

This book is dedicated to Elizabeth & William without whose pillow talk may never have been written.

I will leave the title until the writing has taken shape.

Our Livery - The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers - whose Mystery dates back in History to the original Guilds of Saxon times , took greater shape during the Medieval period and received its first Charter in 1606 in the reign of James the First . I mention these facts to give background to the purpose we had of the planting of trees which we can safely say has been happening since time immemorial . During the last two decades our programme has intensified, with particular reference to the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayoralty of the City of London, which we felt should be particularly commemorated, recognising our Livery's particular function as one of the 100 Liveries operating within our great City of London.

The Fruit trees we plant come from nurseries from the counties of England, Scotland & Wales, with particular reference to the research centres of East Malling & Brogdale with whom we are connected via the Company's Membership.

I will endeavour to illustrate from our carefully kept files - the occasions , terrain, personalities , and I hope in certain instances the humour , and most certainly the comradeship of all Husbands & Wives attending the ceremonies. In generality we endeavour to leave a plaque at the site to commemorate the planting and the officiating Master of the year - who uses the ceremonial Spade which is duly engraved once a year with the names of the places visited. This will also be illustrated in the following chapters. So that in short is what we are all about.! Now I will lay before you the current history of the plantings.

When Prince Charles & Princess Diana , married in 1981 The Livery presented them with a wedding gift of an orchard of fruit trees at Highgrove and this orchard continues to flourish. I should mention subsequently in 1989 the Prince of Wales was elected an Honorary Liveryman of the Company.

H.R.H. Prince Charles. Highgrove.1981-82-83.

This presentation Orchard comprising of 128 trees, of Apples,Plums,Pears,Damsons,Cherries,Medlars,Peaches,Apricots,Nectarines,& Quinces, - most of which are listed herein. From time to time visits are made by the Livery's Masters to observe the condition of the Orchard - in particular, in 1985 Past Master Ron Starns & in 1988 Past Master Anthony Coster. Past Master Alan Todd keeps a professional eye on the collection with periodic visits. The illustration clearly shows our Plaque H.R.H.Prince Charles seated beneath. Obviously, members of the Masters' Committee invited to Highgrove have most personal impressions - one recalling in the Lounge - the Coffee and side tables completely covered with framed pictures of our own & other European Royal families. Needless to say the Gardens in which the trees were planted were impressive and supplied most of the Royal Palaces with produce.

The Orchard list:

Apples.

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Norfolk Royal Russet	1908.	Dr Harvey	1629.
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Elstar	1970.	Discovery	1955.
Lord Derby	1862.	James Grieve	1893.
Golden Delicious	1890.	Egremont Russet	1872.
Howgate Wonder	1915.	Fortune	1904.
Charles Ross	1890	Rev.W.Wilks	1904.
Blenheim Orange	1740.	Epicure	1909.
Arthur Turner	1915.	Edward V11	1902.
American Mother	1844.	Ribston Pippin	1700.
Sturmer	1831.	Jupiter	1980.
Katya		Spartan	1926.
Idared	1942.	Ashmeade Kernel	1700
Lord Lambourne	1907.	Rosemary Russet	1831.
Orleans Reinette France	VO.	Grenadier	1862.
Merton Knave	1948	Newton Wonder	1867.
Sunset	1918.	Red Ellison	
Superb	1897	Worcester Pearmain	1874.
Michaelmas Red	1929.	Jonagold	1965.
Gloster 69	1965	Greensleeves	1970.
Early Victoria	1899.	Ballerina Bolero	
Ballerina Polka		Ballerina Waltz.	

## PEARS:

Onward	Doyenne du Comice.	Louise bonne of Jersey.
Beth.	Fertility.	Williams bon Chretien.

Conference.	Beurre Hardy.	Nouveau Poiteau.
	Winter Nelis.	Glou Morceau
		Pitmaston Duchess.

#### CHERRIES:

Gaucher Bigarreau.	Frogmore Early Bigarreau.	Florence.
Amber Heart.	Merton Favourite	Morello.
Noir de Guben.	Early Rivers.	Sunburst.

#### PLUMS:

Opal.	Victoria.	Majories Seedling.	Czar.	Kirkes Blue.
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#### QUINCE:

Vranja.Champion.	Pear Shaped.	Ludovic.
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#### OTHERS:

Prune Damson. Lord Napier Nectarine. Nottingham Medlar. Alfred Apricot.  
Peregrine Peach. Hales Early & Rochester Peaches. Apricot Early Moorpark.2

Before closing this Chapter let us consider the beauty of the names with which we christened our fruit trees - for as it is with our countrys' landscape with village &

County names which when spoken linger on the tongue - so it is our language and taste buds are enriched by the fruits we eat.

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY. Gardens, Wisley, Surrey.1985-86.

This collection of 90 apple & 40 pear trees virus tested, mother trees from the Long Ashton Research Station, before it closed down its Fruit Department. This material has created a unique orchard with the purpose of making available Virus Free scionwood to both amateur & professional fruit growers. At that time it represented the largest concentration of clean material brought together on one site. Harry Baker a Honorary Freeman of the Livery Company, watched over the collection until his retirement , he now lives in Hampshire, no doubt still writing on his favoured subject! The English Apple, illustrated by Rosanne Sanders in association with the R.H.S. carries some of his writings. The illustration shows the Orchard layout with attendant plaque. The reader will no doubt be interested to see the named varieties :

Adam's Pearmain.	Ashmead Kernal.	Captain Kidd.	Charles Ross.
Cheddar Cross.	Chivers Delight.	Cortland.	Crispin.
Cox's Orange Pippin.	Discovery	Egremont Russet.	Epicure.
Exeter Cross.	Falstaff.	Gala.	George Cave
Gloster 69	Golden Russet	Granny Smith.	Greensleeves
Hardispur Delicious	Holiday	Holstein	James Grieve
Katy (Katja)	Kidd's Orange Red.	King of the Pippins.	Lobo
Lady Lambourne.	Laxton's Fortune.	Lord Lambourne.	Pixie.
Malling Kent.	McIntosh Red.	Merton Beauty	Merton Joy.

Merton Knave.	Merton Prolific	Michaelmas Red.	Red Fortune
Miller's Seedling.	American Mother.	Orleans Reinette.	Red Melba
Red Beauty of Bath.	Red Cave.	Red Ellison.	Sunburn.
Red Holstein.	Red James Grieve.	Red Jonathan.	Splendour
Red Miller.	Ribston Pippin.	Richard Delicious	Smoothie
Rogers McIntoch.	Rosemary Russet	Saint Cecilia.	Summerland.
Saint Edmund's Pippin	Suntan	Stark Earliest	Winston
Suntan Sunset.	Tydeman's Early.	Tydeman's Late Orange	
William Crump	.Arthur Turner.	Belle de Boskoop.	Blenheim Orange.
Bramley's Seedling	Crawley Beauty.	Edward V11.	Emneth
EarlyGolden Noble,	Grenadier.	Howgate Wonder.	Lane's Prince
Albert. Lord Derby.	Lodi.	Newton Wonder.	
Rev. W.Wilks.	Warner's King.		

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In the May of 1988, the Author was invited by the Master, Anthony Graham Coster, to become an Honorary Assistant of the Worshipful Company of Fruiterers, and also to join one of their Committees - namely the Livery & Communications Committee. The Master elect was David Hope-Mason, who also served on the same committee - at one of these meeting David put forward the idea that as the year of his office coincided with the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City of London Mayoralty, he would like celebrate this in a way particular to our Company - he asked me if I would undertake

the task reconstituting a specific planting programme in his year 1989. Thus the Modus Operandi is explained. We felt that as we already had a lead inasmuch as Highgrove & Wisley I should approach the National Trust - the Royal Horticultural Society - and similar organisations and places where gardens and orchards were visited by members of the Public, to enable them to enjoy the beauty of Fruit trees in growth - blossom - and fruit. This is how "Topsy" grew!!.

IGHTHAM MOTE. National Trust. Ivy Hatch, Sevenoaks, Kent. 1989.

When I first opened correspondence with the trust in July 89 - they were most receptive to the idea of our planting - and the file soon expanded with friendly correspondence from Dottie Owens, Carole Kenwright, Jim Marshall, & the Regional Director Mr W.A. Kingston. FRICS. This property with its attendant orchard, seemed so perfect to the purpose as my wife and I found on our preliminary reconnoitre - a Medieval Manor house, set in Kent "the garden of England" The planting took place in December 89 with Master David Hope-Mason & the NT Director Mr Kingston with their hands on the spades. We were unable to leave a plaque as it is against the policy of the National Trust but the occasion is noted in their Commemorative Book for Kent & East Sussex from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1969. These are the Kentish varieties we planted on the day.

BLenheim ORANGE PIPPIN.      NONPAREIL.      WARNER'S KING.

FLOWER OF KENT.      COURT PENDU PLAT.

Ightham Mote was saved for our heritage by an “American Cousin” Charles Henry Robinson who had undertaken as much repair work as finance would allow - before giving the property over to the National Trust for their benevolence. I remember being particularly impressed on entering the reception Hall by having before my eyes a painting by our Sir Winston Churchill of Ightham Mote which in my opinion was of high quality. The planting and tour of the premises completed - our assembled party retired to The Plough, at Ivy Hatch, for a thoroughly good lunch.

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LEEDS CASTLE. The Leeds Castle Foundation. Maidstone, Kent. 1989.

Correspondence was opened with the Castle Agent and Curator - John D. Money when they were pleased to accept our offer of some presentation fruit trees for the estate. The then Gardener, was Mr Maurice Bristow, a most interesting and amenable person who undertook to see the trees would be well placed, and that the plaque by which we indicated the occasion - would be suitably secured .

Unfortunately the plaque disappeared as so many have a habit of so doing , unless they are well set in stone or concrete, and the Castle Trust have decided to discontinue the practice of placing plaques for this reason. However plastic labels are now in place to record the varieties of trees and the donors. 5

The Master was unable to attend the Ceremony - so the Immediate Past Master, Tony Coster and his wife Helen, kindly stepped into the breach to officiate. The ceremony completed, Mr Money invited the party back into the Castle to an original & ancient

chamber for a most pleasant reception. I should mention the trees are situated on a mound on the high ground past the Aviary. The trees are :

BLENHEIM ORANGE PIPPIN. FLOWER OF KENT. NONPAREIL.

COURT PENDU PLAT. WARNER'S KING.

In July 1997 the Livery held its Summer Function at Leed's Castle, when the Company's guest was The Right Hon: The Lord Mayor of London, Sir Roger Cork.

On this occasion we gifted the Trust a further 3 trees:

KENT (MALLING)1974. GREENSLEEVES.1966. FALSTAFF(NEW).

The Agent and Curator at this time was Mr W.A.A.Wells, a prior member of our Livery, & son of Sir John Wells.M.P. a Past Master of the Fruiterers.

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DOLPHIN SQUARE, London. S.W.1V3LX. 1989/90.

This planting took place in the gardens of Dolphin Square - Part 1 & part 2.

In the first part Master David Hope-Mason planted an apple and pear tree, the apple was a BLENHEIM ORANGE PIPPIN (1740) and the pear a BLACK WORCESTER (this had a 16<sup>th</sup> Century origin, and appears in the City of Worcester's Coat of Arms)

The second planting took place in the following year in May 1990 when our Master was The Rt. Hon.Sir Edward du Cann.KBE.MA.MP. when he planted both BLACK & WHITE Mulberry trees. It was a beautiful morning which added to the scene and

short speeches were made on both sides and a plaque noting the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Mayoralty was positioned in front of the Black mulberry tree. Following the ceremony we were all invited to a reception in the Chichester Room - hosted by the General Manager of the Square - John Cumming, and Directors of the Dolphin Square Trust Ltd, Anthony Prendergast, Sir Alan Dawtry, & Sir Gordon Pirie.

The gardens are quite unique and were immaculately kept in Italianesque fashion (there is a walled Spanish Garden) by the Square's gardener Pasquale Salomone.

A short note on DOLPHIN SQUARE. It was built and opened back in 1937 admirably situated overlooking the River Thames, primarily for residents connected with both the Cities of London & Westminster, Members of Parliament & the House of Lords, Senior Members of the Armed Forces who needed a Town Flat when returning from duty overseas, Civil Servants, and Members of City Institutions, and the country's commercial interests. The residents recently celebrated its Golden Anniversary - it could be described as "a Village in the heart of a great City."

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ROSEMOOR, TORRINGTON, DEVON. The Royal Horticultural Society Garden. 1989.

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We had two plantings in the West Country in the inaugural year of 1989 and in his inimitable manner Sir Edward came forward and agreed to officiate on David Hope-Masons' behalf as he had a most delightful Manor House in nearby Somerset.

Edward & I agreed that as we had both Devon & Cornwall to cover in one day, we should make an early start, My wife Ro & I staying in nearby Taunton. We met in the

darkness of a December morning at a Hostelry 5 or so miles out of Taunton, where I left my car and went in his, which I may say was most comfortable - for it was one of the well built "Rolls" I can't remember looking to see if the "RR" was in red or black. I do recall however as we "Bowled along" through the delightful countryside, our easy light-hearted conversation laced as it was with occasional profundities - and how captivated Edward seemed to be with the openness of the roads which he had not travelled on before - and more to the point - he had implemented when he was a Minister of Parliament and the Crown!!.

We subsequently arrived at ROSEMOOR, Lady Anne Berry's 8 acre mature garden with interesting colour even at this time of the year - in the Spring or early Summer it must be resplendent! Sir Edward robed himself and in company with Christopher Bales (Curator) & Major General Jeremy Rougier (in charge of the development of the New RHS garden nearby) we proceeded to plant the Black Mulberry tree as illustrated. Someone in the party remarked on the words of the old song "Here we go round the Mulberry bush on a cold & frosty morning" which brought laughter - but as you will see the sunshine was brilliant and the moment enjoyed by all. We coffee'd and then moved on to see the proposed development of the new gardens which at the time was just a series of earth-works on that morning of the 9<sup>th</sup> December, but with Christopher's vision - and Jeremy's ability to move "Heaven & Earth" in the true tradition as an officer of the ROYAL ENGINEERS, one had no doubt as to the outcome!. Personally I knew I would have to return at some time to see the results of their labours - three years had elapsed before my return and their creation was truly astounding - one would strongly recommend anyone nearby or visiting the area to pay a visit to these gardens which are open all year - details available from the Royal Horticultural Society.

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Now on to Cornwall -

PROBUS, CORNWALL. County Demonstration Garden. 9<sup>th</sup> December 1989.

I know I have mentioned the name of our friend Harry Baker before - and I will make no apologies for doing so in the future! For it was he who suggested I should write to Mr Peter Blake in Truro. Peter at this time was the County Advisor for Horticultural Education and Rural Studies, to the Cornwall Education Committee - and the Garden covering 7 & a half acres and giving Summer demonstrations & Winter lectures - probably quite unique.

Following a stop for lunch (I recall not where) and stops at various Antique Shops en route, for I soon learned this was a “penchant” of Edwards’. We arrived, were duly greeted, again regalia’d, and then proceeded to plant what we had come for - an apple tree by name “NONPAREIL” a fruit brought in from France by the Jesuits probably during the reign of Mary or Elizabeth I. Mid 16<sup>th</sup> century. The plaque placed our work was done other than to view the garden which in addition to its comprehensive collection of flora, was festooned with sculpture

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The Master for 1990 - The Rt,Hon,Sir Edward Dillon Lott du Cann KBE.MA.

being installed on St Paul’s day the 25<sup>th</sup> January the anniversary of the Company’s patron Saint.

STONEACRE.Otham,Nr Bearsted,Kent. 1990.

