

# The Feltmaker

## Quartercentenary Edition 1604 - 2004



The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers Autumn 2004 Master: Derek Bedford Issue No. 28

## The Master's Message

Firstly may I thank the Court for doing me the honour of electing me to the Mastership of this ancient and Honourable Company. I shall not be the last Master to have a background in the Felt Hatting industry, but there will probably not be many more who have controlled all the processes from the raw material fur, to the finished hat, as I did at Christys'; so I can claim to be a traditional Feltmaker.

I am very proud of the traditions followed at Christy & Co, and the fact that so many of their Managing Directors have become Masters of the Feltmakers. I am particularly indebted to PM Jack Wallworth, and PM Peter Grant, who have sponsored me. My only regret is that the fashion for men wearing hats and particularly hats made in the United Kingdom, has gone into reverse gear again!

I undertake to serve you well, and to make a good, true, and plain account, in accordance with the terms of the Oath I swore at my Installation. I should add that I am supported by an excellent team of Wardens, who have become good friends over the years; and I should also thank the many members of the Court who have offered me help and advice, offers which I shall doubtless take up during the year. I am mindful of the epigram "Experience is something you don't get, until after you need it"!

It is a tradition that the new Master sets out his Theme for the year, and includes something of his Programme, including ideas and objectives.

However before proceeding to that, I must first pay tribute and express the thanks of the whole Livery, to the Immediate Past Master, Patrick Burgess, who has led us through such a memorable year, to celebrate the quartercentenary of the award of Letters Patent, in 1604. He has been a very generous host and benefactor to the Company, and I would instance here his commissioning of the Anthem, the refurbishing of the Banner, and the



**Derek N. Bedford - our new Master**

Master's Wife's Jewel; as well as the presentation of the lapel pin to members of the Livery. His will be a very hard act to follow!

My thoughts then are that this should be a quieter year, one of consolidation, following the additional celebratory events, of the Atherstone Party, and the Middle Temple Reception, which we enjoyed greatly. Particular thanks go to Warden Geoffrey Vero for organising the former, and to PM Patrick Burgess and all who helped make the latter such an excellent occasion.

**Wardens:** John Curteis, Geoffrey Vero, Derek Bonham, Nicholas Heal

**Immediate Past Master:** Patrick Burgess

**Clerk:** Major Jollyon Coombs

Registered at Stationers Hall **Editors:** Nicholas Heal & Robin Shirley

I would stress that our 400th is not yet over, and we have the Big Bus in the Lord Mayor's Show on the 13th November, and I hope to see plenty of passengers on board! We also have the Thanksgiving and Carol Service at St Bartholomew the Great on the 16th December, to wind up our celebrations.

### **Now to my objectives.**

**F**irstly I want to see our recruiting drive to the Livery continue. We have sworn in nine new members this year, and our first Apprentice, in my time. I hope we can do the same over the next twelve months.

Secondly we should continue and expand our Charitable work. Some of which may be in kind or pro bono, and hopefully will include involvement with the City of London Academy (Southwark).

Thirdly I would like to encourage a greater involvement and participation on the part of our younger members, whether Assistants serving on Court, or through the Livery Society. We have to remember they are our Company's future.

In summary, if we can achieve all of these, and maintain our momentum with good attendances at our regular Dinners and the Ladies Banquet, then I shall feel the Livery will continue to be in good heart.

I have been told by many Members of Court that I should enjoy this very special year, and I fully intend to do so, and I shall do all I possibly can to ensure that all the Members of the Livery do too. I look forward to seeing you all during the course of the year.

## **Derek N. Bedford Curriculum Vitae**

**D**erek was born in 1936, and is married to Sally, with three children, Penny, Mark and Jeremy and four grandchildren. He was educated at Trinity School of John Whitgift, Croydon, before two years of National Service in the RAF Regiment as Mortar Flight Commander, 58 Field Squadron, Aden, 1956-57, followed by gaining a LL.B (Hons) at the University of Nottingham in 1960 and a M.Sc in Engineering Management at the Cranfield Institute of Technology in 1964.

His industrial background includes thirty two years in the Textile, Knitting, and Clothing Industry, twenty two of them as Managing Director of manufacturing companies supplying Marks & Spencer. It was while serving as Managing Director of the hatmakers Christy

& Co Ltd that he was introduced to the Feltmakers Company in 1987 and made Assistant to the Court in 1991, so that he has a real feltmaking background.

After taking early retirement in 1992, Derek established his own consultancy business, covering most aspects of management. As a convinced exporter with contacts throughout Europe and the USA, he continued to travel and inter alia helped one client to a Queen's Award. He also served as a non-executive director of the Stockport Acute Services NHS Trust until 1998.

In 1998, he and Sally moved to Nairn in Scotland, having had a house built to their own specification with views of some forty miles north across the Moray Firth, in anticipation of retirement and to be near grandchildren.

Derek continues to advise some private clients, mainly now in the Public Sector, as well as being Chairman of Moray, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise, and serving on the Local Economic Forum and on the Board of Moray College, where he chairs the Staffing, and the Joint Negotiating Committees. He is also a member of the Highlands and Islands Convention and of the Foundation of the UHI Millennium Institute, currently seeking University status, and works with a number of charities on fundraising. He is on the Vestry of St John's Episcopal Church, Forres, and is a member of the Rotary Club.

His hobbies include golf, gardening, spectator sports and walking, plus current affairs in Scotland, literature, history and travel.

## **Congratulations**

**John Curteis**, elected as Upper Warden.

**Geoffrey Vero**, elected as Renter Warden.

**Derek Bonham**, elected as Third Warden.

**Nick Heal**, elected as Fourth Warden.

**Assistant Susan Wood**, elected as Senior Assistant.

**Liveryman Michael Burgess**, elected to the Court of Assistants.

**Liveryman Sarah McLeod**, elected as Junior Steward .

**Miss Agather Wright**, indentured as an Apprentice.

# Past Master Burgess's Review of our Quatercentenary

This year Feltmakers have been celebrating the 400th anniversary of our rebirth as a separate Livery Company. After 60 years of amalgamation with the Haberdashers Company and at least 150 years of prior independent existence, we received our Letters Patent on 2 August 1604 from King James I. What an age that was of romance and excitement, of enterprise and experiment - and risk. All of society in one way or another was wrestling with the great, dangerous, questions: freedom or order, monarchy or democracy, extremism or toleration. Our Company was reborn in an age that produced Volpone, King Lear, the Tempest and Othello. It was a time of great expectation: a new King and a New World. No wonder in the face of all this turmoil the King adopted one of the Beatitudes as his personal motto - "Beati Pacifici": Blessed are the peacemakers.

Feltmakers this year have also been celebrating fellowship, charity and high standards - the three things that all Livery companies have stood for. But they were also entrepreneurs - in fact, venture capitalists. Our own predecessors set up one of the first limited liability companies and our first Master John Sondes died in Ludgate prison after falling out with the Clerk, something I have been very careful to avoid all year.

Out of respect for our first Master and for all past Feltmakers perhaps it is appropriate to recall those very fitting words of the anthem we commissioned this year to be sung in St. Paul's: "Be unto us, O Lord, a crown of glory in the day when thou shalt come to judge the world by fire that here we may be clothed in righteousness and hereafter in a perfect liberty...". May all past Feltmakers rest in peace.

So here was our newly incorporated Company in what had become the biggest City in Europe. And yet milk and cream were available from cows that grazed within its Roman walls, near Smithfield. The City was crowded with palaces and halls, crumbling monastic houses and the great emporia of busy merchants. The River Thames carried the plenteous bounty of world trade into the heart of the City: nutmegs, peppers, pineapples, potatoes and all kinds of new things. Apprentices cleaved unto their masters and learnt from the Rules of Good Conduct, a copy of which we still give to each of our apprentices and freemen as they

enter the Company today.

