

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF FARMERS



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CLERK: COLONEL D.E. KING, OBE

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**TRADITION OF LORD MAYOR'S PARADE BROUGHT UP TO DATE WITH  
FARMING INNOVATION FROM GRIMME**



**Grimme's two-row self-propelled potato harvester took to the London Streets at the historic 683<sup>rd</sup> Lord Mayor's Show last weekend as the representative of the Worshipful Company of Farmers who take part in the traditional parade, along with around 150 other past, present and future businesses including livery companies, charities, Her Majesty's Forces, the City Police and Londoners from all walks of life.**

The reason for the Worshipful Company of Farmers involvement in the event for the last five years has been to promote a better understanding of the economic importance of farming in the economic life of the nation and the close association of farming with the City of London.

Grimme's Varitron 270 two row self propelled potato harvester was kindly loaned by Cambridgeshire farmer Richard Lee of Highflyer Farm.

Its journey to London started outside the front entrance to the majestic Ely Cathedral where it was waved off by the Bishop, choristers and other dignitaries.

At the Lord Mayor's parade the following morning the London streets along the square mile were packed with onlookers as far as the eye could see. Meticulous planning helped the parade get off to a prompt start, which took the potato harvester along with the Master of the Worshipful Company of Farmers Follet Balch, the senior warden Peter

Faulkner, junior warden John Reynolds and liveryman Lindsay Hargreaves, from Mansion House to the Royal Courts of Justice and back again.

“Promoting agriculture and the importance of farming is a key objective of the Worshipful Company of Farmers,” says Mr Balch.

“We too often hear of the ignorance around how our food is produced with a question like: ‘Where does milk come from?’ and the answer being ‘Tesco’, and from the lack of appreciation that bread is made from wheat.

“The UK agricultural industry is professional, innovative, thriving, dedicated and sustainable. Along with Grimme and the Potato Council, we are proud to take a lead in trying to educate and communicate this to the general public, potatoes are a staple of the British diet and it is great we can show how they are harvested with this impressive machine” says Mr Balch “ We are most grateful for their wonderful support in bringing the harvester to London for the 2010 Lord Mayors Show”.

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Notes to the editor:

The Worshipful Company of farmers is a 350 strong member organisation that has charitable status and has been in existence since 1952 after being formed from the Committee of the Agricultural Fund – an amalgam of farming organisations, which co-operated to raise money for the Second World War effort. Its objectives today are to promote excellence across all sectors of agriculture; to support education and research within agriculture; to actively raise funds; to promote a better understanding of

agriculture to the nation as a whole. See <http://www.lordmayorsshow.org/> for more details concerning the Lord Mayor's Show.

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