



# The Fruiterers' Company NEWSLETTER

Number 29

August 1997

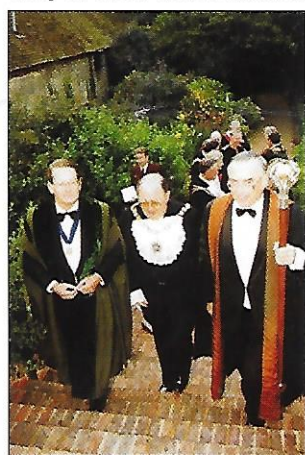


## THE LORD MAYOR DINES WITH THE LIVERY AT LEEDS CASTLE

Leeds Castle, near Maidstone, provided the perfect setting for this year's Summer Court Dinner on July 17th. The Company has paid previous visits to the Castle and its beautiful grounds and it is always popular. Following the precedent of 1992, and in some response to comments that a dinner in London in July fails to draw large support, The Master (Derek Tullett Esq, C B E) decided to hold the dinner in Kent.

Despite the number of Official guests and those of the Master, the total attending set a modern record indicating enthusiasm for a country venue for this event.

The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor (Alderman Sir Roger Cork) was quick to take up the invitation to meet the Company as he had been called away at short notice in February and missed the Annual Banquet. He was accompanied by the Aldermanic Sheriff, Clive Martin, and his wife Lindy and the Lay Sheriff Keith Knowles with his wife Corinne.



*The Beadle and Clerk escort the Lord Mayor.*

The Household Officer of the Day was the newly appointed City Marshal, Brigadier Neill O'Connor. Before dinner The Lord Mayor met the new Liverymen elected in 1996 and 1997 and expressed delight at the number coming forward and the talents which they are offering to the Company.

Despite the Civic presence, Fruit Culture was not overlooked. The Master made reference in his speech to the several initiatives which the Company has launched this year to further research and among the guests was the Dean of Cook College, Rutgers University and the Associate Director of Research. They were due to meet the Heads of East Malling Research Station the next day to finalise the plans for the first student exchange which the Company initiated. We had hoped to present the Medals to the winners of the Company's awards at the Cherry and Soft Fruit Show, but the weather has had a disastrous effect on this year's crop and the show was cancelled.

One of the highlights of the table decorations at dinner were Strawberry plants specially prepared by Liveryman Ken Muir (who was present) with strawberries growing on them, "Ready to Eat" and a first for the Company

engaging in "Pick your Own"!

This was equalled by the dessert, a specially constructed recipe from Albert Roux who, with his wife Monique, was also among the Guests and gave an amusing reply to the Toast of The Guests which the Master proposed.

Perhaps the weather could have been kinder, but the major part of the reception was able to be held on the terrace at Fairfax Hall before the rains resumed.

During the evening our old friend Conrad Leonard provided the music, Bernard Sullivan kept the proceedings in order in his delightful and customary way and Paul and June Marsh received tributes and gifts on the 25th anniversary of Paul's appointment as Beadle to the Company.

We were also pleased to see Sir Peter Gadsden, Senior Alderman and an old friend of the Company and Anthony Edwards, Master Distiller, and his wife Celia.

It was a great evening and one to remember.



*Albert Roux speaking after Dinner.*



*The Master greets the Lord Mayor.*

### Dates for your Diary

1997

- |                 |                                                                                                                                          |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 13    | Tree planting - Whitgift School                                                                                                          |
| September 29    | Election of the Lord Mayor - Guildhall<br>Noon, Common Hall, Chapter House, St Paul's Cathedral<br>Evensong 5.00pm<br>Common Hall 6.00pm |
| September 30    | Joint Livery Golf Day - Addington GC                                                                                                     |
| October 1       | Harvest Festival, St Mary Abchurch<br>12.30pm.                                                                                           |
| October 16      | Presentation of Fruit - Mansion House<br>11.00am.<br>Tea and tree planting-Inner Temple<br>4.30pm.                                       |
| October 22 - 23 | Marden Fruit Show - Detling, Kent                                                                                                        |
| November 13     | Master and Wardens Dinner - Innholders Hall                                                                                              |
| December 12     | The Polka Theatre for Children - Wimbledon                                                                                               |

1998

- |            |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|
| February 5 | Annual Banquet - Plaisterers Hall |
|------------|-----------------------------------|



## FRUITERERS AWARD COUNCIL

The Council held their 1997 meeting at Bradbourne House, East Malling Research Station, on 4th June. Increases have been proposed for a number of our cash awards and the schedule of other awards reviewed.