And what in this colourful and dangerous life was the one thing that everybody wanted: it was a hat! I do not agree with Napoleon when he said that history was only myth written down. In exploring and writing our History as we have done this last two years we have plumbed the depths of a heart we didn't know we had, and in it we recognised ourselves. Our wonderful author, Rosemary Weinstein, wrote that History for us. It is an extraordinarily good read and she has our admiration and thanks for recapturing our past so vividly. I would also like to thank John and Gill Bowler who have slaved mightily to ensure that the History appeared on time. As mark of our special appreciation of their devotion and contribution the Court banded together to purchase for them a silver rose bowl which we hope will contain roses from their own lovely rose garden.

Thanks to the very hard work of many Past Masters, Wardens and Assistants on the Court, the Company has made great advances in the last 5 years. I hope the greatest advance we have made has been in fellowship. Certainly all these activities have bound us together. I want to thank everybody for their immensely helpful advice and support, as well as for all their hard work in this year of our quatercentenary celebrations. I want to thank especially Senior Assistant Nicholas Heal and Assistant Richard Farmer for their help with our reception at Middle Temple, the Wardens for all their support and to our long suffering and deeply resourceful Clerk whose contribution has been extraordinary and irreplaceable.

I have enjoyed my year as Master enormously. I can only finish, I think, with those same words which Prince Albert the Prince Consort finished his life when he said:

"I have such sweet thoughts"

Thank you all so very much.

*Patrick Burgess*

# The Master's Plough Monday Dinner

Monday 12 January 2004, Apothecaries' Hall

This is the annual occasion when the Master hosts a Dinner for the City of London Sheriffs. As explained in the historical note below, the two Sheriffs attend the Lord Mayor in carrying out his official duties and it is comparatively rare for a Dinner to be held specifically in their honour.

Plough Monday, the first Monday after Twelfth Night was the day when farm work began again, often with spring ploughing. The plough was blessed and then dragged through the village streets. The tradition of Plough Monday still survives in some parts of Britain. Apothecaries' Hall is the oldest livery Hall in the City. Destroyed in the Great Fire in 1666, its immediate re-building was completed in 1672. The original building – Cobham House – was the guesthouse of the former Dominican Priory of the Black Friars.

Dinner was held in the Great Hall with some 90 guests attending. These included members of the Court, who are traditionally invited, and the Master's personal guests. The principal guest was Alderman, Sir David Rowe-Ham, a former Lord Mayor. Michael Burgess, Liveryman and brother of the Master, proposed the Toast to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation.

Alderman and Sheriff Nick Anstee and Sheriff Geoffrey Bond responded. Both were elected on 26 September 2003 and serve for a year. Their ancient office dates back to the 7th Century.

## History of Plough Monday Dinners

Plough Monday dinners are first mentioned in 1890 but they may have commenced earlier. Certainly since the beginning there was a Court Meeting on that day and the charitable distributions from the Macham's Trust were then made. Now both the Sheriffs, who are not required by the Lord Mayor on that evening, join the Feltmakers' Master's Plough Monday Dinner. The Sheriffs must remain silent in the Lord Mayor's presence and be with him at all times. This means it is most unusual for them to speak. They do speak for a few minutes at the Sheriffs' Breakfast and, no doubt, address their own Livery Companies separately and semi-privately. This is the only occasion in the year when they are entertained in their own right and both able to speak. The Feltmakers are proud of this unique occasion.

Plough Monday is the first Monday after Epiphany (6 January). In early feudal times the ceremony of the plough marked the end of the Christmas holidays. It was known as the White Plough or Fond Plough as those taking part were mummers dressed in white and the procession was 'fond' or foolish. The men who dragged the plough from door to door were called Plough Stots, Plough Bullocks or Jags. They stopped at each door soliciting money for their 'frolic'. In various quarters this has been interpreted as the Master entertaining those around him. In the Mansion House the Lord Mayor entertains his staff and in the Feltmakers the Master entertains the Sheriffs, the Court and his friends.

## Accounts Summary

The Accounts to 31st December 2003 show a satisfactory position with a £1000 surplus after accounting for normal income of £35,000 and expenses of £34,000. The previous year their were additional donations of about £28,000 to meet the provision costs of £28,000 for the Feltmaker History

and Repairs to the Banner.

The Balance Sheet shows an improvement in the performance of Investments up from £187,000 to £229,000 predominantly due to better market condition which reflects in an overall increase in reserves of £34,000

# A City Banquet as Seen Through a Liveryman's Eyes

On 10 February I was privileged to attend the Dinner to the Archbishops and Bishops, as a guest of the Chief Commoner, Deputy Joyce Nash OBE. This was one of the annual dinners given at the Mansion House, the others being for the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the Livery Companies of the City of London; the Easter Banquet (for Ambassadors to the Court of Saint James); and for Her Majesty's Judges.

On arrival we were announced by the Toast Master and presented to the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, after which we were escorted into the Drawing Room for the reception, where we chatted to distinguished guests before being summoned in to dinner.

The splendour of the occasion was evident as soon as we entered the Egyptian Hall. The table settings were complemented by the Mansion House gold plate and candelabra with candles alight.

All faiths were represented at the dinner and the crimson, purple, black and white vestments of the clergy almost outshone the fineries of the ladies, some of whom were wearing diamond tiaras. Our table companions were the Bishops of Hull and Doncaster and their wives. The Yorkshire banter between them and the Chief Commoner made for very enjoyable conversation.

The speeches from the Lord Mayor, The Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York were both amusing and thought-provoking. At the end of dinner there was opportunity to mingle once again with other guests over a stirrup cup.

I hope you will gather from these brief notes that I had a memorable night, the pageantry of which will long remain with me, as will my admiration for the efficient attention given to the three hundred guests by the Mansion House staff.

## The United Guilds Service

The United Guilds Service at St Paul's Cathedral is always a splendid occasion. Held on or near Lady Day, the feast of the Annunciation, it is also a solemn religious service. The Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Aldermen and City Officers attend in their State Robes and all the 108 guilds and livery companies are represented by their Masters and Wardens and supported by some members of their courts. Their gowns and chains of office add to the colour and spectacle, and it was good to see so many hats being worn by the ladies. All available seats in the Cathedral were taken.

St Paul's has a strong musical tradition. On this day the organ and full choir are augmented by the Trumpeters of the Royal Military School of Music. For the Feltmakers this was an especially significant event in our 400th anniversary year because it saw the first public performance of the Feltmakers' Anthem commissioned by our Master, Patrick Burgess, from John Rutter, one of the foremost living English composers of choral religious music.

The Anthem has a particular poignancy in these turbulent times in that the text was adapted by John Rutter from an ancient Mozarabic prayer. The Mozarabs were the Christian inhabitants of Spain who were allowed to practice their religion when Spain was ruled by the Muslim Moorish kings.

Musically it was not an ideal time for a first performance, since St Paul's is currently in the throes of a major cleaning and renovation. When completed the result will be spectacular, but at present the work has the effect of seriously upsetting the acoustics, despite the sophisticated and normally excellent sound system. It was a tribute to the quality of the singing and the composition that, despite this, the Feltmakers' Anthem rang out clear and harmonious in the vastness and hushed stillness of the Cathedral.

### The Feltmakers' Anthem

Be thou to us, O Lord. a crown of glory  
In the days when thou shalt come again to judge the world by fire;  
That thou mayest graciously clothe us here with the robe of righteousness,  
And hereafter with the perfection of a glorious liberty.

Lord God, whose service is a crown of glory,  
Lift up our hearts to serve and honour thee.  
In righteousness and truth may we learn to know and love thee:  
Our joy and crown thy glorious liberty.

# Crowning Glories

## (400th Anniversary Exhibition, Luton Museum)

After more than twelve months of preparation, the Feltmakers managed to combine the Hat Judging competition with an exhibition at Luton Museum called "Crowning Glories" at which the hats will be exhibited from 11 March through to 2 May 2004. Past Master Bill Horsman was responsible for the Hat competition and we gathered over 25 entries from all over the country though, unfortunately, none from Europe as we had hoped. But what we lacked in quantity we made up in quality as we were pleased that we had increased the prize money for our 400th year.

The judging panel for the Hatting Competition consisted of Bill Horsman, Freddie Fox, Sophie Brown, Carole Denford and Rachel Trevor-Morgan. The results were announced just before we had lunch. Altogether 84 guests attended the function, including very good support from the Feltmakers and their ladies, together with local dignitaries. A buffet lunch was served together with sparkling wine and the whole atmosphere of the event was that of a big family enjoying itself.

