



Time for reflection during summer season

The usual hectic pace of events slows down during the summer months, although there has still been plenty to keep the Fruiterers occupied

The pace of activity among the livery companies of the City slows during the months of July and August as vacations are taken and the social calendar becomes somewhat less congested.

This allows for some thinking time and reflection on how the events of the first six months of the year have unfolded. Time also to prepare oneself for the 'second half' and to fine-tune the arrangements. We are ever aware of our goals and commitments to the industry, City and charities - the two high summer months allow one to evaluate whether our plans have been achieved.

Our company's third dinner of the year, Summer Court, was held in the splendid environs of the Drapers' Hall during the evening of 13 July. Being blessed

an interesting after dinner appraisal of his experiences and thoughts, which were a perfect conclusion to the wonderful catering arrangements that had preceded. Traditionally, one of the crowning glories of this dinner is the provision of English cherries for the company dessert. Historically the donor was Past Mast Henry Bryant, but more recently he has been succeeded by Past Master Sandys Dawes. The fruit from his farm near Faversham has won many awards at county and national shows. They certainly won the hearts of the diners that night.

Previously it was mentioned in this piece that the social calendar becomes less intense during the summer. But as if to confound that assertion there were two engagements, last month, on consecutive days. The first, on 19 July, was a dinner held by the Basketmakers at the Skinners Hall to which I and our clerk were invited. We were reminded of our responsibilities to charitable causes not directly but through the content of the after dinner speech. This was given by a representative from the RNIB and was most thought provoking. To my surprise and delight the prime warden, Peter Allen, presented me with a woven hamper basket. Fantastic gift and very useful, but a challenge in logistical knowhow getting it home on the late train!

On the morrow, 20 July, we Fruiterers visited Hyde Hall, one of the larger RHS gardens situated near

VIEWPOINT



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Chelmsford, in Essex. We were a full complement of 40 who were divided into two parties for an hour-



and-a-half tour of the inspiring layouts. Fortunately the visit coincided with an exhibit by the Surrey Sculpture Club and the wife of one of our liverymen had a piece on display. A delicious lunch was taken in the marquee and the conversations concentrated mainly on how individuals were going to transfer the ideas they had gleaned to their own gardens. It proved to be a very enjoyable excursion. — **FPI**



LEFT— Fruiterers at Summer Court Dinner
RIGHT— Sculptures in Hyde Park Gardens



with very seasonal weather, we were able to take aperitifs in the delightful garden at the rear of the hall and catch some welcome sunlight before being seated for dinner. This event is more relaxed than our other dinners, although a black tie occasion is regarded as a social function where Fruiterers, partners and guests can engage less formally.

We were privileged to have as our guest speaker David Thomas, the retired Queen's Jeweller, who worked for the 'House of Garrard' in Mayfair. He provided us with