Stoneacre is a National Trust property, and following discussions with Dottie Owens (the Trusts Asst. Historic Buildings Representative) the doors of this lovely house and garden were opened to us. It was the one time home of Vita Sackville-West, the famous poet and novelist - still maintaining much of the late twenties - thirties atmosphere. Initially in July of this year, following most cordial correspondence with Rosemary Dobry/Alexander Alan Todd & I paid a site visit to establish the trees most suitable to the soil and terrain. We decided on the trees, comprising Plums, Cherries, Quince, & Apples, then following consultation with the Master selected a date in late November for the planting. We then met on the appointed date and time to plant the following trees:-

Plum	PONDS SEEDLING	1831.
“	BLUE IMPERATRICE	1700.
Quince.	MEECHES PROLIFIC	1880.
“	VRANJA.	Very old.
Cherry.	EARLY RIVERS.	1873.
“	OLD BLACK HEART	1667
“	WHITEHEART.	Probably from France.
Apples.	ASHMEADS KERNEL.	1700.
“	COEUR de BOEUF.	1200.
“	COX’S POMENA.	1825.
“	GOLDEN SPIRE.	1850.
“	HAWTHORNDEN.	1780.

We then had coffee & conversation back in the house for the morning was of a raw nature, and we were glad to be back in the warmth. As I remember Sir Edward was pleased to find that Rosemary's husband Judge Dobry was known to him - but there - I could not help feeling - so was most of the London scene. It then came to light that Rosemary, in her capacity of Rosemary Alexander was Principal of the English Gardening School @ the Chelsea Physic Garden, SW.3. - It followed as you will subsequently see this is how in a few years time a planting took place in those very gardens. I would at this point like to mention one of our Liverymen Peter Allocca, Peter was most supportive during the early plantings, sadly he died in the final days of December 1999. His funeral being attended by great numbers of his friends of which I was glad to be one, but more of him later when we come to plant at Shelly's, Knockholt in Kent.

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CHILHAM CASTLE, Canterbury, Kent. 1990.

Chilham Castle is the ancestral home of the Viscount Massereene & Ferrard, an outstanding Castle in Kent's county. One evening I was in conversation with a Past Master and the Livery Archivist Dr Richard ("Dickie") Gothard, when he suggested to me that perhaps I should write to the Viscount with the suggestion of a tree planting particularly as there had been rather severe gales of late with resultant damage to crops and trees. I acted upon his advice, and soon received a very warm reply

from the Castle the Viscount saying he would be very pleased to receive a gift of trees from the Livery - particularly those dating back in History. Therefore Alan & I made an arrangement to visit the estate and meet with his Lordship, which we so did on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. We were shown his pride of a very old Mulberry - it was extremely well spread and if it was a year- it must have seen 400 Summers! It was decided we would provide a Quince, and Apple trees which could be placed in a double row each side of a pathway.

The Quince: MEECHES PROLIFIC.

The Apples:

ASHMEADS KERNEL.	1700.	RIBSTON PIPPIN	1700
BLENHIEP PIPPIN	1740.	OLD PEARMAN	1200.
ECKLINVILLE	1800.	EARLY JULYAN	1800.
FIVE CROWNS	1580.		

(LONDON PIPPIN).

Two notes aside on this planting. Firstly the Viscount was telling us how they had experienced a burglary quite recently - apparently the thieves had difficulty in making an entry - in the midst of night they then placed an explosive charge against the massive front doors - entered and stole what they came for!!! Secondly my wife Ro & I experienced a horrendous hold up on the M25. We were completely grid-locked so much so, when we arrived at the Castle the planting had taken place. We were greeted by Sir Edward with a charming smile and a quotation "You do know what Genghis Khan did to his messengers who arrived late?!?"

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It was in the late Autumn of 1990 that the planting took place - Lady Brabourne joined Sir Edward and between them they planted some of the trees as illustrated needless to say it was a very pleasant atmosphere. Edward recalled he had first met with Lady Brabourne back in 1944 before she married she was of course the daughter of Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Planting completed we then proceeded through the Garden Gate I have already mentioned on our way to the house, a fine structure designed by Robert Adams containing 1,999,998 bricks, manufactured on the estate. The estate was originally purchased in 1485 by Richard Knatchbull - the Tudor house built by him subsequently being demolished to make way for the present one. Before concluding on The Caldecott Community - its conception took place as far back as 1911 as a haven to meet the needs of slum children from Islington, London, vulnerable & deprived as they were, at present they endeavour to take on average 80 children ,who have been sexually abused and emotionally traumatised. A pony or small horse are provided for every 2 or 3 children to share and care for, as we hoped they will also take interest in the trees we planted and share the fruit it produces. The Community's aim is so humane - one can not do better than repeat the words written by Leila Rendel in the year of its foundation 1911. To create " an independence of spirit and joyousness of life which alone gives them the power of realising to the fullest extent the possibilities of development within their reach" Caldecott is a place one feels the need for constant revisits to see its worthwhile progression.

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PENSHURST PLACE, Nr Tonbridge, Kent. 1990.

It was in May 1990 I was first in correspondence with Viscount de L'Isle, and let me say now, without equivocation, from a personal standpoint it was one of the most satisfying and rewarding arrangements I experienced in the programme. The Viscount was such a "rounded personality" as correspondence and the following site visits both Alan and I made in the company of he and his Scottish Head Gardener Tom Neillans - as I am sure Alan would readily verify. The original orchard had been damaged by storm, and some of the Cox's Orange Pippins needed replacement. We discussed with them some ancient varieties - the outcome of which the Viscount was delighted to accept;

4 NONPAREILS Circa 1500 & 3 COURT PENDU PLATS Circa. 1200.

From one of my visits, I have a treasured recollection. We walked together through his garden, when he led me to a sloping pathway which when we reached its summit disclosed an extremely large Rose-bed - you can imagine my surprise to find that he had it laid out in the pattern of a giant UNION JACK. Of which he was so rightly proud. He was a patriot of the highest integrity - A soldier, businessman, & statesman. He was awarded the V.C. at Anzio in the Italian campaign, during WW 2.

The Planting took place on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 90 with the Master Sir Edward officiating, he was evidently delighted to meet up again with Viscount de L'Isle, their conversation between them being enjoyable and animated both of them such natural planters of trees.

The work completed - we were then invited to a room in the Palace which was in fact a Gallery where a buffet reception had been prepared for us. The weather for the day was typical November- but the atmosphere was “top drawer”

Sadly Viscount de L’Isle died in the spring of the following year. Sir Edward wrote to Viscountess expressing condolences on behalf of our Livery.

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1991 Saw David Hohnen taking up his position in the Master’s Chair. David had at one time been the Company’s Clerk - and over a considerable period had become extremely knowledgeable of the Company affairs. His City connections came through his profession - he was a senior partner in a firm of Qualified Chartered Accountants.

WYE COLLEGE, Wye, Nr Ashford, Kent. 1991.

Wye College is part of the University of London and is one of the leading Colleges in the education of Horticultural students. Originally a planting was designed to take place in 1990 but was delayed by the politics taking place with MAFF and the possible closing of Brogdale, under those circumstances Wye College were to take over the management of the National Fruit Collection, which at the time seemed appropriate with Witherdone and Centre for European Agricultural Studies being nearby. In the event correspondence was maintained throughout the period with the Professor of Horticulture - Jeff Moorby & Professor John Prescott, and finally the Master David was able to plant one of the gifted trees in March 1991. The

University sited and planted the remainder at their convenience. The following were the trees.

BLLENHEIM ORANGE PIPPIN	1740	NONPAREIL (Circa 1500)
FLOWER OF KENT	1629	COURT PENDU PLAT 1630
WARNER'S KING	1700	

One striking recollection I am left with - is that of a giant White Mulberry in the grounds which must at least been 35ft high!!.

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WOBURN ABBEY, WOBURN, BEDFORDSHIRE. 1991.

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In January 91 I wrote to the Marquess of Tavistock, inviting his interest in our tree planting programme and offering trees for Woburn Abbey. His response was immediate and plans were then put in hand for a March planting. The location came into my mind from visits to our young friends Ian & Kim Holloway, who at the time lived in Woburn. Ian being both a member of Woburn Golf Club & a Liveryman in the Fruiterers Company, and both Ian & Kim were present on planting day.

We endeavoured to choose apple trees connected with the counties of Bedfordshire & Buckinghamshire as part of the estate lies in the latter county. The estate Head

Gardener Mr Cox, was instructed to collect the trees from our selected nursery - Keepers Nursery in East Malling, Throughout our preparations we had the helpful co-operation of Mr Peter Gregory the Administrator at this time. These were the selected trees;

LORD LAMBOURNE	1907	ORLEANS REINETTE	1776
LADY LAMBOURNE	1908	BISMARCK	1870
LAXTON ADVANCE	1929	NEWTON WONDER	1887
LAXTON FORTUNE	1904	JONATHAN	1826
LAXTON SUPERB	1897	COXS' POMONA	1825
OWEN THOMAS	1897	COXS' ORANGE PIPPIN	1825

I remember the morning was dullish & hazy as we drove up from Surrey - we entered the estate with deer on all sides - to find his Lordship waiting in the entrance Hall of this Stately Home in conversation with our Master David Hohnen, when further members of the Livery arrived we proceeded into an ante room where Coffee had been prepared for us. The Marquess was astoundingly ebullient, and his recovery from his recent illness truly remarkable - told us how he put his recovery down completely to the loving care and attention of his wife - and that from his horrifying experience - he felt he was a changed and better man. We then decided it

was time to proceed to the Orchard to plant the trees. The Marquess produced a silver spade which had been gifted at some time - I may be wrong here - but I think it could have been by Estate workers its period could have been early or middle 19<sup>th</sup> century in the event it was impressive and very handsome.

The position of the orchard is in front of the Sculpture Gallery the one time Orangery built in 1789 by Henry Holland - as we took up position the Sun decided to bless the moment and in unison with their respective spades both the Master & Marquess planted. Work and speeches made we left going back through the Lovely House with its interesting decor, paintings and drawings, we bade farewell and drove back into Woburn where Peter Gregory had arranged and booked a place for us to lunch.

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SAVILL GARDENS, Windsor, Berkshire. 1991.

These beautiful gardens are in the Crown Estate and part of the Great Park. The Master during this year was as previously mentioned David Hohnen. David opened correspondence with Mr John Bond - Keeper of the Gardens - back in September 1990. offering a gift of trees on behalf of the Livery. They chose to receive a selection of flowering mallus which I recall were;

JOHN DOWNIE      DARTMOUTH      GOLDEN HORNET

The planting took place in the April of 91 on a beautiful spring day seeing the master in his usual good form and planted the trees with “great gusto” presenting the plaque

the wording of which read “These trees were presented by the WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRUITERERS April 1991. The Garden, the construction of which commenced in 1932, is considered to be one of the finest of its kind to be found in the northern temperate region.

The proceedings completed, David kindly invited all back to Tea to his local Church Hall, St Johns, which is adjacent to his property Cedars Lodge, this which meant before final departure, his hospitality extended to an odd drink or two in the privacy of his comfortable home.

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LORD’S CRICKET GROUND. The Marylebone Cricket Club London . 1991.

Having been a member of this Club for a considerable number of years, in common to my knowledge, with a number of other members of the Livery, I discussed with David the viability of the project, he was immediately enthusiastic, particularly as the MCC were clients of his firm. Therefore I opened correspondence with then Club Secretary, Lt Col. John Stephenson.OBE.who after a coffee meeting when I outlined our proposal proceeded to place the matter before the MCC Sub-committee, who were pleased to accept our offer planting a tree on a very prestigious site - namely the mound behind the WARNER Stand.. This is where, when lunch & tea are taken, many members leave the Pavilion and assemble to discuss the mornings and afternoons play. There was an amusing incident on the year following the planting - in front of the tree we had placed a plaque stating the presentation was by the

Worshipful Company of Fruiterers, with typical school-boy humour somebody had placed a bunches of white & black grapes.

Now for the planting itself - we had proposed a black Mulberry tree - but on consideration decided the fruit could seriously damage "White Flannels" although we did in fact plant on the day it was replaced in early winter with a QUINCE which when I looked at this year was producing fruit. Tony Redsell and I went back about three years ago to prune and make sure of its shape,

Lord Griffiths was then the Clubs President and the Master with the assistance of Colonel Stephenson proceeded with the planting which is well documented in Photographs after which we were entertained to a light buffet & champagne which was served in the Writing Room where we were greeted with coffee on our morning arrival.

I seem to recall Peter Allocca going over to the mantle shelf and picking up what appeared to be a small cannon-ball probably from the Crimean War and commenting "this could really damage a bat" Both Peter & Michael Barton ( a Past Master and sometime Captain of Surrey) were both members of the MCC.

It was a good days' play. !!

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As previously mentioned my meeting with Rosemary Alexander at STONEACRE proved to be "Fruitful" in as much as we discussed our common interest in Chelsea, my wife Ro having been born there, inevitably the Physic Garden came into the conversation - which gave me the opportunity to ask her if as the Principal of the Gardening School there - would she be interested in the Company planting a Black Mulberry tree in the Garden, Rosemary's response was immediate- so we took it from there. The Garden had its origins in the Seventeenth /Eighteenth centuries - when a necessary herb garden was created by Sir Hans Sloane - famously remembered by London naming a square in his memory.

Correspondence ensued with the Curator, Sue Minster. The Master agreed we could ahead with the planting of the BLACK MULBERRY in June 91 as the tree had been kept containerised. There was a problem regarding our placing of a plaque which generally against the Gardens policy. However as our tree was planted near to that of one presented by Margaret Thatcher PM - I asked if we could have a similar one - to which they ultimately agreed. The Master David Hohnen, was quite impressed with the occasion, and subsequently decided to hold a Summer Function in the House, which gave us a further visit to the Garden.

OooOooo

CLIVEDEN, Taplow, Berkshire. 1991.

I regret I am unable to report much in the way of detail on this planting as it was a special day on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July organised by the Master David Hohnan. My part in the matter was to contact the Head Gardener Philip Cotton and obtain his agreement to the planting of a BLACK MULBERRY tree to compliment two already there thus making a trinity. The property being National Trust the question of a plaque did not arise. The Master did send my wife & I an invitation to attend the planting which did not include the Luncheon following - we decided we were unable to accept. My very good friend Mike Tanguy took photographs for me to add to our Albums to make records complete.

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LAMBETH PALACE,LONDON.S.E.1. 1991.

14

How did we come to plant a BLACK MULBERRY tree in the gardens of Lambeth Palace? Well I will tell you. - from time immemorial the Livery have celebrated the conversion of St Paul on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January & at our unique Wren Church - St Mary Abchurch just off Cannon Street in the heart of the City of London, no doubt since it was built. On the 25<sup>th</sup> January 1991 we attended our annual Service, when the Archbishop of Canterbury read the Sermon - afterwards joining us for lunch at the Innholders Hall nearby. We met and talked generally and during the conversation I mentioned our tree planting programme to him - he kindly asked me to write to him outlining the procedure - following correspondence with his office and a site visit, a planting was arranged for the 20<sup>th</sup> November 91 and duly a BLACK MULBERRY

tree was delivered - together with a plaque - & with the Archbishops' agreement it bore the inscription - this tree was planted on the day Terry Waite was freed from his incarceration . The illustration shows His Grace with his Spaniel , & our Master David, although the Sun refused to shine.

We then had coffee in the Palace with the Archbishop & Mrs Carey, after which our party were shown parts of the Palace including the private Chapel which was "really something" there were of course plenty of relics and paintings of great interest.

At this time Ro & I had our flat in Dolphin Square, so we were able to invite members of the Livery to join us for refreshments.

I recently returned to the Palace to see the Mulberry in "good shape" & form.

In a personal letter his Grace "George" said " that he hoped the tree will flourish & be an ornament to the garden for the "Careys' and their successors for many years to come"

oooOooo

RAC GOLF CLUB, Woodcote Park,Epsom,Surrey. 1991.

In common with a number of other Liverymen - Golf is a major interest of the Master,(The Livery hold an annual fixture at Kingswood,Surrey, organised by David) therefore it was only to be expected during his year he wanted a Golf Planting. Being a member of the RAC David undertook the arrangements for this planting - which took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> November in his year, in the presence of the club Secretary, Brian McGiven. The Livery presented THREE BLACK MULBERRY trees, they

were planted on the high ground adjacent to the Lake and are marked with a Company plaque. I see them from time to time and they seem happy & are doing well.