Luton Museum is one of those hidden jewels that don't get a lot of publicity, but in recent years the upstairs section has been totally revamped to provide a look at "Luton Life", much of which covers the growth of the hat trade through straw and felt over the last 150 years. Luton had a great advantage in those early days in that the businessmen of the town were also the town's council leader, As a result they both had mutual

interest in growing the town together and it was an extremely prosperous place up until the war-time years. Even if you are not connected with Luton, a visit would certainly, from a hatting point of view, give you a perspective of the development of our industry since 1850.

For the first celebration of our 400th Anniversary, we were honoured to have the Lady Mayoress, Mrs Robert Finch and the Sheriffs Ladies Mrs Claire Anstee and Mrs Dianora Bond. It is not often that the Lady Mayoress appears separately from the Mayor, but on this occasion he was abroad and she was only too pleased to come - her enthusiasm can be judged from the fact that at the end she was almost the last person to leave! Also present were the Mayor and Mayoress of Luton and the Curator and Chief Assistant of the Luton Museum, who had done so much of the work to help us on our way.

Lastly, it was particularly pleasing that so many Feltmakers' ladies came wearing hats. We certainly had a sparkling array of those - perhaps we should have had our own separate competition! The only speech on this occasion, when the cake was cut to celebrate our Anniversary, was from our Master. He spoke about our 400 years and welcomed the Lady Mayoress and all our chief guests.

The event was organised by Past Master, Geoffrey Farr, with the help of Maggie Appleton and, in particular, Marian Nichols from Luton Museum.



Celebration Cake

# Luton Judging and Winning Entry



# The Zurich Sechseläuten

The morning of Monday 19th April broke dull and damp. Over breakfast in the Hotel zum Storchen where the Master, Patrick Burgess, and I had assembled the previous evening, we discussed the effect that rain might have on the Master's hat (what are hats for?). We were there at the invitation of the Zunft zur Waag, one of the Guilds of Zurich with interests similar to the Feltmakers, to attend the annual Sechseläuten, the festival to mark the end of winter and the start of spring. We need not have worried about the rain. By the time we were collected by our English-speaking guide (although everyone we met spoke perfect English) the rain had ceased and the clouds gave way to a fine, warm day.

After introductions to other members of the Zunft, we processed / ambled a few hundred yards to the Wagg Guild House – equivalent to a Livery Company hall – led by the Guild band. There we were introduced to the Zunftmeister (The Master) and other leading lights in the Zunft. After a champagne reception, we sat down at 11.30am to an excellent lunch, with speeches throughout the proceedings and wine flowing incessantly.

At 3.00pm the assembled company rose and we proceeded to an assembly area where all the Guilds, dressed in splendid traditional costumes and each led by its own band, lined up in some sort of order. We then processed through the streets of Zurich with crowds of women and children watching the spectacle and, from time to time, women would dart out and present their men-folk with a bunch of flowers. Women are not

allowed to be members of Zunfts, although I was informed that this is a rather controversial matter these days. The Zunftmeister received so many bouquets that he had an assistant beside him carrying a large basket for the flowers. Later in the procession the flowers were handed back to children in the crowds. Eventually, after a long walk (the Master coped admirably with his stick) we arrived at the park where, in the centre, was a huge bonfire with a snowman (not made of snow) at the top, known as the Böögg. By arrangement, we retired to a small café in the corner of the park for sandwiches and wine, prior to assembling around the bonfire for the highlight of the day, the burning of the Böögg.

Afterwards we ambled / processed (the band still in front) back to the Guild house for dinner – another large meal with plenty of wine and more speeches including a greeting from the Master which was well received.

Then followed an interesting tradition where Guilds visit other Guild houses and a selected member gives a speech and the host Zunftmeister responds, whilst other members stand around and consume more wine. We visited three such Zunfts before returning in the early hours to the Waag's house for a bit of a post-mortem, bangers and mash (Swiss variety) and yet more wine.

Eventually we made our way back to the Hotel zum Storchen after a truly memorable day.

*Patrick Burgess*



**Master Patrick Burgess with Members of Guilds of Zurich**

## Feltmakers' Golf Day 2004

This year's Golf Day was held on a sparkling May afternoon at Camberley Heath Golf Club in Surrey. Twenty four Feltmakers and their guests wielded their sticks with varying degrees of success on the rolling heathland fairways (and, occasionally, in the gorse and heather). Their frustrations were eased by the sight of Simon Bartley standing beside the 14th Green (Nearest the Pin) and dispensing champagne to all who passed his way!

Thirty people attended dinner in the beautiful clubhouse overlooking the course, where we were delighted to be joined by the Master who kindly presented the prizes to the winners:

- Nearest the Pin                   **Peter Cobb**
- Longest Drive (Men)           **Richard Nobbs**
- Longest Drive (Ladies)       **Daphne Higginson**
- Best Front Nine               **James Davis (Guest of Michael Winfield)**
- Best Back Nine               **Peter LaMaison (Guest of Gerry Higginson)**
- Ladies Winner                 **Eva LaMaison (Guest of Gerry Higginson)**
- Men's Winner                 **Gerry Higginson**

The Master also presented a special prize to Nick Heal for his impressive par on the very difficult 18th hole - Nick having ensured that there was a decent-sized audience present before showing his skills to his admiring followers!

## Feltmaker Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament 2004

The tournament had been moved to 15th July in the hope that we would be able to play on grass courts following closely on the heels of the Stella Artois. Unfortunately, due to a rather heavy downpour during the previous night the courts were not fit for play, but we were able to play outside for most of the day. This year there were twelve Livery Companies represented with disappointingly one or two late cancellations as a result of injuries and bereavements. We were fortunate that the Barber Surgeons were able to play, a doctor from the team being on hand to give reassurance to one of the tennis playing mothers from the Leathersellers whose baby was taken ill on the day.



The winners of the main competition for the Feltmakers' Trophy were the Tallow Chandlers pairing of Christopher Kurkjian and Valerie Willoughby. Having won three times with his sister, Christopher decided to give the rest of the field a sporting chance by changing partners. They were presented with the trophy by the Master, together with two tickets for the finals of the Stella Artois tournament in 2005. Their opponents in the final were Adrian and Fiona Spurling of the Leathersellers.

The Plate Competition was won by Nick Fraser and Suzanne Came of the Goldsmiths, who had an exciting match against the Leathersellers second team.

The dinner was held in the Presidents room with 48 players, guests and fellow Feltmakers attending. The day was enjoyed by all and a strong interest was expressed in returning next year, when we will revert to the autumn date of Thursday 15th September - all Feltmakers are welcome to come and watch, provide a helping hand or just enjoy the post-Tournament dinner. *Jeremy Brassington*

## Prince Arthur Cup 2004

On a windy day which was semi overcast, and which finished in heavy rain, the Feltmakers Livery Team did great credit round Walton Heath on May 20th. The competition is a bogey competition ie. once you have bogied the hole you pick the ball up and score a minus. If you par you score zero, and if you have a birdie or a net birdie then you score +1. In the morning the lead pair of Geoffrey Vero and Peter Cobb made a score of zero on the new course, and in the afternoon increasingly difficult conditions they made a score of -1, giving an overall score of -1. The second team consisting of Jeremy Brassington and Geoffrey Farr played their socks off in the morning and scored +3, but in the afternoon, after a really great start, they finished with -1. Overall the team therefore finished with a score of +1, which gave us a 5th equal place and the best in recent years by a Feltmakers team.

Jeremy and Geoffrey failed to win the morning trophy on count back and are cursing their luck, as at one time they were +5 in the morning and +2 in the afternoon. The Butchers won the trophy with a score of +6, followed by the Girdlers with +5 and we came equal 5th with the Accountants. We thus qualify for next year. The Livery Companies Trophy for the Prince Arthur Cup is a great fellowship event and perhaps it is spoiled only by the fact that the committee that run the event are a little pompous and rather old fashioned and are very quick to bring out the rule book. All of us this year felt that they were a bit too pompous, but it is difficult to write to a committee and tell them that, but hopefully with the passage of time some of the new members of the committee will make the day a little more relaxing. It is great to meet 224 fellow liverymen all trying to show their skill on what is a really difficult course.

