit. Because of this I found it easy to attend most Guild and Woolmen functions fairly regularly. They were all great fun, the Woolmen's being much enhanced by the warm friendliness of so many whose occupations

are so close to nature and the land. The years that followed became ever busier professionally as I was able to meet and to entertain many interesting and influential people, some of whom became clients. In 1985 I was appointed to the Court of our company and hence more involved than ever. I was already on the Court of the Guild of Freeman and had been since 1975, but none of these two Court appointments made much difference to the time I had for both.

I had become a Warden on the Court of the Woolmen in 1995 so Master in 1997-98. The problem was, I had become a Warden of the Guild as well in 1987. In that position it was important that I attended as many Guild functions as I could because the Guild has historically four Wardens. So, with such a large membership one needed the experience of those four years leading up to being Master in 1991-2 in order to meet as many members as possible and do justice to the office. The large number of formal functions and programme of visits to other Guilds and places of interest in various parts of the country, even overseas, coupled with Court and Committee meetings, was demanding in the extreme. This meant I was not able to attend every Woolmen gathering, indeed virtually none in 1991-92. At the same time I was busier than ever professionally. Thus my attendances at my Livery seriously diminished.

David Ing, a Sussex lawyer, was Master when I was suddenly called to a special evening meeting of the Court at the Athenaeum Club to answer for my lack of attendances at the Woolmen. An intense interrogation followed in front of the Court, who were all lined up behind a long table, reminding me rather of the 'Last Supper'. The Master then asked me to wait outside as the Court discussed what to do. After some time, I was called back into the meeting. The Master rose, looked at me sternly and announced that the Court had decided to do nothing.

Guild duties largely over, I continued to play my part fully as a Warden for the next 2 years leading to Master. Just before I became Under Warden, HRH the Princess Royal joined the Company, becoming Under Warden. Where Royalty is concerned the form is that they tell you they want to be Master and the court decided she should experience a couple of years as Warden first. Hence I found myself sitting next to her frequently at Court when I became Under Warden and she moved on to Upper Warden before becoming Master in 1994-5.

So far as I knew the Livery had never travelled overseas in its long history. I had wondered which might be the largest wool mill in the world, so I asked one of our Liverymen who worked in the industry. It's in Boston USA. I decided we should visit it so I asked him to help me organise a visit. It meant a lot of work getting flights, accommodation, travel in the US etc. but with the further help of our Clerk Frank Allen we finally put it all together. It was a long weekend in March 1998. I did arrange beforehand for the flight attendants to serve champagne with lunch so reminded one of the attractive flight attendants when we got on board. Her face dropped as she stammered,

"Oh dear we don't have champagne for so many, they did not load enough."

"That's a very poor show" I said, "I arranged it with your office and it's included in the flight price"

She rushed off to consult with, presumably, the Captain, as everyone was now seated. Finally returning and looking happier, she leant over and whispered in my ear,

"No worry sir, we are going to raid the First Class cabin"

I had instructed Frank to make sure everything was perfect and to go out two days early to ensure just that. I still recall the look of horror on his face as I outlined my plans! I explained to him the importance of the visit and that we were not just anybody but one of the oldest companies in England, long before the USA was colonised. He went off ahead of the main group and greeted us on our arrival with a big smile and transport to our hotel. "Everything's arranged and looking good" he said to me.

We were treated like Royalty and the wool mill was absolutely huge. It needed most of the day to see it as the owner gave us a personal tour and a wonderful lunch. I cannot remember ALL the details but what sticks in my mind is the sheer size of the place – you could not see the end of it inside. Before we left to return home each person present was given a specially woven wool blanket with the arms of the Woolmen's Company woven on one corner. Mine remains on the back seat of my car, the woven arms always exposed.