After the proceedings, David invited us to refreshments in a Room which had been reserved for the occasion - where we were joined by the General Manager & the Head Gardener. I wish I could remember all of the information imparted to me by this gentleman at the time, but I seem to recall the fact the site once contained an old Abbey - and something to do with water levels - most absorbing.

oooOooo

The year is now 1992 and our new Master ALAN FRANCIS TODD, MBE. I feel sure Alan will forgive me for saying this- I have learned more about trees, the varieties, their condition of growth, in all, everything a layman needs to know when setting out on an enterprise of fruit culture ( I would mention here, on my Mothers' side my genes contain the absorption with Horticulture) but what is more, both Ro and I have made two wonderful friends, and we have trodden so many paths together. I would need an adding machine to calculate the number of trees dear Sally, (Alan's wife) has delivered to sites around the Country, she has been so supportive. Now for our programme for 1992.

CHARTWELL, KENT. 1992.

At our Master & Wardens dinner in November 1990. Sir Edward du Cann introduced me to (the young) Winston Spencer Churchill.MP.who was our Guest Speaker on the evening ( which is well remembered for was the time when the Iraqi conflict was about to erupt & his assessment of the situation was absolutely right , & in fact what transpired). Edward told him what we had been doing in our “planting Field” which gave me the opportunity when we were discussing Chartwell , to ask if it would be possible to plant trees there, as the Livery would feel honoured if we could plant a small orchard there in memory of his famous grandfather. Without hesitation he said “ Please write to me at the House of Commons” and this is how the planting was instigated.

The Property is now National Trust - so with “Young Winston’s” approval I opened negotiations with the administrator of Chartwell - a charming lady Mrs Jean Broome. My wife Ro & I made a couple of site visits to be sure of requirements & locate where the trees would be planted. It was decided the “Great man” had a private garden partly walled which he loved ( no doubt the wall was his creation , for he was an accomplished brick layer ) and at one time fruit trees had been planted there. Therefore I selected trees with names which I considered had a certain “Churchillian” flavour as follows;

BLenheim ORANGE PIPPIN	1740.	WINSTON (name changed in)	1944.
BISMARCK	1870.	IRISH PEACH,	1820.
DUCHESS’S FAVOURITE	1790.	MOTHER(AMERICAN).	1844.

Sally saw they were duly delivered - and duly in the \March of 92, with our new Master Alan Todd, MBE. & Mr Winston Churchill, & members of the Livery & their Wives the planting took place. The illustration was taken whilst we were drinking our coffee in Chartwell and shows "Young Winston" standing beneath a portrait of his grandfather Sir Winston (which I believe was painted by his friend Walter Sickert.). I really was a most successful & rewarding day and to appease our hunger we retired to a locally recommend Hostelry - "The Four Elms".

OooOooo

16

PARHAM WEST SUSSEX.1992.

Parham Park is near Pulborough in West Sussex and 1990 won the Garden of the Year award - it is a splendid Elizabethan House & Gardens. One morning I received a telephone call from Lady Jenny du Cann - Edward's wife, suggesting this could be an interesting location for one of our plantings. I agreed and set off on a site visit, after which I confirmed to Jenny it would be most suitable. As she was a committee member of the Historic Houses Association, I soon heard from their President - Earl Shelbourne - from then on it was only a matter of contacting the Owner - Veronica Tritton, and her staff including her Head Gardener, Ray Gibbs to finalise arrangements for the Orchard lay-out. The Master Alan & I visited him in the Orchard ground which was walled on three sides which is most favourable & protective for the young sapling trees - the following are the trees on which we agreed:

BLENHEIM ORANGE PIPPIN	(Des)	1740	Oxford.
LADY SUDELEY	“	1849	Sussex.
WARNER’S KING	(Cook)	1780	Kent.
BAUMANN’S REINETTE	(Des)	1811	Belgium.
ORANGE GOFF	“	1842	Kent.
GOLDEN REINETTE ORLEANS	“	1650	Europe.
COEUR de BOEUF	“	1200	France.
KING CHARLES PEARMAN	“	1876	Worcs.
MALTSTER	“	1830	Cambs.
YELLOW INGESTRIE	“	1800	Herefordshire.

The Gardens lost many trees in the Great Storm at least 15 of established ones.

We have promised them a particular “Golden Pippin “ which had its origin in the area most probably in this very garden - a promise which will be fulfilled very soon.

Incidentally following a press release, the item of the Golden Pippin was mentioned but unfortunately misquoted as a Crispin a completely different tasting apple - this

“sparked off“ a debate in letters to the Times. Catherine the Great of Russia was so partial to this Golden Pippin, that she had a constant order for its delivery to “her

table” Before closing this item, we would like to record our thanks to the late

Veronica Tritton, who had a sad life in many ways - losing her first husband killed in

action in 1941 - she remarried in 1950. On the death of her Father she ultimately took

over the running of the estate. Always kind of heart, & pursuing good purpose in life

with concern for heritage, suffering in her final years much pain from a progressive

illness. We must also thank the Estate Office for their help, particularly Pat

Kennedy & Simon Scrimgeour - they assembled a distinguished party of guests on the day to meet our Master Alan and the attending Livery members.

OooOooo

BROGDALÉ, Kent. 1992.

This was an open day for the Livery and the Worshipful Company of Gardeners, who joined us on the day, which gave us the opportunity of arranging a joint planting of a MEDLAR tree. Seen here with our Master Alan Todd is the Master of the Gardeners is "Dick" Balfour. Brogdale houses the largest national group collection of varieties of Apples, Pears, Plums, Cherries, & Quince, in Europe other than in Russia who we have learned "Glasnost" have approximately 6000 varieties but unlike ours they are not in the one location. We learned this at a Conference to which they were invited at Feeble University, Oxford. Alan at this time was a Trustee of Brogdale and was invited to this meeting by our friend Dr Juniper. an authority on fruit horticulture at Keeble. We had a lecture on the history of Brogdale, before the planting and lunch, Brogdale is now a Trust - at a Banquet to which the Prince of Wales was invited - we gained his interest - and what is more support from the Duchy of Cornwall to save the collection which was under threat at the time from the MAFF. who were considering the withdrawal of funding. Swaill District Council have an interest now in this Project. After lunch, we went on a tour of the collection followed by a lecture on a new apple called "Gala" We then took tea, and departed. Before closing this section, I would like to mention Dr Joan Morgan of Brogdale who was most helpful in assisting us to research the ""Golden Pippin" for Parham. She was made an Honorary Freeman of the Livery in 1996

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SHELLEY'S. Knockholt, Kent. 1992.

You will recall I have mentioned Peter Allocca previously - well Peter and I discussed the possibility of a planting at Knole the home of Lord Sackville which is nearby in Sevenoaks. Peter then said would we consider a planting at his place Shelley's, which is connected in some way with the Knole estate, and had a considerable historic background. In fact was traceable back to 1441 when John Shelley took possession of the Manor, it is interesting to note, he and his wife were buried together in Bexley church. There is also a connection with the City of London - during the reign of HENRY THE VI. In 1537 the owner became Sir John Champneys, knt. Who had been Lord Mayor of London in 1534. With the Master's agreement we planted a MULLBERRY tree on the estate before going on to Knole about which I will talk anon. It was a very relaxed and happy occasion with certain banter going on between members of the whilst Alan proceeded with the planting - I have recently received a photograph of the tree and it is thriving magnificently. Sadly we lost Peter on the 27<sup>th</sup> December 1999 after a long illness but in his typical manner he fought bravely to the end. Our Remembrancer, Ian Rainford & I attended his funeral at St Katharine's Parish Church, Knockholt on the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2000. The Church was full to capacity, he was a well liked & respected chap.

oooOooo

KNOLE, Sevenoaks, Kent. 1992.

I opened correspondence with Lord Sackville in the spring of 92 by which time Peter Allocca had spoken with him to see if he would be receptive to the idea of a planting at Knole - the reply was immediate & thankful, therefore after a number of telephone conversation it was decided we would arrange for the meeting to take place in late November of 92 following the morning one at Shelleys' The weather was dull and overcast, but rain just about held off! - here is the amusing part - I asked his lordship if he would have the ground prepared for the MULLBERRY tree and plaque we were presenting and when our party arrived at the site!!! - the gardener had dug a pit - our Master Alan was in no way "nonplussed" but descended down a bank to find this rather large hole wherein with Lord Sackville who also had a spade - between them they proceeded to put the tree "to bed" so to speak!! The problem was that the ground was very stony, and our ceremonial spade was severely scratched in the process, we had to have it "buffed up" - but we shall always remember Knole - for we have the scars to prove it!! Our illustration may in some way show what I mean. Peter knew of a Hostelry not too far away, and by now we all felt we had earned a jolly-good lunch.

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FINCHCOCKS, Goudhurst, Kent. 1992.

Alan & Sally decided to hold their Summer Function outside of the City this year and chose the location of Finchcocks. It seemed most fitting - to hold it amongst the fruit farmers & hop growers of England in the garden of Kent. The structure of Finchcocks is a fine example of a Georgian baroque manor house - and it has become

a living museum of Music, housing a collection harpsichords, clavichords, early pianos, and chamber organs, in addition there are many interesting paintings and prints to be seen. The site was named after a family who lived there in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is now owned by the Finchcock's Charity Trust, the directors being Richard & Katrina Burnett. Richard is a fine musician and he treated us to his exemplary playing of ancient instruments, and explained how many of them operated. We then had an excellent Dinner - I particularly remember a dish of vegetarian sausages made in Goudhurst - the like of which I have not tasted since. We had the opportunity of discussing with Richard & Katrina - would they be interested in a gift of trees for part of their walled garden - they asked if they could have some Pear trees with the idea they might be espaliered, Somehow I don't think that happened but we had a nice day with them on the planting day in the late Autumn of the following trees:-

AUTUMN FONDANT.	FERTILITY.
BERAMOTTE d'ESPEREN	ROBIN
CHALK (CRAWFORD)	OLD WARDEN (BLACK WORCESTER)

This concluded our programme for 1992 Alan & Sally Todds' year.

1993 was the year Michael Sykes became our Master and with his wife Mary conducted a very interesting year, with a good number of plantings. Mary's father was master of the Livery back in 1973, so with her Mother Mrs Webster, they were knowledgeable of much of the workings of our Company.

QUEENS PARK, Caterham, Surrey. 1993.

It was in early March 92. I received a telephone call saying how our tree planting programme had reached their ears - and would we be interested in planting some fruit trees for the interest and education of about 50 children in the area of Caterham. The Association named the "Men of Trees" have an extensive programme for children's education on the subject of fruit growing. It was then I started to receive correspondence on their activities, I spoke with Past Master Alan on the subject and sent him a copy of the paper work, we both agreed this was what the plantings were about in some measure, of interesting people about our fruit and particularly our children. Having spoken with the Association Secretary. I made a site visit or two to meet him. I found they had already laid out Queens Park with a variety of various trees - surrounding a fenced play-ground for young children. I then cleared the matter with the Parks Manager - Peter Jones of the Tandridge District Council. I noticed when going around the site that Dame Judi Dench had planted some earlier trees there. so I wrote various correspondence to her knowing what a busy lady she is - she found time to acknowledge all the letters and she said she would be delighted to come and plant some trees with our Master Michael Sykes - this we arranged for a day in April 93. Michael and Mary will tell you - it was a fantastic day we all spent together. These were the trees we planted which all had Surrey connotations:-

COURT-PENDU-PLAT.      CRAWLEY BEAUTY.  
DUCHESS FAVOURITE.      NONPAREIL.  
PIXY.                              REVEREND W. WILKS.

I had arranged for us all to have lunch at a local “pub” which as far as Judi and we were concerned was “spot on” This is the letter she wrote to me afterwards:

JUDI DENCH

Dear John,

How very sweet of you to send me the photos  
I had a lovely time and look forward to seeing  
“my” trees again soon.

ROMEO had very mixed notices, but, thank  
goodness, is doing very well. We have been  
lucky with the weather, which always helps,  
but the Park is such a special place anyway,  
And I think people go there to enjoy its very  
special atmosphere.

Thank you again for a lovely day, and for the  
photographs.      With best wishes,      Judi.

KINGSWOOD GOLF CLUB, Kingswood, Surrey. 1993.

Kingswood is the Golf Club & Course where the Livery hold their annual Golf Match. The fixture is held every year in May, and was originally organised by David Hohnen & Robert Sice, both past Masters, who created the Livery's Golf section. The course is owned by another Liveryman Tommy Hilliard. During Master Michael Sykes year, it was considered appropriate to offer trees and a plaque- the Club holds the Pro-Am competitions therefore a show of Cherry blossom in the spring would be colourful. I had site meeting with Geoffrey - Tommy Hilliard's son, and the Club's groundsman - Ken Cooper to select where we would place the trees, which are as follows:

AMBER	MERTON PREMIER
BRADBOURNE BLACK.	NOIR de GUBEN.
FLORENCE.	OLD BLACK HEART.
GOVERNOR WOOD.	ROUNDEL
MERTON GLORY.	VAN.
WHITEHEART x 2.	

The planting was undertaken on the day of the Golf fixture - & undertaken by the Master Michael after an excellent Club house lunch had been taken!

At the time our Club President was Liveryman Ralph Felton, always concerned with "keeping standards" high, always present at the 9<sup>th</sup> in the hospitality hut, a good friend - sadly no longer with us.

oooOooo

HOLKER HALL, Cark-in-Cartmel, CUMBRIA 1993.

Holker Hall, The home of Lord & Lady Cavendish, and Garden of the Year in 1991 was suggested to us by Peter Sinclair of the Historic Houses Association, as a possible place for our tree planting programme, I took up his suggestion and wrote to Lord & Lady Cavendish, finding them most receptive to our proposal, and a stream of correspondence followed as the file will show. We investigated varieties germane to their northern climate - one being a Keswick Codlin (1790) and the other even more appropriately called the Duke of Devonshire (1835 and raised at Holker Hall). It was a fair distance to cover- the reception the Master Michael received was I am sure he will agree was most rewarding- unfortunately Mary could not join us on the day by reason of other commitments. These are the trees we planted on the day:-

BROAD-EYED PIPPIN.	DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE.
EARLY JULYAN.	HAWTHORNDEN.
KESWICK CODLIN.	LADY'S FINGER OF LANCS.
(Quince)	(Plum)
MEECHES PROLIFIC.	ROYAL de VILVOORDE.
SEIBOSA.	

Our party was then entertained to Al-Fresco lunch on the terrace which was most pleasant - but the day was extremely cold - for the weather changed. Another most interesting day, with a delightful conducted tour of the house by Grania & her son Freddie, and the good company of Lord Cavendish. 20

THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, Kew, Surrey. 1993

It was here we held our Summer Function in 1993. And our Master Michael, decided this would be an opportunity for us to arrange a tree planting with our sister Company - The Worshipful Company of Gardeners. We were Chartered in the same year 1605. By James the First.

It was a beautiful Summer's day. And we happily recorded the occasion of the Master Gardener & Michael engaged in a joint planting of a QUINCE tree - I hope it does not sound like "taking Coals to Newcastle" but it was enjoyed by all, as were the speeches, in such an appropriate place.

One specific recollection of the day - was the small Gallery at Kew containing a collection of water colours by the Victorian Artist - Marianne North.- of some of the most impressive paintings of trees, flowers & landscapes much undertaken in "situ". Personally I was lost in admiration of her works and her world travels to obtain them - and I - considering myself a devotee of William Hooker. A truly brilliant day.

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NEW SPITALFIELD MARKET. Leyton. LONDON. E10. 1993.

This was the year Mike Culverwell entered the Livery. Mike is the Market Superintendent, for New Spitalfields Market. We discussed the possibility of inviting the Lord Mayor of London - Sir Francis McWilliams - if he could find the time to come to the Market to plant BLACK MULBERRY tree. He kindly agreed so to do. In the October we assembled at the security entrance Gate to the Market and on a sunny morning, Michael & Sir Francis planted the tree in a specially prepared area - "where all those who enter here" will be able to view it. Needless to say I

have constant reports on its progress. Mike arranged a buffet for us all in his offices - which gave us opportunity to socialise & discuss the day's event.