## Single Wicket Competition

The Single Wicket Competition was held on Wednesday 26th May 2004 at Knotty Green Cricket Club, near Beaconsfield. This year there were 12 players, an umpire and a scorer, with 20 attendees in total. The weather was dry and conditions were good, at a very attractive village cricket ground. We were delighted to have a lady Feltmaker participating for the first time in the competition. Sarah McLeod partnered her husband Rob and they achieved a very creditable fifth place.

All players contributed to a most enjoyable evening, whilst the loss of few wickets resulted in higher scoring than in previous years. Both Nick Heal and Simon Curtis bowled well, whilst Past Master Geoffrey Farr contributed effectively with the bat. The final result was victory for Simon Curtis and Jonathon Moughton (Guest). Everyone enjoyed an excellent two course buffet supper and bar in the Club pavilion, after play had finished.

Our thanks must go to the Master for donating the prizes for the evening, and to Past Master Derek Hilton for arranging availability of the ground.



## Family Day at Great Missenden Cricket Club

On Saturday 26th June 2004, the Feltmakers organised a Family Day at Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, which included a 25-over match against the Chiltern 100's C.C. We were delighted to have a steady stream of supporters during the late afternoon as the weather improved and word spread that we had found the only location in the area where rain had not stopped play for the day.

The Chiltern 100's batted first and achieved a solid 171 runs for the loss of 5 wickets in their 25 overs. The Feltmakers started well but fell behind the required run rate to end on 154 runs for 9 wickets in their 25 overs. So defeat for the Feltmakers on this occasion but it is now 1-1 in the series and all to play for in 2005.

Afterwards, Simon Bartley and Nick Heal prepared an excellent barbecue for all attendees, 35 people including the Clerk, ably assisted by the deft cooking skills of the Master.

Both events were organised by Peter Simeons with the help of Simon Curtis

# Atherstone Mad Hatters Tea Party

## Sunday 4th July 2004

On a sunny Independence Day, Sunday 4th July 2004, the Master, the Wardens, the Clerk and their wives made their way up to Atherstone in Warwickshire to congregate initially with their guests and other townsfolk in the Ancient Market Square to the sounds of the Atherstone Marching Band, who were already assembled in a large circle and played their music as everyone started to arrive. Third Warden Geoffrey Vero coordinated the planning and arrangements for the day and acted as Master of Ceremonies.

When the church clock struck 3pm, the Master was formally welcomed and announced by the venerable Town Crier and, following an address to the gathered assembly, was greeted by the Mayors of Atherstone and North Warwickshire.

The Marching Band then led off the Square, followed by the Master, his wife and the Mayors and Mayoresses, down into Long Street (part of the ancient Roman Watling Street from London to Chester and Anglesea) and along towards the home of Howard and Judy Vero at Grendon Lodge, which had been the home of Charles and Denis Vero and their father Osborne Charles Vero.

On arrival at Grendon Lodge, the guests were welcomed on the lawn by the Master together with Howard Vero, Geoffrey Vero, John Austin and Michael Stafford, representing the three main felt hat manufacturing Companies of Atherstone: Vero & Everitt Ltd, Wilson & Stafford Ltd and Austin Aspinall Ltd. The guests were predominantly made up of Atherstone Hatting Pensioners and past employees, together with Feltmakers who had had a direct connection with the Atherstone Trade, and other Vero, Stafford and Austin family - in total over two hundred guests.

Tea followed in the Marquee, where all were able to reacquaint themselves with old friends and colleagues. The Atherstone Players Group then put on a ten-minute play based upon the Mad Hatter's Tea Party from Alice in Wonderland, played by six young actors aged 8 to 14. They acted quite beautifully and finished up wonderfully with specially-written song about the "Mad Hatters of Atherstone"! Then came the formal cutting of the Cake by the Master and a glass of Champagne.

The Master and John Austin made speeches reflecting on over 300 years of Feltmaking in Atherstone and the

amazingly close relationship all the employees had both with each other and their employers, and its ultimate sad demise as the trade became superceded by imports from China and the Far East. They were a very close knit community and all "felt" part of a big family.

An exhibition of Atherstone Feltmaking was mounted in a travelling mobile caravan, and on leaving all guests were given a commemorative mug and an opportunity to buy John Bowlers History of 400 years of the Feltmakers.

A wonderful time was had by all.

*Geoffrey Vero*



**Handy Hat Stand**

# A Quatercentenary Banquet at the Mansion House

Entering into the festivities by the great doors, I pause and glance,  
Flashes of medals and ribbons and sashes and Scipio's March -  
surely, I think to myself, he commanded it from Haendl, not  
vice versa, for his own ends  
(and, like us, beginnings, perhaps!) - all spangle the Hall's happy gabbling, suddenly,  
otherwise, hushed. And the smiles of so many friends - so many friends -  
Mediate, as we walk, the vast and solemn columns' serried Corinthian dance.

Already the Lord Mayor, bold strong friend, has grinned, delighted:  
"I've worked out in my speech a lead for Mary" he confides at my welcoming.  
Then Grace, furs, feathers give way to Stanley's beckoning  
And his busy courses below the blaze of trumpets. In shining cups  
beguiling troths are plighted.

The magic continues: our Anthem soars, and weaves a noosphere  
Above the bustling decanters while toasts for quenching thirsts are offered;  
To kingdom & City, root and branch, Service and Fidelity are proffered.  
Do these demand (I wonder) as much as centuries ago? The Lord Mayor  
draws a speech out of his ruff, lays out his wares, like a conjuror.

Except, the effect is lasting. Elegant in mind and presence Mary matches him,  
rises to summon up the better virtues of our nature,  
calls to us, as graceful and powerful as Scipio's pride.  
A last procession soon unwinds the clockwork of the evening  
- and turns into history among the hats outside.

*By someone who was there*



**Master & Honoured Guests at Banquet**





## Tree Planting

At the Master's suggestion, the Company agreed to sponsor a tree in celebration of our 400 years of association with the City of London.

The planting took place on 10 September 2004, shortly before the celebrations in Middle Temple Hall. The Master was assisted by three Wardens and Past Masters Wontner and Wright.

The tree stands on the corner of Sugar Quay and Lower Thames Street and will provide a long-lasting and tangible memento of our 400th anniversary.

*Derek Bonham*



# Quatercentenary Celebrations at Middle Temple Hall

The beautiful and ancient Middle Temple Hall in London was filled with music and merriment on the evening of Friday 10th September, when over 380 members, families and guests attended the official celebration of the quatercentenary of the Feltmakers Company. Guests enjoyed many attractions provided by the Livery, which were designed to entertain, amuse and inform.

While everyone chatted and sipped their wine to the strains of the mediaeval music provided by James Bisgood's Musicians, a number of surprises was about to burst on the happy gathering. Magician John Beckley amazed everyone as he moved from group to group performing his magic tricks, while John the Juggler drew gasps of admiration at his skilled performance.

In an adjoining room the children were being entertained with that traditional and well-loved seaside entertainment, Punch and Judy, presented by John Styles. Still to come was a performance of "The Mad Hatters Tea Party", delightfully presented by the children of the Atherstone Theatre Workshop.

During the evening, two professional models, beautifully attired by couturier Christine Hobson of Thame, paraded a range of 24 exquisite millinery creations loaned for the evening by four of the Feltmakers professional designers – Frederick Fox, Eda Rose, Rachel Trevor-Morgan and Ian Wright, whilst at the same time a number of Liverymen's wives sportingly wore other creations to help make the evening a more colourful occasion. The fashionable presentation met with great acclaim as glamorous creations in silk, straw and, predictably, in felt, were presented so elegantly. Some of the ladies present will no doubt have made a note of their favourite design in readiness for the forthcoming social season. In addition, more examples of the milliners' art were exhibited in the hall.

On sale nearby was the recently published book, the "History of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers, 1604-2004", copies of which were being signed by the author Rosemary Weinstein.