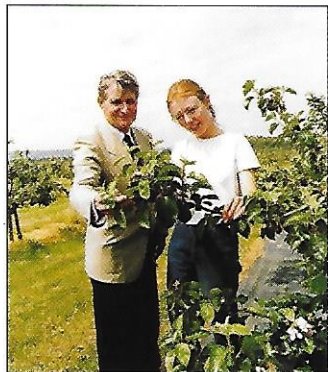
The major part of our available funding goes to East Malling where sums of £17500 for 1997/98 and £21,000 for 1998/99 have been approved. These funds enable two sandwich course students to be attached to the Station for six months.

After the meeting the Council met Dr Neil Hipps, soil scientist, and Dr David Simpson, fruit breeder, with the two students who are working with them this year. This gave us an invaluable chance to meet two of our students and hear of their work and experiences, and to gauge their response to the attachments which we have made possible.

Samantha Haley is a 3rd year student reading Applied Biological Sciences at Manchester Metropolitan University. She is attached to Dr Hipps and involved with two major experimental apple orchard trials. These concern the residual effects of herbicide treatments and alternative soil treatments to herbicides. She now carries out much of her measurements of tree growths and evaluation of nutrient and soil moisture levels without supervision, and feels she has greatly benefited from her time at East Malling and has gained good insight into how applied research is planned and undertaken.

Josie Rossignol is also a third year student, studying for the same degree but at Bath University. She is attached to Dr Simpson, who is in charge of Strawberry Breeding at the Station. She has been generally assisting Dr Simpson with many aspects of the breeding programme, including assessments, recording and measurements in the strawberry plots. She will, in particular, be taking part in the selection of seedlings which show resistance to the fungal disease, strawberry mildew. "I am delighted with her skilled help", said David Simpson and Josie is well satisfied with the "Hands On" work experience.

Both of the students took an active part in the discussions with the party and the Council was impressed with their familiarity with the technology and the confidence of their delivery. In his closing remarks, the Master recorded his appreciation of the involvement and contributions from the students as well as thanking Dr Alwyn Thompson (Liveryman), Director of East Malling, for hosting the meeting.

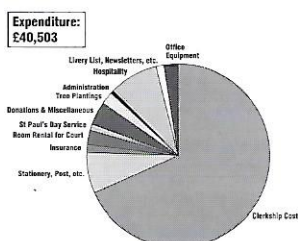
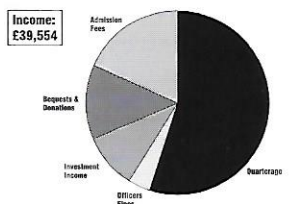


The Master with Samantha Haley.



Dr David Simpson with Josie Rossignol.

## CORPORATE FUND FINANCIAL RESULT 1997



## TREE PLANTINGS 1997

The Master has been maintaining the Company's tree plantings with visits to Athelhampton House in Dorset and the Ironbridge Gorge Museum in Shropshire, as well as Chateau Mouton (Page 3).



Sir Edmund and family at Athelhampton.

On 28th April in the delightful setting of the sweeping Dorset countryside he planted a White Mulberry in memory of the late Jenny Du Cann and spoke of Jenny's interest and concern towards our Livery. Past Master Edward Du Cann, in reply, gave a moving speech expressing his, and that of his and her families, appreciation for the honour shown by this planting. Among a large party were both Jenny's sister Diana and her daughter Louise who opened the historic house and Garden to us all.

In a completely different Environment The Master planted a tree at Ironbridge on July 4th, where our party received a warm welcome from the Trustees, of whom the Master is one. This is an unique world heritage museum, well worth a visit, giving a glimpse of the start of the Industrial Revolution and life 100 years ago.



Ironbridge.

"The long term value of Ironbridge is in its historic importance, the quality of its monuments, collections and exceptional settings."

The party met at the recently refurbished museum and then



Athelhampton.

walked to Dale House, the tree planting site, past the Darby Fumace which is the basis of the industrial revolution. The Darby houses, Rosehill and Dale House are important components in the Coalbrookdale collection of buildings and museums. They are also an

important element of the social history, Victorian life and the powerful influence of the Quaker religion.