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OXFORD 1993.

One of our Past Masters Michael Barton & I talked together at one of our gatherings, when he suggested the Oxford University Parks would be a good place for a planting - therefor I wrote to the Secretary & Curator of the Parks, and the following was the outcome:-

KEBLE COLLEGE OXFORD. 1993.

Dr Robert Lucas was the Secretary & Curator of the "Parks", soon correspondence was opened up - culminating in a November planting of two QUINCES, a MEECHES PROLIFIC & a SEIBOSA. With a plaque, on the lawn outside the University of Plant Sciences, an attractive 50 year old stone building in the South Parks Road. The planting conducted by the Master Michael Sykes, was extremely well attended. The University representative was the Pro Vice Chancellor - Dr G.B Richardson, CBE. who assisted in planting a Quince. We were then taken on a tour of the University

of Plant Sciences being of particular interest to our Liverymen, with the research under investigation relating to the fruit industry. Following this we were invited to

the Dining room of Warden's Lodgings, for a most convivial Buffet Luncheon which by this time was much appreciated. Dr Juniper, I mentioned previously was present & needless to say we had interesting discourse.

OooOooo

SAINT EDMUND'S HALL, University, Oxford. 1993.

In June - Sir Rowland Whitehead.Bt. & I found ourselves in conversation on an occasion & I mentioned our plans for the Oxford planting, he became interested and excited about the project, he, being a Cambridge man, thought at once of planting at Trinity "Tity Hall" - unfortunately when approached they were unable to accommodate a tree - denying at the time they had the space. In any event the breadth of Rowland's mind is such, he spoke on an instant with his Oxford contemporaries - and this is how we came to plant an espaliered SPARTAN Apple tree at Saint Edmond's (Teddy Hall) on the same day as Keble, with our Master Michael at the helm. My correspondence Dr Hugh Jenkyns disclosed they would like a Red apple to display against their ancient silvery grey wall, which encompassed the Garden. We would have liked to have given them a St Edmund's Pippin - as it would have been appropriate, unfortunately one was unavailable at the time, and after all it would have been a Russet!! So it was a "toss up" between a Blenheim Orange Pippin & Spartan - and Spartan won!! The planting completed - our Host at the Hall - Professor Gosling invited our party to return with him to the mature sanctuary of this wonderful old & absorbing Library. Where we partook of a pleasant tea - then we bid a sad & reluctant farewell. Ah! Oxford - such a lovely City.

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We have now come to 1994 and our new Master is Michael Wallis. Michael is a very busy - business man. Prior to him becoming our Master - he had been the Master of

another Livery Company - The Glass Sellers - I mention his business activities, this for this could well curtail an extensive planting programme. Beside being a Marine Lawyer, he is actively involved in the Travel Industry - or was - but he is a natural "entrepreneur." He put down "Markers" for me when he took Office. "I would prefer, John, that we keep our plans to plantings in the City, and other than for the Garden of the year at Bakewell - this we did! I would say here that he has always been supportive of the Programme and the idea and can always be found in photographs of the events. Thank you Michael.

#### THE SPEAKERS GARDEN .THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. 1994.

On checking through some back records , I found that a previous Speaker of the HOUSE OF COMMONS, was in fact a member of our Livery - The Rt Hon John Selwyn Lloyd,CH.CBE.TD.DL.QC. Therefore I wrote to Madam Speaker, Dame Betty Boothroyd - asking her if she would accept a BLACK MULBERRY tree and a suitable worded Plaque from the Livery for a planting on Speaker's Green. We communicated and she responded in her customary manner - she set in motion the necessary arrangements with the Parliamentary Works Directorate. This necessitated at least two site visits, when I found the staff most interested and helpful. On the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 94. The Master with Madam is seen here planting the tree, with a plaque which read;

Presented by

The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers

in memory of

The Rt Hon John Selwyn Lloyd CH CBE TD DL QC.

It was a rather special affair, when completed Betty Boothroyd invited us to the Speaker's house for refreshments. One always had the feeling the Speaker's house had a very important influence in our heritage, and this was borne out by the atmosphere in the rooms, covered as they with the Portraits of most, if not all of the past Speakers' of the "House" with shields of the their Coat of Arms. It was even more particular for Miss Boothroyd - being the first Lady to have had this honour, I remember in hers - there was the Mill Wheels( representing her constituency) and neat bows relating to her position in matrimony - needless to say her prevailing colour was Red. She showed us a Bedroom where there was on show a very large Four Poster Bed which must have been an original - and was recently found in Wales. Her company was so easy, welcoming & friendly, everyone was made to feel "at home" My closing impression was of one beautiful piece of Meissen it really was quite a large ceramic model - of two huntsmen on horseback with attendant dogs - their costume being mid-eighteenth century. It really was magnificent! In fact the whole day was a treat. I do agree that it is unfortunate that we cannot open the doors of these occasions to the whole livery but I am sure that all will understand that numbers are very limited when we are invited as guests!. We do try to invite Liverymen and their wives, when plantings take place in their particular counties or locations near to where they live.

oooOooo

This Ancestral home was Garden of the Year and we were invited by His Grace the Duke of Rutland and the Duchess to plant fruit trees in their Orchard to celebrate the occasion of the award. Initially it was David Hohnen who was in touch with The Belvoir Estate, who represent the Duke & Duchess, I only came in with Alan at a later stage when Trees, plaques and arrangements had to be made. The gifted trees are as follows:

FARLEIGH DAMSON.      OLD GREENGAGE (2)

Apples.

ELLISON ORANGE      BLENHEIM ORANGE

ANNIE ELIZABETH.      EGREMONT RUSSET.

ASHMEADS KERNAL.      NEWTON WONDER.

We were handsomely entertained by his Grace and the Duchess following the Ceremony, after we had been given a tour of the house - with its Long Gallery - and attendant chambers. I distinctly remember being impressed by the very old kitchen which must have been 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century having authenticity stamped all over it. The whole house was a delight, and the buffet which continued on was made more enjoyable by the informality of the conversation between the Duke & Duchess and ourselves. I'm sure that our Master Michael - was more than well pleased with the way the day went. In closing on this item - I would just like to comment for a

moment on the charming, sweeping grandeur, of the Derbyshire countryside which is unique in its beauty, and very visible from Haddon Hall.

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CITY OF LONDON FREEMEN'S SCHOOL, Ashted, Surrey. 1994.

The idea for a planting at the school came when Ro & I attended the School May Fayre in 1992. When we were in conversation with Lady Ponsonby, the Chairman of the School Governors & the Head Master David Haywood, I remarked the grounds appeared to have been receiving trees & plaques from other City Livery Company's would they accept one from the Fruiterers? The answer was in the affirmative , and it was just a question then of arranging the tree, its position, and date and time of the ceremony. The chosen tree was a QUINCE, it is planted to the front and side of the grand Paladin structure completed in 1790 by Sir Thomas Wyatt, and the planting took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1994 with Master Michael Wallis presiding. We City Companies are very proud of our Freeman's school and its standard of excellence. Long may it prosper. We were entertained by the Headmaster - David in his study, followed by a tour of the school, by the senior students. You will gather that personally I am most taken with this School, and will delight in visiting at any opportunity.

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This is the completion of Master Wallis programme for the year 1994.

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We now come to 1995, the Year of Mastership for Sir Rowland Whitehead and his wife Lady Isa. and I can promise you it is quite year - no less than eleven tree plantings in fact - from the counties of England - to America - & France. Sir Rowland is the seventh Baronet. Most of his family have been in our Livery, his Father, Grandfather(another Sir Rowland) Master in 1904, his Uncle, Great Uncle, and not least his Great Grandfather Sir James Whitehead Bt, Master of the Livery in successive years 1890 & 1891, & Lord Mayor of London in the years 1894 & 1895. So you will see there has been an unbroken family membership of Fruiterers..

CHARLESTON FARMHOUSE, Nr Firle, East Sussex. 1995.

In conversations Sir Rowland & I have had on past occasions, we soon realised our common thread of interest in the "Bloomsbury set" - thus I suggested to him - as Charleston was a veritable shrine to followers of "the group", in our own country, and from overseas, should we not think of a planting there one morning during his year of office?, with his agreement I proceeded to test the feasibility of the project. Correspondence then ensued with myself and the Curator of the Charleston Farmhouse Trust - Mr Peter Maill. They the Trust - were delighted to receive a tree from us, and Professor Quentin Bell - Vanessa Bell's son - asked if we would

like to replace an apple tree they had lost a few month earlier namely a  
DEVONSHIRE QUARRENDEN which we were most happy to arrange.

Virginia Woolf found Charleston for her sister Vanessa before the World War and in  
1916 was ensconced with the Artist Duncan Grant and the Writer David Garnett. It  
soon became a meeting place for many of the most progressive thinkers of the period!.

It was a beautiful morning and Sir Rowland & Quentin's wife Olivier shared the  
planting together - Rowland then placed a tree marking on the tree naming it and  
from whom it had been gifted. We previously received the hospitality of an al-  
fresco breakfast and coffee - after a conducted tour of the house and its treasures - we  
bade them farewell. Thence to Alfriston & the "The Star Inn" and a reserved  
Room where we enjoyed each others company, good food, & a splendid ambience.

KENSINGTON PALACE. London, W.8. 1995.

Correspondence was opened with the Director of Kensington Palace - Mr Nigel Arch  
in November 94. This was at the suggestion of the Governor of the Tower of London -  
who regretfully had to turn away our offer of fruit trees - their difficulty being  
"no space" (it is being held in mind for a future year - when circumstances may have  
changed)

However the planting day with their sister establishment - Kensington Palace -  
proved to be most successful & enjoyable and was strongly supported by the Livery.  
As a result of our discussions with the directorate it was established the Palace would  
like an ORANGE tree for the Orangery. We presented them with 4/5' high  
CITRUS SINENSIS of Spanish origin - which was placed into a Versailles Tub in  
symmetry with the other Orange trees in the Orangery. It was at this stage  
arrangements were passed to the site Manager Derek Cousins & the Park

Superintendent Nick Butler. The Tree and plaque were delivered 2 days before the appointed planting day on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 95 ( for it was containerised ) The day matched the event - for it took place in glorious sunshine and an extremely happy atmosphere. Sir Rowland made a customary and interesting speech , he brought with him a fruit basket - made by the Worshipful Company of Basket Makers - similar to the one he had just taken to Balmoral full plums for the Queen - a re-run of his Great Grandfather's visit to Queen Victoria in the late 80's, we were amused by the incident of his flight North - the seat by his side to take the Basket and Fruit had been reserved for- Miss Victoria Plum. The planting completed - we moved into the Orangery where a delicious cold lunch had been prepared, photographs were taken by Sir Rowland - who incidentally is a very accomplished photographer. The afternoon concluded with an arranged conducted tour of the fascinating rooms of the Palace (including the State Apartments and the Court Dress Collection) by Joanna Marshina and Sara Parker & finally a garden tour by Nick Buckley and Paul.

OooOooo

DENBIES WINE ESTATE, Dorking, Surrey. 1995.

Sir Rowland decided he would like to hold the Livery's Summer Function here at one of the largest vineyards in the South of England which nestles in the famous beauty-spot of Box Hill and the incomparable Mole Valley of Surrey. Being "near at hand" so to speak living on the Downs nearby at Epsom - we knew the Estate quite well and were regular visitors. Therefor, naturally I suggested to the Master would this not be a good place for a planting and it was decided we would offer them two Apple Trees for planting on the Lawn in front of the Reception Centre. We chose with the

Estate Manager Bert Martin - an ANNIE ELIZABETH 1857(Leicestershire) & a  
 BLENHEIM ORANGE PIPPIN 1740 (Oxfordshire)

Rowland's grand-daughter assisted with the planting to the amusement of all. We then  
 lunched in one of the private reception rooms - followed by a tour of the estate and  
 an insight into all aspects of the wine producing process - including tasting!! Again  
 the weather was kind to us and a thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all.

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HARLOW CARR BOTANICAL GARDENS. Harrogate, Yorks. 1995.

Back in 1994, Ro and I on one of our visits to the North found these Gardens and  
 concluded it would be an ideal place to plant a fruit tree. We called upon our  
 friends Ian & Valerie White who lived locally - Ian being a member of the Livery  
 and when told of our speculative visit to Harlow Carr - told us he was a member  
 of the Northern Horticultural Society also and said he would be happy to mention  
 our interest at the next committee meeting. Thereafter I was put in touch the  
 Curator - Chris Margrave, and a planting of a SERVICE TREE (*Sorbus domestica*)  
 was agreed for the 21<sup>st</sup> September 95 for I had agreed with Sir Rowland as travelling  
 distances for a Party of the Livery had to be considered - we would use the journey  
 to incorporate a tripartite arrangement - Harrogate - Appleby - Kendal. This took  
 quite a bit of organising and our Clerk - Commander Michael Styles RN. came to the  
 fore and showed us how it had to be done. Michael was not only our Clerk but also

a good friend to us all so the party was an extremely happy one. Ian & Valerie White generously invited the whole party including members of the Northern Hort; Society to lunch at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, and then at 3.15pm we were all to be found at the arboretum at the Gardens with Rowland and Brit Wilkinson, Chairman of the NHS planting the Medlar. We had tea and then departed on the next leg of our journey Appleby on the other side of the Pennines!!

Before proceeding further - although I know this is a sad note to strike - we have since lost our dear friend Ian White - he had put up a brave and valiant fight against Cancer of the Jawbone and after many operations and bone graftings ultimately his life came to an end in July 1997. We miss him but do not forget.

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APPLELBY GRAMMER SCHOOL. Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria. 1995.

We were obviously endeavouring to get so much into our few days and Appleby fitted so well into the picture. We stayed at the Tuxton Arms and Rowland, because of his ancestral connections, invited the Mayor of Appleby, Norman Mennie to dine with our Party on the evening, together with the Headmaster of the Appleby Grammar School, Mr Ian Holloway - they both graciously accepted & Rowland hosted a Civic dinner. In the morning we made our way over the Moors to Appleby-in-Westmorland - where the School awaited us. We were reminded when Sir James

became Lord Mayor of London - he brought the Lord Mayor's Coach up to Appleby by train - so the inhabitants could see a sight otherwise they would not have seen unless they had made a trip to London Town. Sir Rowland then planted a weeping FLOWERING MALUS tree "Sun Rival" which for him had been "a moving & sentimental event" Before leaving we were invited to tour the school - the charter going back to 1574 and its first Headmaster -- 1478. We were on the road again further into Cumbria.

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LEVENS HALL, Kendall, Cumbria. 1995.

In 1994 - Levens Hall gardens was awarded the accolade of "Garden of the Year" and it was convenient we were able arrange the 3 plantings to coincide and be so near to each other. David Hohnen had been in communication with the Historic Houses Association over the past few years & had kept me informed, - therefore I wrote to Hal and Susan Bagot - and they replied they would be delighted to receive two fruit trees from our Worshipful Company. I selected two apples I thought might be appropriate;

KESWICK CODLIN 1790 (Lancs) RIBSTON PIPPIN 1688 (Yorks)

Golden Yellow Green, Yellow, & Orange blend.

The Hall's head Gardener was Chris Crowden, and the fantastic topiary garden did him much credit. Mr & Mrs Hal Bagot were telling us that to House & Garden - have on average 40,000 visitors a year. The original structure of the house with its Pele Tower & Hall were built in the 13<sup>th</sup> Century - but the house

as we see it today is mainly Elizabethan, with certain 17<sup>th</sup> century improvements  
 It is of course filled with artefacts, and paintings. My rarest recollection , is that from  
 a bay type of window looking out on to the lawns & gardens- with the beautifully  
 shaped topiary - for all the world like giant chess men displayed  
 for all to see. We then made our way to the Orchard for Rowland  
 and Hal to plant their two apple trees, when done our small remaining party-  
 most satisfied with the day, happily departed.