On display was a collection of the Livery's historical artefacts including the Company Letters Patent of 1604 and Charter of 1667 and 1772, plus the Company silver, the Seal, membership books, the Beadles mace and The Livery's Banner of 1870, recently completely refurbished, the cost of which was generously borne by the Master, Patrick Burgess. In addition, there was a pictorial presentation of the history of hat making and its association with the Feltmakers Company. Graphics

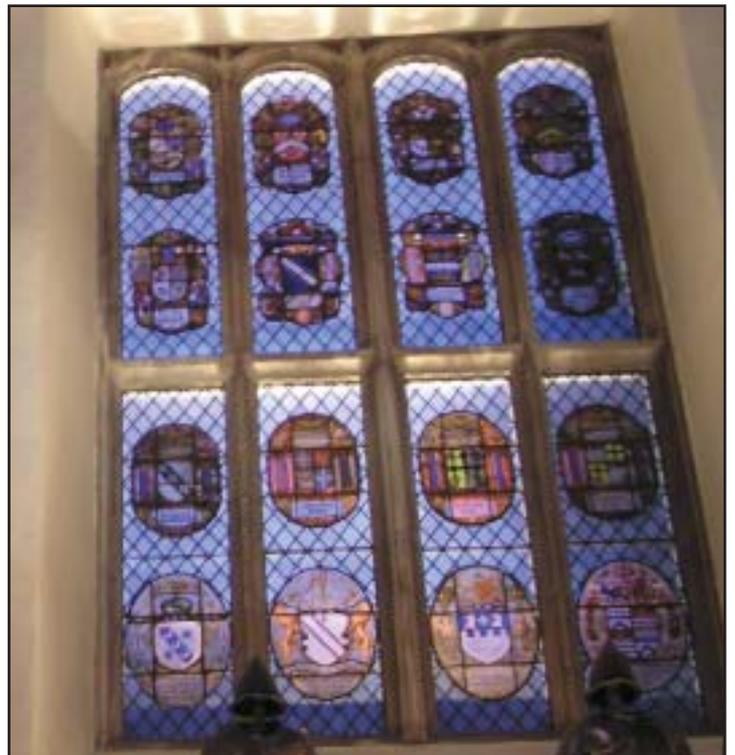
and panels for the display were generously designed and provided by George Lawson, the husband of Liveryman Eda Rose-Lawson, all of which provided an interesting backdrop allowing guests to stroll and browse and learn perhaps a little more of the Livery's history.

The evening was voted a very successful occasion in celebration of the 400 years since our founding. Assistants Nick Heal and Richard Farmer pulled the whole event together with the help of Frederick Fox, Eda Rose-Lawson, Rachel Trevor-Morgan, John Stevenson and Janet Taylor of James Lock. Finally, the Master Patrick Burgess, in formally welcoming all the guests and thanking them for their attendance, gave a brief history of the Livery and concluded by presenting a silver rose bowl to past master John Bowler and his wife Gill, in recognition of their unstinting dedication in the research and compilation of the book on the Company history. Flowers were also presented to the author.

In addition to the members and their guests who were present, there were eleven masters of other Liveries as well as two affiliated naval officers from H.M.S. Lancaster, fifteen entertainers and twenty five members of the press.

Finally, not to be overlooked was the presence of a certain artful dodger by the name of James Freedman, who was seen moving stealthily amongst the guests! By the way, has anyone seen a gold watch?

*Eda Rose-Lawson*





**The Charter**



**Eda and models**



**Minstrels and dancer**



**The Atherstone Players**



**Juggler and Children**

## Mr Punch and the 400th

At the celebration in Middle Temple, there was, in a side room, the best Punch and Judy I have ever seen - both dramatic and droll. Weeks later my little granddaughter is still talking about it.

Who is Mr Punch anyway? Where does he come from? How could such an impossibly ridiculous character survive the changes and chances of this mortal world over many centuries? Actually, no one knows. There is a

direct link with the Commedia dell'Arte of the 17th century, but Mr Punch is much older than that. Theoretically, Mr Punch's face and figure, his enormous nose and hump should be a matter for political correctness - a hump is not a matter for joking, and a large nose and sexual potency might be alright in the tabloids.

But somehow Mr Punch survives these things. Indeed he survives because he could not care a jot about political correctness or any other restriction of civilised society? And maybe all of us, at some time, have wanted to flout the laws of society, nonchalantly, getting rid of all those in



**Young & Old enjoying the performance**

our way, pursuing our

amorous inclinations willy-nilly (pun intended) and defeating the very devil himself. How often do we say of a likeable rogue - "He could get away with murder". Which Mr Punch does, nearly always. And, anyway, above all things, puppets can get away with anything.

So we are in the realm of the fairy story, the world of the imagination. Imagination is perhaps as close as humans get to the creation of something out of nothing, as God is said to have done. And Mr Punch has certainly stimulated the people who write academic articles. A lot of them are about violence breeding violence.

If I should write such an article it would be about evil. It would be about evil having about it the character of malevolent personality rather than the crudity of a blind irrational force. You may call me unsophisticated, but I am prepared to run that gauntlet. I want to give evil a personal name, the Devil. I do, Mr Punch.

*Colin Semper*

## Rounding off the Quatercentennial Year: Installation Dinner 1st Oct 2004

The third Installation Dinner in a row to be held in the Haberdashers' elegant new Hall on Friday 1st October saw Derek Bedford smoothly inaugurated into his Mastership and the new Livery year successfully launched, as the Company marks the final quarter of activities in its quatercentennial year.

The new Master lives in Moyness, Nairn, so will be exercising his Mastership from longish range, but he assured the company that this would not make a whiff of difference but rather would bring an added dimension. He looked forward particularly to welcoming lots of the Livery and their families to the Lord Mayor's Show and our Livery Bus on 13th November.

A grace in verse for the occasion was said by The Rev. Dr. Martin Dudley, incumbent at St. Batholemew the Great Church where the Annual Livery Carol Service is being held on 16th December.

The new Hall has excellent acoustics and it was again a treat to be able to enjoy the after-dinner speeches without straining to hear. And indeed the speeches were worth hearing. The new Fourth Warden Nick Heal got the welcome to the guests off to a cracking start. He was followed by the new Master Derek Bedford, who paid a fitting tribute to the outgoing Master Patrick Burgess for his stirring leadership of the Company in its 400th year. While promising to continue the celebrations to the year end, he suggested that the year 2004/5 would be a 'quieter' one. The emphasis, he said, would be on fellowship and recruitment, and indeed five new members were welcomed into the Livery during the evening.

Principal Guest of the evening was General Sir Peter de la Billiere, a star speaker who gave a fascinating and thought-provoking after-dinner address. He shared with the company some thoughts on physical courage and moral courage – a foretaste of his forthcoming TV series on ten historic characters who illustrate this theme. Reflecting on his experience of the first Iraq War more than a decade ago, Sir Peter had some penetrating observations to make about the absence of joined-up thinking by the governments concerned in both wars, concerning planning for the immediate period after the fighting was over. The company was left in no doubt that here was a man who really knew what he was talking about.

His fine address will continue to be mulled over by those present long after the savour of the delicious roast sirloin of beef complemented by an excellent Chateau Cantemerle 2000 has faded into a pleasant memory.

## Brian Courtney Treby 1930 - 2004



Brian was born on 27 December 1930 at Palmers Green, the son of an accountant, with one brother and one sister. He joined the commercial world at High Wycombe and, after his marriage to Eileen in 1955, lived at Hazlemere, Bucks. They had two daughters and subsequently five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

He was a man of the highest integrity and known for his forthrightness and high principles. His many interests included membership of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers, which he joined in 1981.

As a Freemason, he was an active member of the City of London Lodge and was elected their Master a few years ago. On his move to St Teath in Cornwall 17 years ago, he continued Freemasonry and helped to found Beacon Lodge in Bodmin, also raising monies for Cornish Freemasonry, notably £2,000 for the Provincial Festival.

He continued business at his home and set up works at The Barn producing commercial labels for food packaging, always giving personal attention to his customers and often having to work through the night to meet their requirements.

He was a keen gardener, his speciality being growing sweet peas with which he won several prizes at local shows. Another interest from early childhood was collecting stamps and cigarette cards. He was also a member of the National Trust, becoming chairman of the North Cornwall branch and at his death was their treasurer.