"THE WOOLMEN MEANTIME HAS SLOWLY GROWN TO NEARING 200 LIVERYMEN, WHILST WOOL ITSELF AND THE ADVANTAGES OF A NATURAL MATERIAL RATHER THAN AN ARTIFICIAL ONE ARE RECOGNISED"

I have been retired from my Architectural career for a long time now. This year I celebrate my 90th birthday. The Woolmen meantime has slowly grown to nearing 200 liverymen, whilst wool itself and the advantages of a natural material rather than an artificial one are recognised. I always specified it in buildings as it wears well, looks well and is much safer as it does not burst into flame in a fire. Age now prevents me from taking a really active part in our affairs. I do keep in touch, however, making the odd comment or suggestion now and again, and of course my oldest son will be our new Master for next year. I can only wish him a year as happy as the one I had in having the privilege, indeed the honour, of leading a truly ancient company. Albeit that the Woolmen of tomorrow, reading the list of past Masters, will say, "I wonder who he was?"

Rex Johnson - Dipl Arch FRIBA, FCIArb, 2018

Obituary

KENNETH HUBERT SOUTHAM
1927 - 2018

Kenneth Southam (Ken) was born in 1927 in Birmingham and attended King Edward's Grammar School. On leaving school he trained as an accountant with LEM in Yardley. Ken did his National Service in the Royal Artillery and after training at Woolwich Barracks he was posted to Egypt and Palestine, a region in which he maintained a keen interest throughout his life.

Ken and Marjorie married in 1953 and after he qualified as a Chartered Accountant they moved to Potters Bar in 1966. He set up his own firm shortly after that and combined his and Marjorie's interest in the performing arts with a client base drawn from the theatre, ballet and opera.

Ken revelled in the reputation of being the scourge of HM Inland Revenue!

Ken became a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Woolmen in 1969.

He was an enthusiast for real ale and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the product of the specialist brewers. He was also a keen photographer and served as Treasurer of the Potters Bar and District Photographic Society for 50 years and many of its members turned out at his funeral to pay their respects. Ken's service to photography was recognised by an award from the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain.

Ken and Marjorie enjoyed the Arts, foreign travel and a full social life together. All in all, a life well lived.

FRANK ALLEN (1928-2018)
Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Woolmen 1988-2004

Frank Allen was born in Dorking in a two-bedroom terraced house into a large family. He was a lively child, occasionally sent out of class for making too much noise. On one such occasion the Parish Priest spotted him standing in the corridor, and needing an altar boy for a funeral, he took Frank off with him – and Frank even got paid for attending the funeral. On Sunday 3rd September 1939 Frank and a friend were playing in the local park when an air raid siren sounded to announce the outbreak of the Second World War. He was evacuated to Southampton, but on the first night the house next door was hit by a bomb, so he returned home and spent the rest of the War in Dorking, cycling across to what is now Gatwick airport to watch the planes and the doodlebugs. He had a grandstand view of the Battle of Britain from Box Hill.

His first job was as a paperboy, but at the age of fourteen he left school to work for Down, Scott and Down, solicitors in Dorking, for £1 a week. One of his tasks was to pay in cheques at

Westminster Bank and he was head-hunted by the Manager who was looking for a Junior Clerk – and Frank's wages went up to £1-10 shillings a week. Highlights of the job included beating rats out of the ivy in the garden for the Manager to shoot. After the war, Frank served in the RAF during his National Service with an extra three months to cover the Berlin Airlift. He was recalled to the Colours during the Suez Crisis in 1956. Frank met Pauline in 1958 at a party she held to celebrate her recovery from a car accident. They knew instantly that they were made for each other and became engaged a week later. Their 60th wedding anniversary would have been on 1st April next year.

Frank's career with the Westminster Bank took off when he was recommended for a job in London by Anthony Eden who was a director of the Bank, and Frank worked his way up through the ranks. He always thought about others which was demonstrated when he bought a second-hand piano for the bank staff room. During the sixties whilst working in London, he became interested in the Livery movement and with encouragement from Pauline, he joined the Curriers in 1966 and became Master Currier in 1986.

Frank was a very keen double bass player, playing in an orchestra, but unfortunately, he broke the neck of his instrument. On a day off in Guildford he saw a woman carrying a typewriter and offered to help. After moving several typewriters, she gave him a lift back to Dorking and on the way stopped to see a friend, who turned out to be Ralph Vaughan Williams. Frank mentioned his broken double bass and Vaughan Williams made an appointment with an instrument repairer in Leatherhead – which explains why Frank was so heavily involved in arranging the Vaughan Williams Centenary commemorations in 1972.