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STATE OF NEW JERSEY. Drumthwacket, Nr Princeton USA 1995.  
 In the Summer of 1995 Rowland met with a young American - Carlos  
 Kearns who was Governor Christine Todd Whitman's International  
 Trade Representative, & then with the Governor herself. It followed -  
 when they heard of our planting programme they became interested and  
 we proposed to them we would be prepared to come to the United States  
 with a small party of the Livery and present them with two of our English  
 Varieties with attendant plaques. The Governor responded by suggesting she  
 would like the planting to take place in the grounds of the Governors Residence in  
 its magnificent setting at Drumthwacket, in the State of New Jersey.  
 The date for the planting was designated for Tuesday the 3rd October 1995,  
 when our party assembled for the ceremony in the spacious grounds - security  
 was very evident - with discreetly armed Officers displaced around the area -  
 the work of the planting completed and speeches of accord & amity having  
 been made on both sides - we were led into this lovely mansion and entertained

to a splendid lunch in the dining room. I have a recollection of two particular incidents - firstly photographing our ladies sitting at the Governors desk as though they were busily at work on State business - and secondly a glass cabinet containing a collection of soldier miniatures of all of his regiments that had fought at his side in the battle of Trenton - his first victory in the American War of Independence. Our American friends were delighted to have been the first foreign soil to which we had taken our trees and vision - and resulting from this visit and the interest of the British Embassy an exchange of meetings commenced between Cooks College at RUTGERS N.J. and our own Horticultural Research International, EAST MALLING, WYE COLLEGE OF LONDON UNIVERISTY, and the BROGDALE HORTICULTURAL TRUST, in Kent. The exchange is proving ro be most fruitful In my story of the happening I seemed to have missed the purpose and the names of the object of our visit - the presented apples were

a COX'S ORANGE PIPPIN & a SUNCRISP.

The amount of correspondence undertaken by Sir Rowland in the preceding months is quite unbelievable - I should not think he left anyone un-alerted. Our Clerk Michael Styles, Commander,RN. did a splendid job with his preparation & organisation, and was great company "to boot" Of course Carlos was invaluable with his liaison, many kindness, and knowledge of local territories - Carlos has since become a member of our Livery having been clothed in 1996. I understand Governor Christine is soon to follow. Thus concludes our first venture as a Livery into America, there was another hand in these matters belonging to one of our liverymen a certain Donald Cryan - but more about him to follow in later

## Chapters

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THE CHATEAU de VILLANDRY. Villandry, FRANCE. Oct 1995.

Unfortunately Ro & I were unable to be with the Livery in France for this planting, as we had stayed behind in America to see some old friends in Virginia. The reports were that the weather was splendid and it was a most satisfactory affair. If it is possible I will try to obtain an “on the spot” report which will be included in references. The Livery presented the Chateau with 4 Mulberry trees (*Morus Nigra*) with which they were delighted -as this was 5 years ago they should be well formed by now - & I am sure many of the members of the Livery would be interested to chart their progress should they be exploring the Loire district of France. The owning family - the Carvallos are most hospitable & welcoming, I am told.

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HATFIELD HOUSE, Hatfield, Hertfordshire. 1995.

Sir Rowland had been in correspondence with Lady Salisbury regarding our planting at Villandry in view of their mutual interest in the Chateau,

it followed the Master and a few of the Livery received invitations from Marquis & Marchioness of Salisbury to Luncheon to mark the occasion of the twinning of Hatfield with Villandry, and at the same time a planting of 4 Mulberry trees (*Morus Nigra*) similar to those planted in France was undertaken & a plaque put in place to mark the moment in time. Lord & Lady Salisbury were most charming, our lunch was excellent, we were shown over the House - it was a very personal occasion, we were acutely aware how much the House, with its paintings & memorabilia, together with the Salisburys' are so much part of this country's historic background.

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WINDLESHAM GOLF CLUB, Bagshot, SURREY. 1995.

Past Master David Hohnen, is a member of this Club, and lives nearby in Windlesham, it was his idea that he would like to present fruit trees on behalf of the Fruiterers Golfing Society in November 95 to which Rowland agreed he would be happy to officiate. Therefore 6 Malus & 6 Ornamental Cherry trees together with a plaque were presented to the Club, the club General Manager/Secretary expressed his gratitude on the Club's behalf. The weather wasn't brilliant as one would expect in November - but the day was our Chaplain, The Rev.Cannon Nigel Abbott blessed the trees, and we then adjourned for lunch which was of high standard. I would like to mention before closing - David undertook the total expenses of the day including the

trees and plaque.

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KELMSCOTT MANOR. Lechlade, GLOUCESTERSHIRE. 1995.

The whole atmosphere and setting for this planting - with this traditional local stone built Manor House, - its Mullioned windows, set in the apex of the adjoining counties, on this frosty morning with light snow in early December, were in itself so unique, aside from the romantic connotations - it was the one time shared manor of William Morris & Rossetti, where so many ideas were expressed & Art & Design fulfilled. Sir Rowland by connection & his involvement with the William Morris Trust, knew John Cherry of the Dept: of Mediaeval & Later Antiquaries (British Museum) a Director with the Trust, both proceeded to plant an apple tree, - AMERICAN MOTHER - as we thought, having in mind our visit to America earlier in the year. When the planting & speeches were completed we then adjourned to the Barn for very Country style lunch which was enjoyed by all. We were then invited for a conducted view of the House, containing as it does so many treasures of Morris & Rossetti - we suddenly realised the care & restorative patience that must have gone into its present condition. This was a fitting end to Rowland's planting year, starting as it did at Charleston (The Bloomsbury Group) and ending with their Victorian predecessors - for whom in some way one could say the later had become their disciples 1995 had, in many ways been a vintage year.

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1996.

HEVER CASTLE. Nr Edenbridge KENT      14<sup>th</sup> June 1996.

1996 was Michael Tanguy's year as Master. In 1995 Hever Castle was selected Garden of the Year - It would appear we are one year behind in our plantings - for agreement and arrangements have to be made. The Master decided that he would like a dual arrangement for at the time of the planting he would also hold his Summer Function. It turned out as a most successful arrangement for it was a superb English Summer's day - and the setting was ideal. The Livery were splendid in their support and the turn out for Lunch (which was excellent) was 68 included the owners Mr & Mrs John Guthrie.

Now to the planting Michael & Mr Guthrie planted a tree each - a CHARLES ROSS (Apple) & a MULBERRY tree. The owners were setting up new Orchard - we agreed to present them with a with a further 6 trees late in the year - these to be :-  
apples.

BLENHEIM

NEWTON WONDER

GREENSLEEVES

RIBSTON PIPPIN

ELLISON

KENT

The Castle and Gardens are well worth a visit for anyone passing in this area -  
we all thoroughly enjoyed our day.

In January 1996 Michael Tanguy sat in the Master's Chair and his wife Elizabeth was our Lady for the year. Mike has been a personal friend for years - even before he came into the Livery - in fact we entered in the same year, so Ro & I knew this was going to be a special year.

HORTICULTURAL RESEARCH INTERNATIONAL. EAST MALLING. Kent.  
1996

Let me start by saying the Livery have strong ties with the HRI which in its field is "second to none". Unfortunately the Master - Michael was unable to be present on this day the 5<sup>th</sup> of June when the Fruiterers Awards Council were holding one of their meetings. Past Master Alan Todd, who chaired the Committee, and is a Trustee of the Institute - stood in for Michael & took care of the placing of the plaque, - The Worshipful Company presented the HRI with a selection of CONCORDE & CONFERENCE Pear trees, which as mark of respect to their office, were planted by two Past Masters Lewis & Mack. - in a very special demonstration garden in the grounds. Following the ceremony - a light Buffet lunch was taken in the Institutes Reception Area giving those gathered for the day an opportunity to exchange greetings, ideas and knowledge.

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THE CHANNEL ISLANDS. GUERNSEY & SARK. July 1996.

I now mention that our Master - Michael, is a Guernseyman, Elizabeth also is from the Islands. It was fitting therefor that during his year of Office plantings should be arranged in these lands. Over 40 Livery members & their wives attended these functions - and we assembled at Moores Hotel, in St Peter Port, Guernsey, for our "Meet & Greet" on the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> of July - to outline for all the programme of the next few days. On the morrow Michael had arranged that our planting would take place at Government House, in the presence of the Governor General & his wife - Sir John & Lady Cowerd. The Worshipful Company had presented 2 APPLE trees I CHERRY, and a MULBERRY tree, the later was dedicated to Lady Cowerd's father - Captain Gordon Taylor - and planted by her. Following the Ceremony we were all invited to an excellent buffet lunch in Government House which engendered stimulating conversation and considerable "Bonhomie".

SARK - CHANNEL ISLANDS. La Seignerie. 13<sup>th</sup> July 2000.

On the following day from Government House - we took sail from St Peter Port for the small Principality of Sark - on arriving at the Landing Stage we were transported "a la tractor" to La Seignerie, where we were greeted by the Seigneur & his wife - Mr & Mrs Beaumont. There was a heavy Sea mist but our spirits were un-dampened and the Master & Seignerie proceeded in the planting of a MULBERRY tree we had brought with us. We all then had Coffee with them - learning the history of the Island (early 16<sup>th</sup> Century) its

Constitution & Administration then bid them farewell - departing for lunch at the Hotel Aval du Creux , where as I remember, we had a very nice Seafood meal. When replete & rested, we were taken on an obligatory tour of the Island by "Horse & Cart" the mist would not lift - however our enjoyment was not marred and our vessel arrived at 6pm to return us to St Peter Port. We were left to our own relaxed devices in the evening - Ro, I, and our dear friend - the Commander Michael. RN. decided to go in search of a Restaurant serving Island seafood as a speciality and ended up at OSCARS in Fountain Street. a splendid evening but after "yarning" in the morning - much "yawning" for we were late to bed !!.

BAILIFF'S CHAMBERS, Royal Court House, St Peter Port. July 1996

On the Sunday morning the 14<sup>th</sup> we all met at the Bailiff's Chambers for drinks about noon-time when we gifted the Bailiff a CHERRY tree a STELLA - it was containerised and quite a handsome specimen. The Island's Bailiff's name is Sir Graham Dorey and his greeting was most warm & generous. Michael & Elizabeth has laid on we should have lunch at the L'Ancrese Golf Club, a most pleasant location with its sea view, before we caught our plane back to the Mainland. All together an extremely enjoyable few days away - where you learned even more about you friends.

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AUCHINCRUIVE. Ayr, Strathclyde, SCOTLAND. 1996.

When the Master, Michael, first mentioned to me that he would like to arrange for a planting to take place in the grounds of the University of Strathclyde, I have to admit I was a trifle sceptical - but it was his wish so I proceeded with the arrangements. He wanted the day on the 26<sup>th</sup> September to be open to all the Livery & their ladies. Distance is always a problem in these situations, as it was only 11 of us took up the invitation - the others do not know what a treat they missed. Three of us flew up to Prestwick where we were met by a University courtesy bus & transported to a stunning Adams House - Oswald Hall - situated in the grounds of the University. We were received by the Head of the Department of Agriculture - Professor Geoff Dixon, BSc(Hort) PhD FFI Hort Cbiol FIBiol MRPPA. I only give his full heading by way of showing you that knows his business, (in 1997 he became a member of the Livery). On arrival he had arranged that we should visit Robert Burns Cottage, in Alloway, but I will make an item of this later.

When we returned to Auchincruive we were taken to the Arboretum for the tree plantings the Company had presented the University with a selection of APPLE, PEAR, PLUM, CHERRY, & MULBERRY trees & the Master was to plant a MEDLAR for his ceremonial planting - the trees were spaced like sentinels with their backs to a local grey-stone wet wall - and looked most impressive. I have seen photographs of them 4 years on and they seem flourishing and happy in their environment - it is so rewarding when any tree grows well. We then lunched in Oswald Hall, with its elegant Adams rooms with their eighteenth century ceilings and doorways - speeches of appreciation were made by all - we were then taken on

a tour of the various Departments & the lovely Gardens - the rain just about kept off to enable us so to do. Back at 4pm for tea or coffee - to be taken back to the Airport and then to England.

ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE, Alloway, Ayr.

I said I would be back about this little treat - one is always hesitant to enthuse about what I view as “Disney presentations” but this one with its memorabilia of this unique song writer and Poet - one could take with its romantic “pinch”. The Crofters Cottage had an authentic feel about it & one warmed to - the interior obviously took on a museum character - nevertheless we have some treasured photographic records of our having been there. Personally I was captivated by the Monument his compatriots erected in his memory - I still have the vision of the Brigadoon viewed from its summit when the verses of Tam o’ Shanter came flooding back to the mind.

The whole day was a wonderful experience - one I would not of missed for “all the Tea” from wherever.

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And so that was the end of Michael & Elizabeth year of planting - thank you so much - well it wasn’t quite the end, for in January 97 on St Paul’s day when before he passed on his Office to the Master Elect - He invited Ro & I to be their special guests at the Luncheon following our annual Church Service at St Mary Abchurch, and I have a treasured Photograph of Ro receiving from Michael’s hands, a beautiful Glass Rose Bowl - engraved personally to us both for work undertaken for the Livery.

It was in January 1997 that Derek Tullett & his wife Anita took office as Master

and his Lady. Derek could be described as “someone in the City” A Company bearing his name - undertook matters of the money-market in the in the City of London - trading between TOKYO, LONDON, & NEW YORK. I do recall on an occasion visiting his trading rooms in New Broad Street, finding it festooned with monitors & illustration boards - showing millions of Pounds, Dollars, and Yen, moving between the various trading markets - and that was early morning. Now to set out his years planting programme

ATHELHAMPTON. DORSET. 1997.

Athelhampton was the lovely home of the late Jenny du Cann wife of Sir Edward, & fittingly the Livery wanted to plant a White Mulberry tree in the beautiful gardens surrounding the Family home. Having first spoken to Edward about the idea and finding him to be enthusiastic I then approached Jenny’s son Patrick Cooke, who administrates the family seat, he similarly enthused to the idea. So we chose a day in April when the family could be present – Edward, Jenny’s daughter, Louise and Jenny’s sister Dianna who came up from Romsey in Hampshire. The day was open to all the Livery – it was sunny, jolly, and very intimate. We passed the ceremonial spade to the Master who in turn let the family put a spade full of earth around the WHITE MULBERRY strategically placed – centre of an arc of other trees. We then adjourned to the house for social drinks and chatter followed by an excellent lunch. The House built in 1485 boasts 5 ghosts & a secret passage !! Jenny was once heard to say “ It’s an absolute Godsend if someone tiresome comes down the drive” It was used for the Film SLEUTH with the leading actors Laurence Olivier & Michael Caine taking part. It wasn’t a matter of saying good-bye to Jenny – but rather Hi for one still felt her presence.

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CHATEAU MOUTON ROTHSCHILD. PAULLAC, BORDEAUX, FRANCE 1997

Our Master, Derek, had many interesting contacts at home and abroad, one of whom being Douglas Morton – a Director of Baron Philippe de Rothschild (UK) Ltd. They had discussed between them the possibility of planting two trees on behalf of the Livery on the Chateau Estate of the Baroness Philippine de Rothschild when approached she was delighted by the proposal – we then instructed the Clerk to approach members of the Livery for a finding of interest – as a result 20 members with their wives, travelled to Bordeaux commencing on the 12<sup>th</sup> & returning on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 97. It all took much organisation & method, undertaken by the Clerk with the precision of a Military man. The Party split into two, the main staying at the Chateau Lascombes (where we all assembled and dined on the evening the principal guest being Douglas Morton – the Master's friend of old. We imbibed in generous glasses of Bordeaux wine of certain & specific vintage, - quite a heady occasion. On the morning following, we assembled for a conducted tour of the Vineyard - then into the Cellars where the wine is processed, I can still recall the heavy aroma of Tanning.