Time constraints made it impossible to explore more than a few outstanding exhibits. We did visit Jackdale House, which houses a huge number of original tiles and plaster patterns and a Clay Pipe Factory, which remains in its original condition, albeit no longer in use. Walking through the door one goes back 100 years!

## REDUCTION IN QUARTERAGE FOR YOUNG LIVERYMEN

The Court has reviewed proposals for introducing a new class of Liverymen, similar to Yeomen as admitted to some other Companies. Such Yeomen schemes do not appear to be as relevant to our Company as they may be to others and this has been discarded. However the Company is anxious to develop further the increasing interest of younger members.

With immediate effect the quarterage obligation of all Liverymen under the age of 35 is to be reduced to one half of the rate payable by others. The date for measurement will remain as January 1st. In addition the Livery Fine, which is payable as a deposit on the grant of the Freedom, and converted internally on the Grant of Livery, is to be payable in two equal instalments, one half on the same basis as before and the other half on the attainment of 35 years by the Liveryman.



## THE LIVRY WELCOMED TO CHATEAU MOUTON



*The Master "watering in".*

Although wines are not the prerogative of The Fruiterers Company, there is no doubt that it should be fruit based! In June the Company, in a party led by the Master and the Upper Warden, visited the Medoc Region of France to plant trees at Chateau Mouton. A total party of 22, including the Clerk and his wife Ann, arrived at the nearby Chateau Lascombes where the Master gave a dinner at which Douglas Morton (Head of Mouton Rothschild UK) was principal guest. The visit had been arranged by Douglas, who is an old friend of the Master, and we are all most grateful to him for all that he did to make the visit an outstanding experience.

On Friday morning everyone gathered at Mouton and had a conducted tour of the vineyard and the wine production process including the cellars.

The making of "The Finest wine in the World" was explained



*Lunch at Mouton.*



*A view of the Vineyards.*

in detail and there was a tasting of the 1996 vintage.

The Baroness Phillidine De Rothschild gave us a warm welcome to her home and entertained us to a magnificent lunch. Earlier the Master and The Baroness had planted two trees (in different locations), one a Medler and one a Mulberry. She was clearly delighted with the occasion and entered into the plantings with gusto!

We were treated to the 1971 vintage at lunch and everyone was presented with a souvenir on departure.

The Editor was among those in the party. The Baroness was most generous and we are most grateful to her and her staff, all of whom worked so hard to make the visit a memorable one.



*Our Party in the Cellars.*

## HONORARY FREEDOM FOR RON PARKER AT THE AUDIT COURT

Ron Parker was granted the Freedom of the Company, Honoris Causa, at the Audit Court held at Barber-Surgeons Hall on 22 May 1997 and was among the guests at the Dinner which followed. The Company recognised a period of service in the Fruit trade spanning 47 years, starting at the age of 21 with a specialist chain of fruiterers and ending as Joint Managing Director of the Foods subsidiary of our largest supermarket group.

Ron has been chairman of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Information Bureau for the last ten years. Jonathan Choat, liveryman, states "I believe his in depth knowledge and understanding of the fruit and vegetable business is remarkable and he is one of the great characters who has built the grocery multiples' fresh produce business to the remarkable level it is today".

At the Audit Court Meeting four honorary assistants were elected for the two years 1997/99; Charles Barton, son of

Michael, Peter Bartlett, Paul Burton and William Wakeley

The principal speaker and guest at Dinner was Mr Ron Sadler, Chief Executive, Lloyds of London, who gave a brilliant and concise summary of how the financial difficulties were faced up to and, hopefully, overcome.



*The new Honorary Assistants.*



## Fruiterers Golf Day - May 1997

The Annual meeting of the Fruiterers Golfing Society was held at Kingswood Golf Club, by kind invitation of Liveryman Tom Hilliard OBE in glorious weather.



*The Master with Andrew Potter who won the Robert Sice Prize and the Barton Cup.*

The course was in magnificent condition and playing well.

The President, The Rev Nigel Abbott, was among the players and we were delighted to welcome the Master and his wife Anita, who also both participated and returned excellent scores.

The Master presented the prizes, which were won as under:

THE BARTON CUP Andrew Potter who also won the Rose Bowl.

