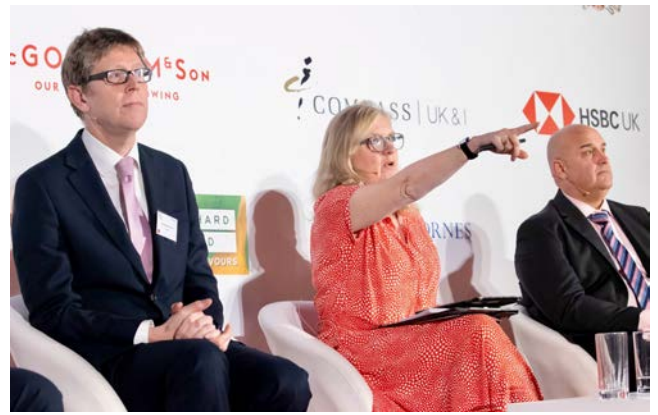


City Food Lecture 2022

The City Food Lecture “came of age” on Thursday 17th February in a packed Guildhall, thanks to the continued support of the City of London Corporation. The Prime Warden and Masters of the seven food Livery Companies (Bakers; Butchers; Cooks; Farmers; Fishmongers; Fruiterers and Poulterers) welcomed the guest of honour HRH The Princess Royal.



Following on from the Lecture, the panel was introduced by Paul Stockton, CEO of Rathbones plc, the premium partner, led by BBC’s Countryfile and Radio 4’s Farming Today’s Charlotte Smith. The panel consisted of Richard Clothier, Wykes Farms; Fraser McKeivitt, Head of Retail and Consumer Insight at Kantar; and stepping into the breach at short notice James Lloyd-Jones, Founder of the Jones Food Company.



After a break of a year due to the pandemic, 500 Liverymen, partners and guests, and several hundred online, came together for the 21st City Food Lecture, to hear Ash Amirahmadi, Managing Director of Arla Foods UK on “Food’s Defining Decade: Finding a way to feed the world while protecting the planet.”



Fifty minutes facilitated discussion took place followed by a Q&A session – within the Hall or using technology online from around the country and elsewhere. There was much interest with the future of vertical farming and, with the sense of moving on, only one question on Brexit!



Ash gave us a snapshot of his life, with his Iranian background, to be leading the dairy cooperative owned by 9,700 farmers across Europe and 2,300 in the UK. Arla is Britain’s fourth-largest food and beverage company.

HRH The Princess Royal, by tradition, gave the closing address and summarised the evening supremely well.

The Lecture covered accessibility, nutrition and affordability being the important elements when providing food to the UK. Planet, people, profit and plant all had to be considered. Ash enforced that trust and transparency was key and to use data thoroughly to set the appropriate sustainability targets. This thoughtful lecture reaffirmed, after the hiatus of the last couple of years with Covid-19, the relevance of the UK food sector in our lives.



The evening then moved to the Old Library for the Reception and delicious buffet supper provided by Clink Events. It was super to see the networking and friends seeing each other once again – with a sense of normality returning again to the City.