Then we planted the trees - the purpose for which we came. First the MULBERRY Tree ( the Roman connection) planted on the Estate with its attendant plaque Then to the Baroness Phillipine's private garden to plant the MEDLER tree (with its connotations of Joan of Arc) Phillipine seemed so to enjoy the moment which is recorded in our album - with her charm she invited us all to have lunch with her in the Chateau ( an extremely "French cuisine" – a delight to the palate) the wine 1971 vintage. She then presented us with a souvenir of our visit – a paper weight in the shape of Wine Bung , bearing

the name Chateau Rothschild and its Coat of Arms containing as it does – two Scottish Rams heads. I must say though my lingering memory of the visit is the Museum of Wine Art with its many objet d’art of elegant quality. The Baron Phillippe , commissioned prominent Artist of the period to design Wine labels, a different Artist every year to define the vintage – and these were displayed in a frame – a fascinating work of Art in itself . We were 20 in number and were each given a book of “Paintings for the Labels” quite a treasured possession. And that was Bordeaux.

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IRONBRIDGE. TELFORD, SHROPSHIRE 1997.

Our Master – Derek – is also a Trustee of the Ironbridge Development Trust, thus we found ourselves in Shropshire on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 97. The Master asked that I should contact the Curator of the Museum and set up the visit during his year of office. A new Curator had just been appointed a Mr David DeHann and we settled on American Independence Day for the occasion. The reader will no

doubt appreciate that Bordeaux was too far for Ro to travel – but she was determined to come North to Shropshire a county we had always admired – it also gave an opportunity to specifically to invite Members of the Livery who were resident in this part of England to attend a ceremony on their “own ground” so to speak. It was in Ironbridge where the Industrial Revolution “took off” and Abraham Darby 111 cast the first Iron Bridge in 1779, he being third in line of a family of iron-masters bearing the same name, the process was kept a close family secret & to this day no details of it are known. The area is also famous for the beautiful Coalport porcelain – the workshops where it was originally made now are a Museum. The situation of the town with the reaches of the River Severn wending its way through the wooded banks gives an appealing value to our English countryside. Now to the planting – the site chosen was outside of the lovely Georgian Houses the family had erected over that period and were now set out in the form of a Museum - they were impressively situated overlooking the valley. The Master & a fellow trustee & one time Lord Mayor of London, Sir Peter Gadsden, GBE (Chairman) proceeded to plant a WHITE MULBERRY tree and our records contain a Photograph of the Party present. After a tour of the houses and a short lecture by the Curator we adjourned for a Buffet Lunch before departing - all agreeing it had been a very interesting day & at a future date we would all wish to return.

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THE WHITGIFT SCHOOL, HALING PARK, South Croydon, CR2 6YT.

Derek having been a pupil of the school & his three sons to follow, felt he would like to mark his year as Master of the Livery with a planting at

his old school , particularly as he was the Chairman of the Old Whitgiftian association that year. The School's history goes back to 1596 when the then Archbishop of Canterbury Whitgift, founded the school although it was not opened until 1600. Our party including the Master's wife Anita, were welcomed by Mr Mike Gibbons 2<sup>nd</sup> Master, we then proceeded to the mound facing the Main Gates to plant a MULBERRY tree where we were joined by some of the Students to experience the Ceremony and the addresses given by the Master & Mr Gibbons. Then followed an excellent lunch, so I am given to understand, for unfortunately I was feeling rather "grotty" on the day - making attendance to bring the Ceremonial Spade & Plaque and record happening. There was a Rugby match to follow lunch – the School convincingly beating their guests St Dunstons - again which I would have liked to have seen. All in all a successful day for the Sun blessed us by shining as well.

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LEEDS CASTLE.NR MAIDSTONE, KENT. 1997 Mark 2.

Our Summer Court Dinner was held here – the principal guest being the Rt Hon, The Lord Mayor of London (Alderman Sir Roger Cork) who was Unable to attend our Annual Banquet in February of that year. Reports of the evening were very favourable & it was recorded as a success. The reason for my inclusion of this item being the opportunity to present the Leeds Castle Foundation with an addition to our previous gift of apple trees

in 1989 with a further 3 Kentish varieties namely:-

KENT MALLING 1974. GREENSLEEVES 1966 & FALSTAFF (New)

Those of the Livery and members of the Public who have not as yet visited Leeds Castle, would be well advised of a visit for it is quite unique in its presentation, unfortunately Ro and I had to miss this occasion, she was suffering a nasty attack of Arthritis, but we knew the place well from previous visits.

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THE INNER TEMPLE GARDENS,LONDON. EC4. 1997

It was as far back as February 1994 that His Hon. Judge Donald Cryan Mentioned to me – it would be a nice idea if we could arrange a planting in the Gardens (Donald at the time was a prominent QC.) He suggested I should write to The Rt Hon Sir Ian Percival.QC. (who incidentally was to be Master of the Gardeners in that year) the Gardeners & ourselves are considered to be Sister Companies having received our Charters in almost identical years. Sir Ian was called abroad on Court matters and subsequently was unwell, which delayed any prospect of an early planting but he confirmed the Courts were “sold on the idea”. The Planting ultimately took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1997. The day was quite bleak and a cold wind blew up the Thames – but this did not dampen the enthusiasm of the Livery & the assembled Honourable Judges who with the Master planted a resplendent FIG TREE – It was truly a fine tree festooned with Figs – and a plaque was placed by its side, recording the date, the Master, and the amity existing between the Livery & the Honourable Society of The Inner Temple. We were then invited into the Sanctum of the Inner Temple and partook of

a sumptuous tea. It was a privileged moment and together with the Environ made one aware of the dignity and respect for the Law that exists in our country.

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SUDELEY CASTLE.WINCHCOMBE,GLOUCESTERSHIRE,1997.

Sudeley Castle,15 miles NE of Cheltenham was chosen (Garden of the Year)1996/7 and it was to have been a Company Visit in September of that year. For some it was aborted – which was really quite a shame, two years prior Ro & I had undertaken a “Recky” visit for we felt it had the suitability for a planting sometime in the future. It seems our assessment was borne out by others, namely the Historic Houses Assoc;/Christies. The planting of PEAR TREES was undertaken ultimately in December by Liveryman William Sibley “grafter extraordinaire” with the Castle’s Head Gardener Ian Billet, the Master being unable to be present with Business commitments on the day. This was the last planting of the Year 1997.

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1998 was a particularly interesting & valued year for me, to find Tony Redsell installed as Master and Jill by his side as 1<sup>st</sup> Lady. I had always looked on Tony in a special way – and to call them both friends – valuable. One knew the year would have his brand of significance, change was “in the air”, his integrity would handle all problems and it would prove to be an exciting year, the planting programme proved to be no exception.

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK. 1998.

What a way for Tony to start his year !! Permission was obtained for a planting to take place with Her Majesty at Wood Farm (the favoured retreat of her Great Grandfather Edward the Seventh) on the Sandringham Estate. The Livery presented the Queen & The Duke of Edinburgh with a selection of Fruit trees to mark the Anniversary of their Golden Wedding. Twentysix Liverymen with Jill Redsell & the Clerk were invited to the ceremony, the planted trees were:-

DAMSON 2 CHERRIES (SUNBURST –STELLA) WHITE MULBERRY

The ceremonial planting by the Queen and the Master was a BLACK  
MULBERRY.

TO FOLLOW A GOLDEN BULLACE.

The wording on the plaque bearing the Company Arms :-

These fruit trees were presented by  
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FRUITERERS  
to Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth 11 and  
His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh  
To mark their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

Planted by Her Majesty The Queen and the Master Mr Anthony Redsell

On the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1998.

The ceremony having been completed we returned to the Farmhouse - when a basket of Fruit was presented - similar to the one given by Past Master Bobby Manners to the Queen in 1972 when he was Master of the Livery.

The Queen & the Duke moved amongst their Guests, the atmosphere being most relaxed -the Queen was most naturally charming and “chatty”. In the Fireplace there was a roaring log fire – drinks were served – we could not have asked for anything more convivial. On the departure of Her Majesty and His Royal Highness – we too could depart and we made for lunch at the Farmers Arms Inn nearby. It was a day of brilliant Sunshine matching completely this unusual event. When I came to have the day recorded on our ceremonial Spade - I had the engraver place an Imperial Crown above the inscription :-

1999 H M Queen Elizabeth

Sandringham Norfolk.

Will Sibley has been back recently to arrange a replacement of a tree that failed and reported the Black Mulberry is flourishing nicely.

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CHATHAM MARITIME, CHATHAM, KENT. St George’s Day 1998.

Personally I have such a warm aura of memory about this planting - it was the second planting of the Master’s year, and Tony & Jill wanted as many of the Livery to be invited as possible. This meant a considerable amount of letter writing ( for in the early days I would always write personal letter to Livery Members & their wives most of whom we knew & were friends)

The major programme and organization was undertaken with my friend David Homewood with whom I served on a Livery Committee (He was Chairman at the time) we first spoke on the matter back in 1994, when he was considerably involved in the development going on in this Medway Town. As our Master, Tony was a “Man of Kent” he readily gave his approval to the project –and David’s involvement made my work easier – with the contacts, maps, and directions, & area knowledge he gave me. On the day & hour appointed, we assembled and left our cars outside Prince Regent House, where-in we took Morning Coffee, & were welcomed by Sir Idris Pearce (Chairman of the Medway Towns Council) who then gave a short talk on the Dockyard’s history & current development. Then it was away for the planting. David had “laid-on” a Coach to take us on our journey of the day through the complexity of the sites we were to visit. The first being the planting site on St Mary’s Island - The Master Tony Redsell proceeded to plant on behalf of the Company a WHITE MULBERRY tree and presented Sir Idris with a plaque bearing our “Arms” made a short address - & then stood aside to allow a further 7 plantings of fruit trees mainly DAMSONS & “KENTISH COBS” (set in the shape of a horseshoe around our Mulberry) also presented by our Company. The Knights, The Mayor of the Medway Towns, administrators of the Chatham Maritime, and the local M.P. who unfortunately was called abroad on the day (I had to stand in for him) had brass plaques, which I understand from David were to be placed with ours on a central stand. It seemed a right and proper thing to be doing – planting trees on St George’s day. Then we returned to our Coach & were taken to the 450 year old Dockyard (where Nelson’s HMS VICTORY had been built) to view the Museums, which we found

to be extremely interesting and instructive, - all young boys & girls should have this outing. - Then for a light lunch at the “Wheelwrights restaurant” an unpretentious place but it seemed so full of atmosphere – one expected some of Nelson’s “tars” to come through the entrance at any moment !! Yes we were tired, - but rewarded & most satisfied with the smooth way we had covered so much in just 4 hours, in such happy company.

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FYFFES. PORTSMOUTH & BASINGSTOKE. HAMPSHIRE 1998.

Regrettably my notes on this planting have gone AWOL but I feel confident I have good memories of assistance & hospitality given to our Master & those of the Livery attending on this day. My good friend Ian Rainford & I discussed on an occasion the idea of visiting organisation connected with the Fruit Industry - and Fyffes (a big name in Bananas) came to mind. I opened negotiations initially with Dr Lawrence Swann – a Director of the operation in Dundalk south of Dublin. He was interested in the idea that the Livery should plant a tree at their Headquarters at Basingstoke, subsequently referring me to an extremely personable & helpful young man Paul Barrett – from there Paul chose the date of 10<sup>th</sup> June - arranging first a visit to the Portsmouth Docks to visit one of their vessels the CANTERBURY STAR in which Fyffes shipped the Bananas from the Caribbean. We went all over the Ship – into the holds – up onto the Bridge then I’m not sure if it was the Captain’s Cabin – but it was a form of Lounge for Coffee & biscuits – the vessel has certain Passenger accommodation which we viewed with interest. Then on to Basingstoke, where we were greeted by a

Company Director, David Bagshaw, and following a Buffet Lunch, Paul, gave a short lecture on the history of Fyffes and the banana trade. It was interesting to hear how bananas were introduced into this country by Sailors bringing them home for their sweethearts in Liverpool & Bristol - they liked them thus they entered our food chain !! Apparently bananas in the first growth are straight it is the flower at their tip seeking the sunshine that gives them the curved shape. The Master Tony & Mr Bagshaw proceeded with planting then – between Showers to plant the BLACK MULBERRY tree we had brought with us. We then left

but not before receiving a small porcelain sweet dish commemorating the opening of the Depot & Head Quarters in December 1996. a Hardback book on Fyffes history including the first commercial cargo of bananas from Jamaica in 1901 on ss Port Morant. Needless to say in the carrier-bag was a large “hand” of bananas. Before closing – one strong impression I was left with was the cleanliness of the Store & Ripening Rooms even we were clothed in white coats and hats (I still have mine) and cleaning & polishing machines were “on the go” all the time together with the careful grading and packaging. I hope that says it all but I know there is a lot more I must have left out. I just like a organization that runs a project such as The Superschools Experience visiting over 4000 schools in the last decade, encouraging the children to adopt a healthier lifestyle.

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CANTERBURY. CATHEDRAL The Precincts, KENT. 1998.

Our Master Tony Redsell telephoned me one evening back in 97 telling me how he would particularly like to plant a tree at Canterbury in his year – in the Cathedral grounds if possible followed by lunch to be taken at his & Jill’s home @ Nash Court in Boughton, Kent. I wrote to the Dean, The Very Reverend John A.Simpson – who replied he would be delighted to receive a Fruit tree and Plaque from the Livery. he felt it would be unwise to plant the tree in the Public grounds, with its average intake of two million visitors a year, but there would be space in the Deanery garden, where in fact trees had been donated by individuals and outside organisations. So all was “in train” for the planting to take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> July. All those familiar with Canterbury are aware of the parking problems. The Dean’s Secretary, Mrs Prior, was so helpful, & it was arranged we should drive our cars through the Mint Yard Gate, into the Precincts & park outside the Deanery. Coffee was prepared and waiting for us - when the Dean joined us – such a charming & relaxed person – he led us into this truly English garden – a sanctuary if ever one wanted to find one – under the azure sky and morning sun, the colours of the lawns & summer flowers were resplendent. The Dean & Master proceeded then with the planting which on this occasion was a MEDLAR the choice of the Very Reverend. We were blessed with the presence of our Honorary Chaplain The Reverend Canon Nigel Abbott and his wife Elizabeth, Nigel appears to know everyone in Church circles – I am under his instruction.!!! .

The Ceremony completed we were then “off & away” to Faversham &

Nash Court. The Master & Jill had created the day into our Summer Function having erected a marquee in the grounds, before taking lunch we were invited into a wing of the house, where Tony's mother Mrs Redsell, Senior, hosted a reception which gave us all an opportunity of circulating, and interchanging ideas & feelings of how the day had gone. The Reverend Dr John Simpson was the honoured guest, I am sure I would like to pay more personal homage to the day – in brief thought I can only say the bonhomie, the ambience, the cuisine – mainly may I say prepared by Jill's own hands – was beyond compare, then for the final Cherry on the cake – as Tony is one of the prima Cherry growers in the Country - we had bowls of cherries “Stella's & Hertford's” (grown in his own orchards) to complete the meal and the day. Thank you Tony and Jill it was truly “Spot on”

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WALMER CASTLE, NR DEAL, KENT. 1998

The Cinque Ports have always been of interest to me – and one morning I awoke thinking why don't I write to the Constable/Curator of Walmer Castle, enquiring their interest in a planting ?. This I did, having no idea how the matter progress – this was back in July 97. At one time I was a member of an exclusive club in London – The Oriental. One of our founder members was Arthur Wellesley.1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Wellington and in our Library a magnificent collection of almost every book to be written on the subject of the sub-continent, I had remembered reading the great

“Iron Duke” had died there, no doubt at the time he was Lord Warden.

In addition I also knew Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother was currently The Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, at the time having no idea she would grace us with her presence and actually plant a tree. The row of defensive Castles were built for the defence of the Realm by

Henry V111. including the Bastion of Dover Castle. Our Master Tony enthused about the idea - having commenced his year with Sandringham and the Queen – to conclude his planting with the Queen Mother – seemed so appropriate and had an exquisite balance. Our Clerk, Lionel got busy

and contacted Clarence House - the Queen Mother’s equerry, Captain Sir Alistair Aird to tidy up all appropriate arrangements and protocol.

At this stage I would like thank all those with whom I had correspondence & telephone calls, namely – Sir Alistair Aird, Jonathan Kinghorn, Tracy Wadhan, Mrs Lynne Stanford-Taylor, and not least Richard Squires, the

Head Gardener who was so helpful. The Queen Mother decided she would like to add to her existing Orchard 6 Kentish Apples, on M26 rootstock, on the day I know we planted 3

KENT 74 GREENSLEAVES 66. FALSTAFF New,

To follow

SUNTAN TYDEMANS LATE ORANGE JUPITER.