Frank retired from the Bank in 1988 shortly before his sixtieth birthday. Hearing that the Worshipful Company of Woolmen were recruiting a new Clerk, he went for the interview and was offered the role, a post he held for nearly 16 years. Frank's administrative and organisational skills were legendary, and the formal events always went like clockwork, and Masters were always well briefed. He took his remit to monitor the caterers very seriously and counted the full wine bottles before a dinner and the empty ones afterwards – catching the caterers red-handed on more than one occasion. Another time, he and Ernie the Beadle found that the caterers had prepared brandy glasses for every diner beforehand, in spite of being briefed to serve port and offer brandy with the coffee. Frank saved the Company a lot of unnecessary expenditure over the years.

During his time as Clerk he had to contend with a number of minor crises. In March 1995 HRH The Princess Royal held a Livery and Ladies Dinner at Merchants' Hall, Edinburgh, and the guests included the Lord Chancellor and Lady Mackay. Some late arrivals crammed into the lift to reach the receiving line more quickly, and the lift jammed – much to the amusement of Frank and The Princess Royal. On another occasion the caterers confused the boiling water for the coffee with the salted boiling water to refresh the vegetables, and Frank had to move fast to make sure the fewest number of people were inconvenienced. During the Woolmen's visit to the USA, the pianist failed to turn up, but fortunately Frank had spare copies of the music, and Pauline valiantly stepped into the breach. Once the wife of a principal guest vanished and Frank asked Pauline to check the powder room, only to find the missing spouse propping up the bar and settling in for a long session.

Frank was always proud of his Morgan sports car, which he and Pauline took to France several times a year. He was involved in the Holmwood Village Produce Association and was treasurer to various charities, as well as having a strong interest in cross country running, and he ran for the Westminster bank team. Singing was a key feature of his life and he travelled far and wide with the Wooburn Singers and the London Symphony Chorus, and he was a regular visitor to Glyndebourne. Frank Allen was a very generous man and was noted for his jovial directness. One day in the mid-1980s just after smoking had been banned on the underground he found himself sitting opposite a woman who kept staring at him. She accused him very noisily of smoking his pipe which happened to be in his mouth. After checking to make sure it was not alight, he replied just as noisily "I've got my shoes on but I'm not walking".

Pauline has been Frank's primary carer for the last few years: although she jokes that she fulfilled this role long before Alzheimer's took its toll.

"SINGING WAS A KEY FEATURE OF HIS LIFE AND HE TRAVELLED FAR AND WIDE WITH THE WOOBURN SINGERS AND THE LONDON SYMPHONY CHORUS, AND HE WAS A REGULAR VISITOR TO GLYNDE-BOURNE"

Recent Events

Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot

16 May 2018

It was a dry but blustery day at the Holland and Holland shooting ground in Middlesex for the annual Inter-Livery Charity Clay Pigeon Shoot. This started, as always, with a rather chaotic breakfast over which team members try to assemble and in many cases introduce themselves and guests, before the shooting begins.

The Woolmen were represented by four teams of four guns, of which half were guests. It would be wonderful to see more ladies in the Woolmen teams in future years. Each gun shoots eight cartridges at each of ten individual stands, interrupted by a four-gun, eighty-clay flush from a high tower. With over a hundred teams it makes for a busy and entertaining morning's shooting.

During the extensive prize-giving luncheon the Woolmen occupied two tables this year - a far cry from the situation only four years ago when we were so few in number that we shared a table with the Loriners. None of the mainstream prizes were won by a Woolmen team, though we certainly didn't embarrass ourselves. Best gun amongst the Woolmen was once again James Williams, who shot extremely well

in the gusty conditions.

The 2019 Inter-Livery Shoot will most probably be at the Holland and Holland shooting ground in mid-May - please get in touch with Jonathan Lee (jonathan.

LEFT to RIGHT: *Paul Hughes, John Hornby, Peter Holmes-Johnson, David Hopkins*

LEFT to RIGHT: *Robert Allan, John Payne, Kevin Barwick, Roger Bowers*

North Vs South Golf

18 June 2018

Twelve honest and upright men from near and far (but mainly far) descended on Greetham Valley in Rutland on 18 June to fight for the coveted Woolmen's Golf Society North v South Challenge Pot.

The result was a resounding victory, for the second year running, for the South team.