Finally we remember Brian as a great family man and offer our sincere condolences to his wife Eileen, daughters Desne and Diane and all members of their families.

He will be greatly missed by all his friends in the Feltmakers – “a good man and true.”

# Feltmaker's Society Report - October 2004

The Society has over the summer been extremely busy either organising or co-ordinating the full range of activities in which the full Livery participates either "in-house" or "at-large" and a number of these are written up separately in this edition of The Feltmaker.

Whilst reflecting on these for this article I cannot but be drawn to the analogy of the swan progressing serenely and oh so effortlessly but with, beneath the pristine white and elegant façade, a pair of ugly but very active and extra-ordinarily well coordinated feet. Not I hasten to say that my colleagues on the Feltmaker's Society Committee are ugly but rather that in the seemingly perfect running of the Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shooting Team, the Master's Golf Day, the Single Wicket and Livery Cricket Matches as well as in the Inter-Livery Tennis Competition there is a vast amount of hard work undertaken by volunteers - normally willing - which ensures that the events go like clock work and that our Livery is admired for its organisational capabilities as well as its involvement. For this credit must go to Brian Minningham, Gerry Higginson, Peter Simeons and Jeremy Brassington. However all this work requires further help and in time new volunteers to move the Livery, and the Society, forward. Consider this then a call to arms; Members of the society - volunteers please!

In addition to the normal events in the Livery and the Society's calendar this 400th year we have been involved in the creation of the Livery's entry into the Lord Mayors' Show on Saturday 13th November. If our

normal work is like that of a swan then perhaps the analogy in this case is the humming bird - an extraordinary amount of co-ordinated work involving out-of-Livery as well as in-Livery volunteers to allow us to participate at the highest level for such a short moment.

The results, and hopefully photographs, of our entry will appear in the next edition of the Feltmaker, but in passing, and with the event a mere 3 weeks away I really must take this opportunity to encourage the participation on the bus or en-route. It will be a really fun day and will be an opportunity not to be repeated for many years!

Finally the falling of the leaves and imminent turn of the year focuses my mind on the Livery Society Dinner in January. This, the highlight of the Society's calendar and the event that Livery Society Members seem to enjoy above all others - the June Mansion House Dinner perhaps withstanding!

Again this year we are holding the dinner at the East India Club in St James's Square and application forms will be winging their way to you before the arrival of your first Christmas Card. Please support the dinner - it is the opportunity for all new, and recently new, Liverymen to mix with the Master and Wardens in informally and for us to thank, by means of entertaining them, our Clerk and our Chaplain. A new initiative for the Society agreed at its last Committee meeting, and relating to new Members, will be unveiled at the dinner and I hope that all eligible to attend will do so.

*Simon Bartley*

## 10th Inter Livery Clay Shoot Holland & Holland

10th Inter Livery Clay Shoot Holland & Holland Northwood Middx.

This year Feltmakers entered 3 teams Feltmakers, Simon Wood a part family team and a guest team.

The day kicks off with breakfast at 7-30ish offering cooked and continental cuisine and lots of coffee.

after muster and registration we moved off to the stands, (10 in all) as there are some 70 teams competing a little wait is to be expected, we put this time to our knowledge to equate the direction and speed of the clays. Simon Bartley shot a respectable number as did

the Clerk with his "side by side" I am sure he will win the individual prize for this class one year, Brian Minningham started well on the high stand but fell away later in the day. the Guest team were very well up in their ratings and will try harder in 2005. Simons party enjoyed themselves but were not in the prizegiving. Our Master, Patrick Burgess could not shoot because of the accident he sustained early in the year but we were delighted to see him for lunch. The weather was kind to us, enabling all to have a very enjoyable day.

# The Feltmakers Charitable Foundation

Elsewhere in this edition are chronicled the exploits of our Clerk, Jollyon Coombes, as he strode out in Iceland (and previously in Jordan) taking up the challenge of the imaginative fundraising ventures he had identified for the benefit of the Foundation. Such initiatives signal a new era of opportunity for the Foundation, made possible by the enthusiasm of both our Clerk and the Livery as a whole, who have demonstrated clearly that they wish to see the Foundation (which after all is the charitable arm of the Livery Company) more proactive in pursuit of its objectives.

This change has come about in the last three years through active steps taken by the Trustees, with the unanimous support of the Court, in recognising that the future of the City's Livery Companies would be strengthened by more focus on increasing the already quite substantial support for charitable enterprise. This would require augmenting the Charity's existing investment income with new sources of revenue.

The establishment and success of the St. Clement's Initiative (St. Clement being the Patron Saint of Feltmaking) in the last twelve months has been just such an additional source of revenue for the Foundation. As we go to print, such contributions plus Gift-Aid have in a year almost doubled our annual revenue from this new source alone. Nearly 70 Liverymen have now signed up to the St. Clement's Initiative and the Trustees are very grateful for this tangible and positive support. Another way of looking at this new revenue source is that it is equivalent to a capital injection of nearly £150,000 each year into our funds.

In addition, other fundraising projects separate from the investment income and the St. Clement's Initiative will have provided a further amount over the two year period to the end of December 2004, which in total will triple the annual revenue compared with three years ago. This significant improvement in our financial position allows the Trustees to look at longer-term projects as well as the possibility of increasing our contributions to the various causes that are already supported.

The second important feature to report is that this change in our fortunes opens the possibility of enhancing the Charity Committee with a wider brief and a greater number of Liverymen sitting upon it to

assist the Trustees in their duties: in particular, by researching Charity projects including making visits and reporting back to the Trustees before decisions are made over whether to provide support. It is also the task of the Charity Committee to launch fundraising projects from time to time. Involving more Liverymen and their skill and talent not only shares the load but also helps broaden the consensus of our charity ethos.

But where does, or will, all this money go? Previously the criteria adopted by the Trustees, among other things, limited support to City-based charities, and only exceptionally was this departed from. With some of the poorest areas neighbouring the City of London being in the surrounding London Boroughs, this restriction is no longer sustainable. Southwark particularly caught the Trustees' attention as for centuries it was the centre of the hatting trade.

Coincidentally, about eighteen months ago the City of London Academy, a joint venture between the Department of Education and the City Corporation, was located in Southwark as a new City Academy that would concentrate on academic subjects closely associated with the City. It was the view of the Trustees and the Court of the Livery Company that we should discuss with the Chairman of Governors of the City of London Academy (ably assisted by Deputy Mrs. Joyce Nash) an association between the Academy and the Feltmakers.

These discussions have now brought us into a much closer association with the Academy: a new institution with a thriving student body which in the next eighteen months is planned to move into new premises in North Southwark. Our involvement is to be long term and will not only comprise charitable financial support but also the involvement of Liverymen in such aspects as mentoring the students, making visits and perhaps contributing lectures.

The rise in our fortunes has also enabled us in our Quatercentenary year to double the prize money for the Feltmakers Award so that it now stands at approximately £2,250, and improving the award scheme by seeking applications Europe-wide. We can also report that we are now in the third year of support for a charity based on the Thames, which assists children in developing their skills, particularly craft skills, including feltmaking.

Another pleasing feature of this new financial climate is the ability to assist the charitable endeavours of individual Liverymen who seek our support. The Trustees are very receptive to any ideas presented by Liverymen and we are encouraged by the potential available via the Charity Committee. It is clear that we now have much opportunity to develop the Foundation and the Committee is grateful to the Livery as a whole for responding so positively. So at the commencement of the 21st century we are at least on the move, certainly onwards, and we believe, upwards.