Now to the day of the planting 11<sup>th</sup> July– unfortunately numbers on a occasions of this nature are restricted and our party numbered but 20.

The Queen Mother flew in by Helicopter on the morning – we all assembled in the Orchard at the back of the Kitchen Garden & stood

in line for the Master to introduce us individually to this charming lady, when it came to moment for her to take the ceremonial spade and plant soil on her tree she said “ I usually go one, two, three.” taking small portions of earth and placing them on the spot. Apparently she loves planting trees.

We were then invited to join Her Majesty in her Private Garden ( presented to her by English Heritage) for drinks and easy conversation. The Garden is full of charm, with its lawns, a waterpiece, & topiary, and flowers in the borders – her favourite blue. I seem to recall that “Pims” was much in evidence suiting that Summer day. The Chairman of our Presentation of Fruit, presented a Basket of mixed fruits, and Henry Bryant – a “chip” of his finest Cherries, the Queen Elizabeth was “well Pleased”

I am sure we all have recollections of our particular conversations with the “Queen Mum” but I can only answer for Ro and mine.

But firstly I must retrace steps for a moment. Ro and I were collected in the morning for our journey into Kent by our friends in the Livery Tim & Gill Bullivant, who also live in Surrey – it was a brilliant sunlit morning and as we drove by Dover Castle looking such a brave sight - I remarked “this would be a super place for a planting in the Millennium.” I mention this here, for when talking with Her Majesty, I raised the question with her after all it was one of the Castles in her care, and if she could be there on her “100<sup>th</sup>” year that would be splendid. Quite characteristically

She put her fingers to her lips and smiling, remarked, “we must wait and see – if I’m still here” To which we chorused “without doubt you will be”

Ro discussed domestic matters with the Queen Mother in a way she would have done with her own mother. I had a personal recollection of my own

I told her how I happened to be down in the East-end of London, after a particularly heavy German bombing raid in 1942 – when she & her husband King George were doing a “walk-about” I told how moral boosting it was for those poor suffering people –and how they seemed to take comfort & confidence from the visit her sincere reply was “ it was as nothing to what they gave to us”

With regard to Dover it was not possible to arrange for the year 2000 –

But it will come to pass in 2001 when Hugh & Caroline Kelsey will be

in Office

Our Learned Clerk had arranged for us to have

Luncheon at a very nice Restaurant in Deal by name Dunkerley’s where we all enjoyed a fine repast..

So we turn to a New Year. Since commencing my duties of

the Tree Plantings – I have always thought of myself as (what

I care to call) an Orchardteer. placing or arranging for trees to

be placed in orchards like Guardsmen, a brave sight. Covering

the years of my appointment has given me the opportunity of

getting to know the Officers of the Livery quite well – particularly

the Upper & Renter Wardens coming through to their years as

Master.

This introduction is played as an Overture for the

main Acts of Donald & Pam Cryan’s year in the Chair. I thought

of them as “Legal Beavers” – for they were both Q.C.’s when Donald entered the Worshipful Company – now of course he is - His Honour Judge Donald Cryan.

Disaster struck me in this year in February, when my wife Ro was taken from me - but of course life must go on - The Master, Donald and Pam were simply marvellous in their caring, support, and understanding, it was their help, working together on projects (which I will now unfold) that gave purpose to the continuity. They are a couple completely “out of the Top Drawer”

CHEQUERS. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 1999.

No doubt it was from the connections given to the Legal Profession and the fact both Pam & Cherie Blair are both “Silks”, that the Master’s wish to start his year with a planting a Chequers took “root” We had of course previously planted a Fig tree in the Inner Temple gardens with Donald’s assistance as I have previously mentioned. Obviously there was much communication going on between the Master, Pam, & Cherie Blair, and after much “to-ing & fro-ing” a date was fixed for the 6<sup>th</sup> March 99 for the Master, his Wardens, and a party of the Livery totalling 20 in number were invited to Chequers to plant a MULBERRY tree a gift together with a plaque of the Worshipful Company. I think the germ of the idea developed from back in 1991 when the IRA fired a rocket into No 10 Downing Street which landed in the garden, destroying

amongst other plants – a fruit tree. I am sure in common with many other English men & women I took this personally, so on the Company's behalf I wrote to the Prime Minister, John Major – offering a replacement tree – namely a crimson-red Cherry by name “Waterloo” its strain dating back to 1815. I had a reply from his secretary thanking us for our kind offer but the matter would be passed to the Royal Parks Department DOE.

Of course the matter proceeded no further. No 10 obviously could be difficult – thus the Prime Minister's lady suggested “why not Chequers?” So much for background.

Security at Chequers is a top priority – but the assistance I received from Ken Stacey was so helpful, he is the Chartered Surveyor, Secretary & Local Agent, to give him his full title, it was necessary that he should know who would be coming, how they would be coming, if in cars, them names of those in the cars, Reg: Nos: makes, & colours.

Liveryman Sibley, had delivered the trees prior to the visit , the Mulberry and a selection of Cooking Apples for the Orchard ( I still have to find out

those varieties?!) William had a very amusing story he learned from the Estate Head Gardener regarding a planting undertaken by the Russian President Yeltsin in John Major's Premiership – for most visiting Premiers or Heads of State are invited so to do, but I feel I cannot do justice to the way he tells the tale – you will have to ask him !,

We reversed our proceedings on this on this cold & inclement day, by taking lunch early rather than after the Ceremony, the Hostelry chosen for Lunch was the nearby Bernard Arms where the fare was most welcomed

and fortifying, and needless to say the company most cordial.

We had our instructions regarding the entry into Chequers, & I am pleased to say the surveillance and security appeared most efficient the officers were armed & careful in our establishing who we were. I distinctly recall seeing Police Landrovers strategically positioned on the landscape – we were under careful observation. We drove up to the main entrance, where Cherie Blair was waiting on the front steps to greet & welcome us. Then we proceeded through a side way to the selected & carefully chosen spot for the MULBERRY to spread its roots – the planting was a joint affair for the Master wanted Cherie, and her three children to have a hand in the firming-in of the tree, and had asked me to see that the children's names were mentioned on the plaque which will stand by the tree. It was jolly cold – and our hostess then invited us into Chequers warmth & comfort for tea – I can still taste éclairs. The main drawing room was pretty impressive with its high Ceiling and inviting décor. Cherie then gave us yet another treat –

she took us on a conducted tour of the house, my personal recollections being of a Elizabethan Ring – A death mask of Cromwell, a pair of his swords, a saddle bag and note book of Napoleon. There was so much of our country's history there – it was with difficulty I had to prise myself away. Donald & Pam presented me with a fabulous book on the History of Chequers written by Norma Major – that lady's input into research & fascinating rapport with its heritage makes wonderful reading.

I can only close with the thought on this day - how privileged and

in a way humbled one feels being given the opportunity of walking  
in our forefathers footsteps.

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IFORD MANOR, BRADFORD-ON-AVON, WILTSHIRE. 1999.

Iford Manor was chosen Garden of the Year by Christies & the Historical Houses Association with whom we formed an agreement we would be pleased to donate fruit trees to their Orchards in the year of their accolade, thus it pleased the Master to create an open day to the Livery for those wishing to visit this unique Garden in Wiltshire. The current owners are the Cartwright-Hignett's on our arrival we were greeted Mrs Elizabeth Cartwright-Hignett and taken into the House for coffee & biscuits, and general chatter before climbing steeply the garden to the site the Master and Elizabeth were to plant one of the PEAR trees namely (IMPROVED FERTILITY) a fruit Orchard was in the process of being created and the Worshipful Company were Assisting - it was a pity the weather was rather indifferent on the morning.

In 1899 the garden site was acquired by Harold Ainsworth Peto who transformed it into a fantastic sloping terraced garden from a considerable height to a stream nestling in the valley below – resembling in some way how the Romans created gardens on the coastline of Italy. During the War years the estate fell into a state of disrepair, and beside the owners much credit has to be given to the Head Gardener Mr Leon Butler, who with dedication has done much to restore it to its current splendour. We of course had a conducted tour of the grounds wherein we found (what I would describe) as a Temple, where they hold performances

of Opera – they are intimate - for the numbers of audience are quite restricted in view of the limited size of the building

After the Planting we made our way to the village of Norton St Philip - which is about 3 miles away from Iford, to the George Inn a building of great antiquity – some of our party stayed overnight at this Hostelry so they were near at hand for the morning start, We partook of an extremely pleasant meal before our departure homeward.

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MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA, & THE BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON.

D.C. U.S of A. 1999.

Our Master – Donald first laid plans for an American visit as far back as July 1996 when I recall our first discussion on the subject – for then he knew he would be coming forward – and by the year 1999 he would be the Master. The Master is a constant visitor to the States – I was able to tell him that Ro & I had visited Mount Vernon with our American friends on a couple of occasions and how impressed we had been – after all it was almost a National Monument, so when the matter was “put on the table” I was more than enthusiastic – I asked my friend in Virginia to round up as much data as he could on the subject – he obliged. George Washington and the way he had used his lifespan, had always been Icon to me and Donald’s project of replacing the Orchard as it existed in the year of his

death in 1799 gave me a feeling of joy – we were putting back a “status quo” for Washington – who loved Mount Vernon so much. His dream throughout all of his campaigns – was getting back to Mount Vernon. Most of the original Orchard comprised from stock of English origin, and thanks to our friend William with his help and the National Fruit trials at BROGDALÉ we were able to trace nearly all of them. We were controlled by the strict rules governing the importing of trees from outside of the United States, they would have to use their own Root-stock but would be delighted to receive our Stick-buds which could be grafted – to this end William paid a later visit to “graft” and instruct others in his personal expertise in the craft. As far as my memory allows me I will now try and recall some of the salient moments of this very special event:

Some of us made our own travel arrangements – Our Clerk with his usual Military precision set up the itinerary for the visit, and the first place for our Party’s congregating was at the Canterbury Hotel, Washington, where the Majority of the folks were staying. Commander Styles (our previous Clerk) Michael, Sir Rowland & Lady Whitehead had booked into a Hotel in Capitol Heights which meant a journey into Washington Centre. On the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> October a “meet & greet” was being held in the “lobby” of the Canterbury Hotel. My particular memory was struggling out of a yellow Cab with spade, stick, raincoat, & plaques, tripping and nearly coming to grief on the “sidewalk”. Proceedings were under way, my eyes fell upon the Clerk who I asked if he would relieve me of the accoutrement relating to the proposed plantings – he was really so busy – he was unable to assist – this is where “Brave” William again stepped forward “don’t worry John – I will take charge of the Spade for you” which he did for the whole of the

ensuing proceedings. There will be a footnote to this which will unfold later.

The Master's American friends – Eric & Harriet Fraunfelter, had put a tremendous amount of work in organising interesting events for our visit and Eric was explaining some of the procedure. I think we dined at the Hotel that evening before making our way back to our own bedchambers.

The morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> was “free time”. We four breakfasted, and then my friend Alan Kerr ( who had motored up from Vienna, Virginia) collected us and took us on a conducted tour of Washington City, which he knew so well having been a high official in the Pentagon, I seem to recall we also went to Alexandria & Georgetown, maybe to do some “booze” shopping at

incredibly accommodating prices. I know Michael RN's eyes seemed to light up with his morning's purchases. The whole of this trip seemed to go like “clockwork”. We lunched a place known to Al , before he took us to & put us down at the:

BRITISH EMBASSY, WASHINGTON. D.C. 1999

It was a gorgeously sunny as we passed security and entered the Embassy Grounds – to be greeted by the British Ambassador Sir Christopher & Lady Meyer – introductions having been made – we were given a talk by the head Gardener, a New-Zealander, Kerry Blockley, from the steps in front of the magnificent Portico of the Embassy building, designed by Lutyens – together with the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, both masterpieces. It is interesting to note that he studied with Harold Peto, previously mentioned for his ownership & designer of the garden at Iford Manor. With Kerry we then toured the gardens with their sweeping lawns together with the colourful flowerbeds -quite captivating. Now

for the purpose of the visit – the Master & Ambassador planted the tree, the wording of the plaque was the following;

The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers.

This medlar tree was planted on 8<sup>th</sup> October 1999 by the Master, His Honour Judge Donald Cryan to mark the Company's visit to the Residence on that day.

Speeches on both sides having been delivered, Sir Christopher & Lady Meyer invited us into the House, we then had a delectable tea – the interior of the house complimented its exterior perfectly. I was taken by the Grand Piano, on the top of which were countless framed photographs of the century's British Prime Ministers. The Embassy walls contained a variety of most excellent paintings and the rooms had a Je-ne-sais-Quoi – one carries in the memory. Regrettably we said our farewells.

After that one would have thought the rest of the day may have been an anti-climax - not so. Our Renter Warden, Anthony Turnbull, invited some of our number to join he & Petronel, his lady wife, for Dinner at a club in Washington, called the Cosmos Club, with whom a club of his in London had reciprocity. We enjoyed an excellent dinner and much chatter – it was a fine evening and most of the party disappeared into the garden – Petronel & I found ourselves left in the lounge where we talked quietly of England and the day's events. There was another matter about the club that interested me – apparently there were some quite influential members who met weekly(monthly) having most concerned discussions about what was going on in the World & its effect on mankind – and where it fell within

their power – try to assist in or remedy some of the problems. That was the completion of the day.

I should mention however, in the Morning some of our Group arranged to visit The National Gallery of Art, when Jenny Bartlett took some fine Photographs & reported on the happening – they had a conducted tour of the Chinese Archaeology exhibition – including a room filled with some of the terracotta soldiers. They were also impressed in seeing a newly planted Sculpture garden containing a single dimensional 3-D effect house by Roy Liechenstein, amongst other sculptures.

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MOUNT VERNON, VIRGINIA. U.S.A. 1999.

I spoken on the previous pages in some measure about Mount Vernon, & the Washington connection. So now I can tell you of the day, and how it came to pass. At 3.30pm on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> October we assembled at the Canterbury Hotel, in Washington, to travel by coach to Mount Vernon. On arrival the afternoon weather was not clement, the skies were overcast, and a light drizzle began to fall. We made our way through the estate to the Vegetable garden & Orchard, passing many period outbuildings on our way. We were accompanied Dean Norton, Mount Vernon's Horticulturist, who had given us an amusing and instructive talk beforehand. We explored the Kitchen garden and its interests, before proceeding to the Upper Garden, which was terraced, and where seating was arranged for the complete party of 50 - and entertainment was laid on in the form of a Wind Quintet led by

Bill Holcome, to be followed speeches from Our Master – Donald, Mrs Robert E Lee, IV., & Dean Norton, who the Master presented with an old Grafting Knife originally used by Robert Garner. We then planted the trees in due ceremony – I feel I can do no better than set out the wordings on the plaques explaining the trees and the planters :-

The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers of the City of London.

This GLOUCESTER WHITE apple tree was planted on October 9th 1999 by The Master of the Company His Hon. Judge Cryan, and the Regent Mrs Robert E. Lee IV. to commemorate the Company's part in the Restoration of gardens.

&

The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers of the City of London.

This Duke cherry tree was planted on October 9<sup>th</sup> 1999 by the Master of the Company His Hon. Judge Cryan and Justice Scalia, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, fellow Benchers of the Hon. Society of the Inner Temple, London. To commemorate the Fruiterers Company's part in the restoration of these gardens.

&

The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers of the City of London

This Pound Pear tree was planted on October 9<sup>th</sup> 1999 by the Master His Hon. Judge Cryan, and Liveryman Mrs Sheriff Pauline Halliday Sheriff

Of the City of London, to commemorate the Company's visit to Mount Vernon. Our garden reverie was followed by a promenade to the Mansion proper of Mount Vernon - where drinks, tea, & "snippets" awaited us, enabling us to move amongst those assembled on the terrace. Period chairs had been placed in a long row upon the lawns for a magnificent view of the Potomac River – which on a better day would have been quite breathtaking.