The golfers were delighted that the Master and Gill were able to be present at the dinner on Monday evening to present the prize to the winning captain.

The following morning there was an individual Stableford when the North obtained some redress by providing the winner and runner up. Robert Allan's handicap will be subject to much scrutiny next year!

A good time was had by all and it was unanimously agreed that we would return to the same venue next year for the event on 17/18 June 2019. We very much hope that more of

Woolman Adam Collinson and guest Mark Sutcliffe waiting to shoot

lee@talk21.com) if you would be interested in participating. We are keen to enhance the Woolmen's reputation on Inter-Livery events.

Jonathan Lee

you will join in the fun with us.

Below: fellow golfers Harry Farrington, Richard Excell, guest James Barker and Peter Ambler

David Hopkins

Affiliations

ARCHBISHOP TENISON'S SCHOOL

Since our last report of the new venture in educational support at Archbishop Tenison's School in Lambeth, we are pleased to advise that the Textile Club is flourishing and has a waiting list due to its popularity.

Initially we funded three sewing machines and materials for their Textile Club. All the machines are well used and maintained. The students are learning about different fabrics and textile processes and some are making and mending their own clothes. The machines continue to be a feature too across all year groups, especially as the school starts its first co-ed GCSE group in September. They would be appreciative of further support to source two new machines to help with the number of students involved. The Worshipful Company of Woolmen is seeking to source these two additional machines as part of our charitable support for this school.

Peter Hullah and I visited the school in June and met with Hannah King, Head of Art and Jim Henderson, Head of Tenison's. We will be visiting again in September to hear about Hannah's plans for the coming academic year.

We would always be interested to hear from any Livery Woolmen with an interest in fashion textiles and design willing to share their knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject with the staff and students.

Jim Henderson was welcomed as our guest at this year's Summer Banquet and we have invited Hannah King to join us at the Civic Dinner.

We hope that we may be able to take forward ideas of an award or specific individual support if there is a student who is working in textiles and who merits encouragement. We would like to see more school support projects emerging in the future.

Tessa Trollope

MILITARY

From September Ian Barbour will be taking over from Steve Rowland Jones as our Military Liaison Officer. Many thanks to Steve for all his past work.

Individuals allocated to each unit will be:

Unit	**Principal Liaison Woolman**
Queen's Own Yeomanry	John Nickell-Lean
131 Squadron	Howard Venters
43 Cadet Unit	Rupert Hague Holmes
Brize Norton	James Williams

Dates for your diary

Thursday 20th Sept – Monday 24th Sept
Master's Weekend, Wharfedale

Friday 28th September
Admission of the Sheriffs at Guildhall

Sunday 30th September
Sheep Drive over London Bridge (pictured left)

Monday 1st October
Election of Lord Mayor at Guildhall

Thursday 18th October
Civic Court Meeting and Dinner, Ironmongers' Hall

Monday 5th November
Remembrance Service, St Pauls Cathedral Gardens

Friday 9th November
Silent Ceremony Admission of Lord Mayor, Guildhall

Saturday 10th November
Lord Mayor's Show

Wednesday 5th December
Court Dinner, Watermen's Hall

Thursday 18th December
Carol Service and Supper St Bartholomew the Great

Wednesday 16th January
Alms Court Meeting and Dinner Barber Surgeons' Hall

Tuesday 5th March
Shrove Tuesday: Inter Livery Pancake Races in Guildhall

Friday 29th March
United Guilds' Service at St Paul's Cathedral

Wednesday 24th April
Installation Service at St Vedast, Foster Lane and Dinner Saddlers' Hall

Wed 15th May TBC
Inter livery Clay Shoot at Holland & Holland ground (organised by the Environmental Cleaners' Company)

Thursday 16th May TBC
Inter livery Golf at Walton Heath "Prince Arthur Cup" (organised by the Coachmakers' Company)

Tuesday 21st May
Festival of the Sons of the Clergy at St Paul's Cathedral

We sincerely hope you have enjoyed reading this issue and look forward to regular quarterly letters, but we rely on contributions from members to make it interesting. Please do not hesitate to send topical, newsworthy or quirky features to **margaret.miller@knightsbridge-furniture.co.uk.**