*Brian Burgess*

<b>CHARITY FACTS</b>	
Name of Charity:	The Feltmakers Charitable Foundation
Charity Registration Number:	259906
Charity Trustees:	<p>The Master of the Day</p> <p>Past Master - Brian Burgess</p> <p>Past Master - Peter Grant</p> <p>Past Master - Nicholas Mellstrom</p> <p>Clerk to the Trustees - Major Jollyon Coombes</p>
Value of Investments:	£300,000.00
Charity Accounts Year End:	31 <sup>st</sup> December
Annual Investment Income:	Approx. £9,500.00
St. Clement's Initiative in a full year provides:	Approx. £7,000.00 and rising
Fundraising Ventures in the last two years ending 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2004:	Approx. £10,000.00 each year
Pensioner Hatter Distribution made on behalf of the Haberdasher's Company Totals:	£10,000.00
Members of the Charity Committee:	Chairman - David Bartley, a Trustee of the Foundation Richard Nobbs, Richard Farmer, Simon Curtis, Mrs. Arabella Neekirk.
Meetings:	The Trustees meet approximately four times a year. The Charity Committee meets at least twice a year and as often thereafter to progress its work.
Regular annual payments include:	Lord Mayor's Appeal - £1,000.00 Feltmakers Award Scheme - £2,250.00
List of other Charitable Donations made in the year is available from the Clerk to the Trustees upon request.	

# Feltmakers' Charity Challenge Iceland Trek in Aid of Treloar's and the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal, July 2004.

It is quite extraordinary how people form little social groups when confronted with a demanding issue. This was no exception on the 15th July 2004, when your Clerk stepped on to the aeroplane at Heathrow bound for Reykjavik.

The group in this instance consisted of a shot blaster/painter from a dockyard in Cumbria with a ring in his nose and one for good luck in his eyebrow, a pretty American woman from Credit Suisse First Boston (further details withheld); a young graduate accountant from the same firm; from Ireland, a brother and sister team who ran a slaughter house in Cavan (killing 3,500 pigs a week); from Wales, a student about to go up to Pembroke College at Oxford and the Clerk to the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers. Together with this unlikely group of travellers were a further 35 people and assorted guides.

Iceland is approximately the size of Ireland with a population of 290,000, of which about half live in Reykjavik. 65% of their GDP is made from the fishing industry, the other major industry being the smelting of aluminium - all the houses are roofed with aluminium and indeed largely constructed from it, and heated by geo-thermal hot water. Until World War II, Iceland was a very poor country but, with the arrival of British and American bases in 1940, the infrastructure of the country improved dramatically. Today, it must be one of the cleanest countries in the World and surely the most expensive! However, Icelandic women tend to be blond, blue-eyed and good looking!

On arrival we were moved very efficiently by bus to the Southern Uplands region, some 3.5 hours drive to the east. The countryside was quite extraordinary: flat, solidified lava flows, glaciated valleys, ragged 'newish' mountains and lakes, all punctuated by past volcanoes which spawned fissures and scores of rivers.

The growing months are mainly confined to June, July and August, so vegetation there is scarce and trees almost non-existent.

Passing Mount Hekla, which rises to 4,500 ft and is still an active volcano, we arrived at our first base at Landmanra-laugar. The Icelanders are keen outdoor people and it seemed that at least 10% of them had collected at this camp site for their weekend, so, with rain beginning to fall, we were pointed in the direction of a large pile of dismantled tentage and told to get on with it. Your Clerk, as an ex-military man, found this re-introduction to the pleasures of camping a bit unsettling at the end of a long day. When we were told to share tents, I decided that, as the second oldest participant, this need not apply in my case. Somewhere there must have been three very cosy people in a tent, but I never did find out who!

The sun does not set in Iceland at that time of year, so with slowly fading anticipation for what the dawn might bring, I drugged myself to sleep with a mixture of whisky and sleeping pills, which worked wonderfully. Some of the other 41 people apparently did not fare quite so well and the morning camp site looked a little as though King Cetshwayo's Zulu warriors had just swept through in a re-enactment of the 24th Regiment's defeat at Isandlwana. Eventually, by about 0730hrs, we were all dressed, fed, watered and duly packed up for our attack on the 'Southern Upland Way'.

The 'Upland' bit accurately described the terrain, but should have included some 'down' as well. Up and down we meandered for hour after hour, luckily with no rain in sight. The landscape unfolded in a series of mountains like neapolitan Swiss-rolls, topped with snow and glaciers. Wherever you looked there was always a glacier on the horizon and the folds of the



**Our intrepid Clerk**

mountains were every colour from the black of obsidian to pink, yellow and green.

The downward slopes were always the trickiest to negotiate and in some cases became extreme, so that a few casualties were experienced, though none too serious – the victims simply skidded down the rough, scree-covered ground until they stopped at the bottom of the slope.

A hut, manned through the summer months, provided a suitable stopping point to demolish our lunch, with the photogenic opportunities that the views presented taking our minds off the pure, physical endurance aspect of the day. Before long the terrain changed to a volcanic desert with occasional ice caps, then, as the



first day drew to a close in an interminable downward trek, it changed again into an exaggerated Scotland with wild flowers, ptarmigan flying and even heather in places.

Not for the first time that day we came to a river that needed fording, which called for boots and socks off in favour of suitable fording footwear. Being well pleased to have got this far, your Clerk threw discretion to the wind and thought he would show how it was done the 'quick' way - there are few things as cold as being totally immersed in an Icelandic river, even in July. My brand-new digital camera was ruined and, more importantly, I had to swim off downstream to retrieve my walking stick, a great personal friend.

The last three miles, to the next overnight stop, were covered in about 50 minutes. Already exhausted and wet, it then started to rain for the evening tent erection exercise - what a bore! But on the other hand, since we had covered some 20 miles and been up to 3,500 ft. and down again, what an experience!

It is amazing how you gather friends when you are the only person, out of 42, who has alcohol at hand when the spirits are up and people's resolve rekindles at the end of a hard day. My bottle of port became much lighter too!

After the trials of the first day, day two passed in an uneventful and almost dull sort of way. The terrain was

now a moonscape-like desert of black volcanic dust, with protruding hills reminiscent of the slag heaps one can see in coal-mining areas of England. The main excitement was watching the competitors passing us by in an annual, non-stop running race over a distance of 54 kilometres. We learned that the front runners were expected to complete the course in about 4.5 hours - a staggering speed given the terrain. This was a shorter day with a mainly downward trend: none of us minded the respite from the first day's backbreaking exertions. As we came into the evening camp it started to rain again, but by now we were becoming old hands at the camp-erection performance and our gallant Icelandic support team soon had supper cooking. Once you are past the 2/3rds point of a walk, a renewed spring becomes noticeable in everyone's step and laughter and jokes become the rule, instead of stooping figures agonising almost continuously over their exertions along the route. Thus, leaving the volcanic, with obsidian slags behind us, we set off on a most magical third day, heading south towards the sea and our final destination at Porsmork.

The air was so clear of pollution that you could see for 70 miles or more, and it was certainly the day to see that far. The scenery was again a combination of Scotland on a large scale with Switzerland on a small scale. Wild flowers abounded, and bird life, starting with ravens, gradually became more evident as we came down from



the central wastelands. With glaciers still hugging our left shoulders, only some 3-5 miles away, we descended further and further towards marginal civilisation. The sun shone and we never did see the rain again.

Exhausted but content, we arrived at last at Porsmork, having walked about 50 miles, crossed countless rivers (mostly without event), seen a country which in geological terms was born yesterday and met the most delightful Icelanders. To say nothing of the fact that Treloar's and the Lord Mayor's Charitable trusts are now better off by about £6,000.

So a very great thank you to all those who sponsored me so generously, from within the Livery and from without, thus making the whole adventure possible.

## Charity Luncheon at Windsor Racecourse

Also on 11 March, over £16,000 was raised at a charity luncheon for the Spinal Injuries Association at the Windsor Racecourse's elegant restaurant, where Court Assistant Eda Rose-Lawson had been invited to speak and provide a parade of her spring/summer collection of couture hats, which were ably displayed by six beautiful models.

The chairman, Lady Howerd de Walden, personally bid £700 for one of Eda's hats and complimented her talent, saying that in her opinion she was one of the best couture milliners in the country.

The event was a great success - Eda's only regret being that she had reluctantly to decline an invitation to judge the annual Feltmakers' Design Award which took place in Luton on the same day.



