



Centre stage during changing of the seasons

A busy couple of months features entertainment, prize-giving and a National Fruit Show appearance

VIEWPOINT



Dennis Surgeon
Master
London

The months of October and November are by tradition busy ones for the Master Fruiterer, as there are several duties to perform that endorse the goals of the company. But before that we met at the Reform Club for an informal Jazz evening.

This was an interlude that had been planned a year ago and I had personally been looking forward to it with enthusiasm. We met in the 'Strangers' Room' at 7pm for a reception before climbing the staircase to the library. There, tables had been laid out for dinner. We were entertained with some wonderful jazz by the Sunshine Kings. For once there were no speeches, the music doing the talking.

There are very few City livery companies that are permitted to present their wares to the Lord Mayor, but the Fruiterers are one. Each year in October, representation from our ranks, which always include the Master, wardens

tation, after which I had the great honour of sharing a 'Loving Cup' with Dr Andrew Parmley, The Lord Mayor. The surplus 11 bushels were dispensed, as is the usual custom, to hostels and the homeless throughout the city. Our host and hostess welcomed us graciously and provided hospitality.

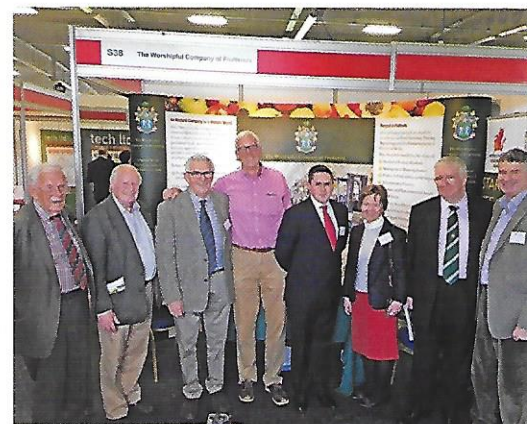
The National Fruit Show on the Kent Showground at Detling is a familiar event and location for many Fruiterers. Our company's stand has been a regular feature for many years and as would be expected from our name we are intimately involved with the arrangements. During the evening of the 25th, in the company of Philip Brown, the clerk, I attended the dinner. At its conclusion I had the privilege of presenting Nathaniel Oliver, a Hadlow College alumnus with the Fruiterers' Student of the Year Award. This comprises a certificate and cheque for £1,000. The following day we were at the show talking to interested parties and answering questions posed by visitors before making a second presentation. This was for the Fruiterers' Fruit Culture Award and John Guest, affectionately known as 'The English Apple Man', was the recipient.

October closed with a dinner for the new liverymen and apprentices. It provides an opportunity for those who have recently been clothed or admitted to meet with the senior members in less formal circumstances. It also allows a bonding of minds and spirits and has always proved to be a popular occasion.

Along with the Lord Mayor, Lord Mayor Elect, sheriff, other dignitaries and the Masters of another 106 City livery companies, I was at St Paul's Cathedral on 6 November to witness the opening of the Royal British Legion's Garden of Remembrance, where we placed poppies. **FPJ**



and officers, attend at Mansion House to present the incumbent with a dozen bushels of fruit. This tradition stems back to historic times when the company was responsible for managing the fruit that was brought into the square mile for sale. It represented a stipend or tax paid to the head of the Corporation. These days it is usually one bushel but the occasion demands specific ceremony. On the 6th our honorary fruit porter, Jim Huddart, made the verbal presen-



LEFT—Annette Bardsley with her trophy
TOP—Fruiterers at the National Fruit Show
ABOVE—Honorary fruit porter addresses the Lord Mayor