WINNER OF DIVISION B John Airey who also won the specially donated Master's putter in recognition of his Hole in one, the first to have been achieved during the ten golf days we have held.

GUEST WINNER was Lance Morrish (son of Peter).

The Runners up were:

Division A Ivor Robins

Division B Peter Morrish

Guest Runner up was Chris Honeywill and Bill Rookes.

Special Prizes were won by Anita Tullett, Laurence Eldred, Gerry McDevitt, Peter Davis and Wilfred Watson.

It was a particular pleasure to see Peter Morrish with us after his long incapacity and to welcome Lionel French (our Clerk) who also played.

The President presented a bouquet to Pat Lyons whose superb organisation and patience ensured a really outstanding day.



*The Master with John Airey.*



*The President presents a bouquet to Pat Lyons.*

## New Freeman - May 1997

William Andrew Sibley, John Love, Roger Hirst Gilmore, Richard Thomas, Craig Williamson and Ronald Parker.

## New Liverymen - May 1997

D W Henderson, A R Thompson, M Dunnnett and G McDevitt.

At Leeds Castle the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor met the new Liverymen elected since spring 1996 with their partners.



*Our new Liverymen with their Partners and the Rt Hon The Lord Mayor.*

## Congratulations

We offer our congratulations to two of our Liverymen, David Read and Jim Flegg on being granted the O B E in the Birthday Honours for services to Fruit Culture.

Ken Muir won the Gold prize at the Chelsea Flower Show for his exhibit of Dessert Strawberries.

Gunel Hope Mason celebrated her 80th Birthday on June 27th

## Honorary Archivist

The Court has appointed Mrs Linda Leigh to the position of Archivist and are most grateful to her for coming forward and offering to take on this formidable and important task for the benefit of the Livery.

## Obituaries

It was with much sadness that we report the death of Ian White, after a long illness bravely borne.

We send our sincerest sympathies to his widow and his family.

Ian White was a great Liveryman; keen and supportive. Past Master Starns represented the Master at Ian's funeral.

We hope to publish a testimonial in our next issue.

We also record the death of Douglas Corkish, a past Honorary Assistant and Chairman of the Livery and Communications Subcommittee and send our sympathies to his widow and his son Neil who is a Liveryman.

## Silver Anniversary for Paul and June Marsh

Our Beadle celebrates twenty five years of service to the Company this year and the achievement was marked by formal presentations to Paul and his wife June at Leeds Castle. June received a magnificent bouquet and Paul a porcelain fronted engraved clock depicting various fruits.



*Paul receives his Clock from the Master.*

Although he retired some two years ago as caterer and Beadle for the Innholders, he continues his other City work from his home on the Kent coast. He succeeded his father, Gordon, on his retirement in 1972 and has given us loyal service



*A Bouquet for June.*

## Livery Day at the City of London Freeman's School

John Dunham represented the Master at the annual livery day held at the school in Ashted, and was accompanied by the Clerk. 65



*The main house of the City of London Freeman's School completed in 1790 by Sir Thomas Wyatt.*

other companies were represented and were welcomed by the Chairman of the Governors, Philip Willoughby JP, and the Headmaster, Mr David Haywood. 65 other companies were represented. The party met senior staff and students and were taken on a tour of the classrooms and grounds. Pauline Halliday C C, a former clerk, is now a governor and

was present, together with Liveryman Peter Allocca, now Master Upholder. After lunch the party inspected the new sports complex with its indoor cricket school.

## Editor's Note

In the April issue I carried a story on one of our magnificent Loving Cups. Past Master Robert Manners has kindly written to advise that this cup was the gift of Past Master Sir Clayton Russon.

## NEWSLETTER SPONSORSHIP

It has not been possible to find a sponsor for this issue in time for publication, despite substantial efforts by several liverymen to whom our thanks are due.

The company is therefore carrying the full cost this time, but we need sponsors if we are to continue to print in colour and expand our circulation.

Any liveryman who can help is asked to contact the Clerk as soon as possible for the December issue. Eight pages and joint sponsors might be a viable alternative with a lower cost per sponsor.

## Acknowledgments

The Editor would like to thank The Master, The Clerk, Jonathan Choat, Brian Self, Donald Mack, Tim Bullivant, Ian Rainford and Jenny Bartlett for their assistance in providing copy and photographs for this issue.