We then took our Coaches for the next venue - The Chevy Chase Club – just outside WASHINGTON. A reception & dinner had been laid on, for our guests Eric & Harriet Fraunfelter, they had both been so helpful in making our visit a memorable one, they were presented with an item of Silver to mark the occasion. It wa

fitting end to a splendid day.

On the Sunday morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> October our party, prior to their departure were invited to take Brunch at the lovely home of Eric & Harriet in Upton Street, Washington. A fitting informal close – spent with our friends in America - Carlos, and his mother and father - Margarita & Richard Kearns, & Mr & Mrs Robert E. Lee IV. Mrs R E, Lee was taken with our planting Spade, and asked if she could not have a replica? In the same way the officials at Dulles Airport were also impressed, Virgin Atlantic insisted it should return to our shores by First Class travel !! and a special Box was provided.

Both Michael, Royal Navy. & I stayed on - I to visit my friends in Virginia, to be joined by Michael at a later date, when he had completed his "Shop till you drop" expedition in the Capital, we said farewell with much regret to dear friends – to make our way homeward. God bless America.

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THE FIELDSAVE ASSOCIATION. THAMES DITTON,SURREY. 1999.

Back in 1997 the Clerk sent me some correspondence from a Past Master Michael Wallis, regarding this Association, asking if I would care to investigate the possibilities of a future planting. I opened correspondence with John

Chapman a Director of the Association to find that like minded conservationists had purchased a Reserve in Ditton Field with the purpose its protection of the Land, Flora,& Fauna to the rear of Aragon Avenue.

Our interest was engendered when we learned of the involvement of eleven Local Schools engaged in Botanic studies, Hampton Court Palace(which is Visible from the field), the Thames Landscape Strategy, Kingston University, & the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Negotiations were implemented with the Association's Chairman, Mr Philip Robinson & of course John Chapman, and with assistance of Alan Todd & William Sibley, it was agreed we would plant a Flowering Malus (John Downie) & a fruit bearing hedge, comprising of malus-sloes-nuts-service, for the purpose of attracting insects & birds. Our Master Judge Donald Cryan attended and set up the planting of the Malus – made the appropriate speech, then handed the plaque to the Association's Chairman, who replied stating their gratitude for the Worshipful Company's interest – and inviting Livery members to visit any time when we would be most welcome. Our Master Donald was well pleased with the happening, when completed we all adjourned to a local hostelry nearby "The Fox by the River" Good food, wine & beer. Thus replete, we made our homeward ways.

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ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL. LONDON. E.C.4

2000

Our Master His Hon: Judge Donald Cryan had intimated to me during the past year, his desire to undertake a planting to celebrate the Millennium.

It happened I was in the City on Livery business in the July of 99. and being near St Paul's I took the opportunity of calling at the Deanery in Ave Maria Lane – unfortunately the Dean, The Very Revd John Moses was away at the time, but his Secretary Mrs Anita Butt was most helpful, and put me in touch with Brig: Bob Acworth who dealt with administrative matters. We agreed the planting in principle, all that was left for me to do was to obtain permission from the Corporation of London's Parks & Gardens Dept, Mr Ron Froud, obtained a date was agreed for the 19th January 2000.

It was a dreary wet morning when we met the Dean on the selected spot where the FLOWERING MALUS (John Downie) was duly planted by both Master & Dean – the Plaque having already been set in place. Speeches of presentation & acceptance having been made, we escaped the weather descending into the Vaults of our famous Church for Coffee, before proceeding to the opening of:-

FRUITER'S PASSAGE – LONDON. EC.4

In company with the Lord Mayor The Rt Hon. Alderman Clive Martin and the Lady Mayoress ( they had been with us at our planting) our Master presented a Plaque recording – our Worshipful Company at one time had our Hall & Warehouses in Fruiterer's Alley which in previous times ran nearby. This official opening was a unique moment of time. We were a party of 80 at this event, including a group

from the Vintners Company – their Hall being in close vicinity – we were invited to join them in a glass or two of best champagne – we felt the project had been well and truly toasted.

Before closing this chapter there is a side note I wish personally to add.

St Paul's represented a tremendous Symbol to my late wife & I, we remembered during the War "The Blitz" both of us being Londoners & City people – what an example of courage it represented to all of us from "the Square Mile" surviving the Fire & destruction of the bombing. It was in the Gardens that I proposed to her and was accepted.

Our Master Donald & his Wife Pam, kindly performed another planting on this memorable day - in the Rose Garden. In Ro's memory. We planted a sweet smelling scarlet red rose bush – aptly named "Pride of England" with a small brass plaque stating it was in memory of Ro Dunham & presented by the Worshipful Company of Fruiterers Millennium 2000. Our close friends of Livery stood with us on this moment.

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And so we now find ourselves truly in the Millennium with a new Master Laurence Olins JP. with his dear wife Annie (from Tasmania) taking Office.

From the very beginning I knew somehow this year was going to be a “Roller-coaster” The concept of a Master having to serve as a Renter & Upper Wardens is so valuable - the periods are for preparation – at the same time giving members of the Livery an opportunity of a two year “getting to know” the individuals. So it was with Laurence - we went on many “Recky’s” together preparing his planting programme – I know he will not mind me telling you he is quite a “control freak” – he says so himself – there is no substitute for careful planning. Therefore following the magnificent Banquet & St Paul’s Day Service held this year at Greenwich in the January at their Chapel & The Painted Hall - was decided a planting would take place in the following March to take place in the grounds of Greenwich of the University.

#### THE DREADNOUGHT, GREENWICH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY. S.E.10.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> March the Master invited 15 of the existing Past Masters to join him in a group planting of WHITE MULBERRY Trees, each tree to have a marking stating the name of the Past Master who planted it. The intention being to create an avenue of trees which would be quite impressive as they proceeded in their growth.

In the seventeenth century James 1 tried to set up a Silk growing industry at Greenwich – Silkworms apparently only feed on White Mulberry – it appears the trees sold to him by the Dutch - were Black Mulberry !! Thus the industry did not take off. Perhaps I should give a little background regarding our choice of this site.

Past Master Todd & I constantly liase on matters, and it happened that Alan was down at Greenwich on one matter or another , and when we talking over the history of the location – it seemed a good idea for me

to put on my list. So in November 98 I engaged in correspondence with the National Maritime Museum – the Greenwich Liaison Manager being Mr Pieter van der Merwe - much correspondence and a few site meetings ensued at this stage I thought it was time to involve Will Sibley. William was to obtain the trees & was of course a fountain of advice – on the size, variety, and source from where they could be obtained. Greenwich being a World Heritage Site meant there was plenty of protocol to be observed. My file contains a series of site plans prepared by the Architects Dannett Johnson, showing the historic buildings and the location of all the trees & where our 15 were to be planted. Trevor Dannett was particularly helpful as was the the Curator of the University Libraries – Denis Heathcote. It was an extremely interesting Public Relations exercise with much coverage for all concerned and attended by 75 in total including invited guests - Cllr John Fahy, Mayor of Greenwich and Dr Roger Finney, Dean of Maritime Greenwich Faculty, University of Greenwich.

There are two ancient specimens of Mulberry already on the site which must be some hundred of years old by the gnarled condition characteristic of the type of tree. Before the Plantings we assembled for Coffee in the Library – and after it was arranged, a Buffet lunch in the Boardroom of the famous QUEEN ANNE building

HOOGSTRATEN. BELGIUM.

APRIL 2000.

Laurence – our Master & I had been twice to Belgium to ensure this trip and planting should not fail on small detail. The planting would take place in the sanctuary of a BEGIJNHOF situated in the heart of a small

town of HOOGSTRATEN, the Begijnhof dated back to 1340 where women could live together in such a walled enclave, a protective centre, they were free to leave to marry or remarry - it was not a Convent as such and no Holy vows or orders were taken. It features on the UNESCO “World Heritage” list. Hoogstraten is an interesting small town near the Dutch border, having considerable character – as one enters through the Main Street it contains a number of Restaurants & places to eat - the cuisine is of high quality - to ensure we would meet the requirements of the 35 members and their wives – we sampled the Noordland – a privately owned and family run – gourmet restaurant – which proved perfect on the day. Our Clerk, Lionel undertook the logistics, and booked the Hotel –Alfa Theater in ANTWERPEN – we travelled by Eurostar – some of us leaving from the terminal Waterloo – and we collected the Kentish contingent at Ashford in Kent. At the Hotel in the evening we held a Reception & dined – our Guest & speaker being Mr Leo Tindermans, the former Prime Minister of Belgium who engaged us with an amusing & interesting talk on European politics. In the morning following – we were taken to a Research Station where they undertook Auctions of Strawberries – we held our own private auction – raising £800 for our Company’s charities. After lunch at the NOORDLAND, we set off for the main purpose of the visit to plant the trees at the Begijnhof. The Master Laurence accompanied by the local Mayor undertook the ceremony of the planting of two espaliers, CONFERENCE PEAR trees, unfortunately the weather became dismal & drizzly, but did not dampen our spirits. We moved into one of the houses recently restored and used as the committees HQ for tea and other refreshments, after which we returned to the Hotel.

The evening was free for us to explore the City of Antwerp an interesting Ancient city - and dine with whom we pleased. After a guided tour on The following morning the 30<sup>th</sup> the main party left for return home by Eurostar - some of us stayed on for an extra day. I think that about covers It - quite an extensive programme - & most enjoyable.

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HARPER ADAMS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,NEWPORT, SHROPSHIRE. 2000

The File reads back to January 1998, for that was when the Master had first expressed his interest in this College, when we were together at a meeting of the Livery & Communications Committee – which at the time did not mean very much to me. Once I opened correspondence it did not take me long to realise this was going to be something special - by 1999 after many telephone conversations backed up by correspondence from Professor E Wynne Jones (Principal) , Don Findlay, & Mark Hall who manages the Estates, it was arranged with the Master we would gift them a demonstration Orchard of the following PEAR,APPLE,CHERRY,PLUM,WALNUT,PEACH, and a MULBERRY, Together with a plaque recording the Millennium and the Centenary of the College which occurs in 2001. It is intended that the Orchard will comprise part of a larger Garden with flower beds - it will be imaginative and unique – One looks forward to a revisit as it takes shape & develops. Laurence & Annie Invited me to stay the night with them in their Finchley home - as we needed an early morning start & we were to be collected by our mutual friends Robert & Annette Green to motor our way Northwards. The trees had been delivered &

I remember I can give their names APPLE-SATURN. CHERRY-J14039  
 WALNUT-BROADVIEW.PLUM-JUBILLEUM PEACH-DYMOND  
 MULBERRY-BLACK. PEAR-SUPERFIN.

We arrived for Coffee in the Boardroom at 11am – planted the trees at 11.30  
 At 11.45. The Master Laurence addressed the Students in the Lecture Theatre,  
 And told them of their prospects before them – this was extremely encouraging  
 for it was his opinion that when they were qualified - they could have a situation  
 of their choice from three or more jobs awaiting them. One just knew that he  
 knew what he was talking about!! We then had a tour of the labs library, computer  
 centre, engineering, and Farm. Even the Pigs smelt sweet – the Cows looked  
 extremely contented, the whole place was primed with efficiency – personally it  
 gave me “one hell of a kick” We then went back to the Board Room for much  
 animated chat and an extremely nice Buffet lunch. To me it was such a varied  
 and absorb ably interesting day - this 10<sup>th</sup> of May – but it was time to depart.  
 This visit follows a programme of current livery policy of visiting important  
 Sites & establishments which is double edged, for it engenders interest of  
 Livery members and makes the World outside realise our specific interest &  
 concern.

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PASHLEY MANOR GARDENS.TICEHURST,EAST SUSSEX. 2000.

Pashley Manor was the 1999 Garden of the Year but it was not possible  
 to arrange the gift of fruit trees until June of 2000. You will gather  
 this has now become an annual event and we are advised by the Historic

Houses Association & Christie's to whom they have given their award. So we can then approach the recipients and "make them an offer". It also makes a very pleasant Spring or Summer outing for members of the Livery and their spouses. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of June we assembled at this truly lovely garden situated between Flimwell and Ticehurst – it had a pastoral quality' Sheep and young lambs were scattered in its surrounding fields, and the House was surrounded with Rhododendron bushes which reflected in the abundance of water features, the garden was full of sculptures which also gave it a quality one likes to find in gardens one to which the Romans gave much prominence. The Owners Mr & Mrs James Sellick chose to have Medlar trees from us which would be the nucleus of the new orchard they were planning The MEDLARS WERE (NOTTINGHAM'S) which were either Russian or Dutch in origin - to be followed later in the season by two QUINCE ( a VRAJNA & MEECHES PROLIFIC) and a PLUM. William Sibley amused us by suggesting all the surplus wool should be placed around the base of the newly planted trees – this was done (it looked like a snowfall in June) it stimulates growth. It works I've tried it !! We were 40 in number – with our Master & his Wardens who led us into the House to partake of a particularly fine lunch.

SPITALFIELDS.CHRISTCHURCH.LONDON.E.1. 2000.

The Master requested me to look into the possibility of a planting in Spitalfields. which for many years had been the principle Fruit & Vegetable Market in the City of London. Laurence & I were both

deeply interested in the area for we were tenants in the London Fruit & Wool Exchange of the Corporation at one time of our lives. It is said that Spitalfields gets its name from the time of the Plague in the Seventeenth Century for it was the Hospital in the Fields. The most likely place to plant a tree was in the grounds of Christchurch that beautifully proportioned Hawksmore Church started in 1714. He Hawksmore had learned his craft well from the master Christopher Wren. Therefore I approached the Rev Paul Bowtell and together We obtained the agreement of the Church Authorities & Tower Hamlets BC. – we should be allowed to plant WHITE MULBERRY tree within its grounds. David Spellman (adminstrator) helped with the “nuts & bolts” and we were able to arrange the day October 13<sup>th</sup> a Friday – this was the Master Day when he arranged we should visit the oldest Synagogue in The City – Bevis Marks. The planting of the tree was arranged for 3 o’clock in the afternoon. Sadly Rev Paul was called away on the day on family matters The Curate Luke Geoghan from (Toc H) assisted. The Master Laurence also had members of his Family assist him with the “Spade” work in particular his Dad who has just entered the Livery as a Freeman – at the age of 80. I held my breath when I saw them all “having a go” remembering when William and I were there in the early morning preparing the ground to receive the tree how stony the ground seemed - my memory went back to the planting in Alan’s year at Knowle with Lord Sackville – it took much “buffing” to remove the scratches from the blade and one has to be so careful with engravings recording where the spade and we have been. Laurence asked me to arrange for our party to have tea after the Ceremony – this we took in the Fruit Exchange in

the Sports & Health Centre – Julia Standing took care of the arrangement for us, for both I and Laurence had known her over the years – and needless to say it was very pleasant. Before I close- by now you will have appreciated

our “William” is a bit of a “wag” We could not find any material with which to attach the tree to the support post (which was a fine & stout one) on our early morning sojourn – so as we were so near to “Petticoat Lane” we went in search of a shop selling ladies stocking – after the third shop – we found one – the young lady assistant gave us a queer look – as we queried the quality.

Apparently they are the best and strongest tie you can have for trees. He thought perhaps we could start a tradition - the Master’s Lady should remove one of her stockings for the planting ceremony, rather like the “Order of the Garter”.

Well dear Laurence and Annie “what a year its been” and I can’t close without a very personal word or two. My memory which will always be with me goes back to the evening of the Banquet in 99 when I had lost my Ro two days previously – she wanted me to attend - so I obeyed. Sure it was hard to keep the upper lip “stiff” even Lionel our Clerk, said he thought it took “guts” to come. But my “mate” Ian was there as supportive as usual - I thought as I was leaving “at least I’ve held on” but then, just as I was making my way to the Wallbrooke Door both you and Annie took hold of me and led me into a side room – held & kissed and without saying a word - & gave me your love - I just broke !! I still carry your Jewish wish with me “have a good life” I hope I shall live to see the day you receive a deserved Knighthood – no one will have more pleasure & joy than I.

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