

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FARRIERS

PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF THE HORSE SINCE 1356

Royal Charter Granted in 1674



The ancient City of London Livery Company, the Worshipful Company of Farriers, recently bestowed its highest honour on Past Master and well known retired vet, Denis Oliver, who at the age of 95 is still attending meetings in London. This is only the 2nd time in the last 100 years the award of 'Father of the Company' has been made.

This prestigious award was presented at the recent meeting of the Company, held at Drapers Hall in the City. It was a total surprise for Denis and the day was filled with several standing ovations for this much loved and revered gentleman.

Born in Lincoln in November 1919, Denis was educated at the City School in Lincoln and at Edinburgh University. In 1966 he became a Liveryman with the Farriers, traditionally the Company for veterinary surgeons due to the enduring links with equine welfare, and was Master in 1980-81, preceding the Company's first female Master, the Princess Royal, by three years.

For his age, Denis is remarkably sprightly and all those who are associated with him cannot fail to benefit from his wisdom and wise counsel. He has held many important positions in the equine world, including Past President of the British Veterinary Association, Chief Veterinary Officer at the Royal Show, honorary vet at the Burghley horse trials and Market Rasen racecourse, as well as serving on the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. He has also sat on the veterinary advisory panels of the Horse Race Betting Levy Board, Pig Industry Development Authority and the Meat and Livestock Commission.

For the Company, not only is he the most senior Past Master, but he has been Chairman of the Examinations Board and a representative on the Farriers Registration Council. He also instigated the presentation of a silver gilt medal to all Diploma candidates who achieved Honours, something he continues today, and the WCF remains the awarding body for all farriers in this country. In 1994 he was endowed with an Honorary Fellowship (HonFWCF) in recognition of his outstanding service to the Company, the craft of farriery and the welfare of the horse.

In 1989 Denis was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday honours list. He married Nance Coutts (desc. 2006) in January 1946 and has a son and daughter, who are also members of the Company.

For further information, please contact Sarah Dance on 0118 982 1064 or 07778 766172, or refer to the Company website www.wcf.org.uk