Designed by Eda Rose Lawson



Designed by Eda Rose Lawson

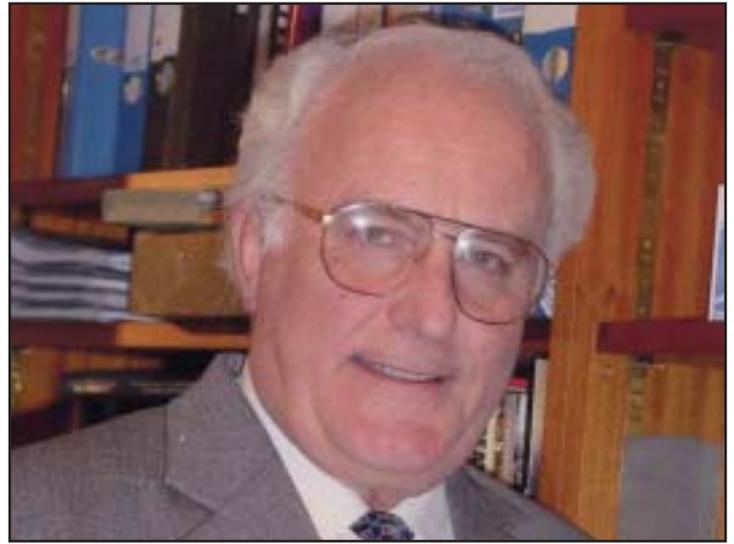


Designed by Eda Rose Lawson

## New Liverymen

### John B Wotton OBE

John Wotton has been involved in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries for over 40 years, since he joined the US drug company Upjohn in 1961, on leaving the Royal Air Force. He was formerly Group Managing Director of Huntleigh Technology plc and Chief Executive of Chiltern Invadex Group plc. On his “retirement” in 2001, John established a healthcare consultancy, specialising in international projects for care of the elderly and rehabilitation. He is a Patron of the Pasque Hospice in Bedfordshire. John also acts as a Government Trade Adviser on healthcare issues in South East Asia and is a council member of the Association of British Healthcare Industries. He was appointed to the Singapore British Business Council in 1996 and chairs its Life Sciences sub-committee. It was in this connection that he was appointed an OBE earlier this year. In his spare time, John enjoys travel, cars and boating.



### Jane Way

Jane was born and brought up in Sheffield. She was educated at Moreton Hall, Salop and Institut Videmanette, Switzerland, where she learned to ski, speak French and enjoy life. She had an interesting and varied career, including 20 years of running her own business in porcelain restoration, before she took up millinery in 1991. Jane studied at the Royal London College of Fashion and now operates from a studio in London, taking private commissions. Jane is an intrepid traveller and her expeditions have included travelling solo in Malaysia and from London to Kathmandu overland with a group. She is a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society. Her other interests include fine art and antiques, classical music and ballet. Jane is divorced, with three sons.

### Thomas Shannon

Tom was born in Kenya and spent his formative years in Australia. He has spent most of his working life as a practising chartered professional engineer and physicist, with a focus on medicine and machine vision. In 1984 he moved to Oxford and later founded a global, high technology company listed on the AIM market. He is a fellow of the Institution of Engineers (Australia) and of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce.

Tom has had over 30 years military service with the Australian army, the Royal Australian Naval Reserve and, most recently, as a Territorial with the Royal Green Jackets, retiring with the rank of Major.

Tom’s wife, Cindy, is Texan and they have two grown up sons.



## Simon Millar

Simon lives in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire with his wife and two young daughters. He was educated at Tiffin School and Wolverhampton Polytechnic, where he took a degree in Humanities. For the last 15 years Simon has worked in property insurance, and is currently Head of Insurance at ICP Insurance Consultants, the insurance arm of Lee Baron Property Consultants.

Simon loves all sports and is a keen Rugby player for Huntingdon & District RUFC. He also enjoys travel, particularly cultural visits to Europe.



## Judy George

Judy gained a BA Honours degree in classics from the University of Wales. She started her career in the civil service but later developed an interest in law, and was called to bar by the Middle Temple in 1977. She also has an MBA.

The bulk of Judy's career has been spent in local government. She was Assistant Director of Social Services for the Corporation of London until 2001, when she transferred to the City of London Police, where she is currently Head of Management Services.

Judy has worked in the City of London for thirty years, and also lives in the City. Her interests include enjoying fine wine (she is a member of the Jurade de St Emilion) and fencing (foil and sabre) for fun rather than competition.

## Phil Wood

Philip's story begins during the blitz on London: "my father, then in the army, and my mother came out of their air raid shelter to discover that their house had taken a direct hit". They were evacuated to Welwyn Garden City where Philip was born in 1945.

A typical secondary education of the day, plus day release and evening classes at a polytechnic, led to a career in sales/marketing in the building industry and a sales management position with I.S.I. Philip went on to run his own interior design business until he retired six years ago after 24 years, but continues to work as a consultant. He married his wife Margaret in 1966 and moved to Bedfordshire in 1974. They have two children: Nicholas, now in the banking world in the City, and Catherine now working in mortgages and financial services.



# Lord Mayor's Show 2004

The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers' Entry will be based on and around a long wheel base tourist bus provided by "The Big Bus Company"

In addition to the bus itself, which will be open top, there will be walking participants.

The theme of the entry is "400 years of Hats" and the question posed will be "Who's the head in a hat?"

Both sides of the bus will be covered from top to bottom and end to end (excepting the drivers requirements to be able to see) with a covering depicting famous hat wearers. These will be in profile and in silhouette but with a coloured depiction of their hats. There will be some 20 personalities from over the past 400 years (the same on both sides of the bus): the personalities will range from Sherlock Holmes to Churchill, from Wellington and Nelson to Tommy Cooper, from Florence Nightingale to Audrey Hepburn and from the Cat in a Hat to the Mad Hatter!

The front of the bus will have a large (10ft) mounted coat of arms of the Livery together with a name plate and the back will have a silhouette of the new Lord Mayor with his Hat (which you will be aware is given to him annually by the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers). It will also give his name and offer him the Company's congratulations.

On hatstands (actually poles) on the top (open deck) of the bus will be a number of large polystyrene models of famous hats: these will include a Top Hat, a Bowler Hat, a Modern Ladies Hat etc. These will be shaped and coloured as though they were real and will be about 5 times real size. They will break up the line of the top of the bus. However it is only fair to warn you that should the weather be particularly inclement - especially in relation to wind - then these may not be mounted. The height of these hats will be determined by, amongst other considerations, height restrictions on the route.

In addition, all the riders on the top of the bus and the accompanying walkers will be dressed in finery and will, of course, be wearing hats.

The bus will also make note of the support that it gives to Providence Row Charity.



## Some Kind Words from the Lord Mayor

Maggie and I were invited to the Lord Mayor's Viennese Ball at the Mansion House last night, where the Lady Mayoress was extremely complimentary about the Feltmakers. She said that the mayoralty's relationship with various companies differed, but that the Feltmakers are always in there early "in our drawing room, just after the Lord Mayor has been appointed" and that then the ladies see us again at the Hat competition and they enjoy our banquet. So, at least for this Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, we seem to rank high; but I think it was really intended more as a general comment on the Company, in this and other years, which I felt was rather nice.

# Diary

## 2004

08 November (Monday)	Royal British Legion Service	St. Paul's Cathedral
12 November (Friday)	Past Masters' Lunch	Army & Navy Club
13 November (Saturday)	Lord Mayor's Show	Company Participation in open bus
16 November (Tuesday)	Presentation of the Lord Mayor's Hat Followed by Lunch	Mansion House
07 December (Tuesday)	Master & Wardens Meeting	56 Davies Street, W1.
07 December (Tuesday)	Lord Mayor's address to Masters and Clerk	Mansion House
16 December (Thursday)	Carol Service followed by supper at Haberdashers' Hall	St. Bartholomew the Great

## 2005

10 January (Monday)	Court Meeting followed by The Master's Plough Monday Dinner	Cutlers' Hall
17 February (Thursday)	Renter Wardens' Committee Meeting A.M. Trustees Meeting P.M.	56 Davies Street, W1.
17 March (Thursday)	Master & wardens' Meeting, followed by lunch	56 Davies Street, W1. RAF Club
17 March (Thursday)	Lord Mayor's Dinner for Masters, Prime Wardens & Upper Bailiffs	Mansion House
18 March (Friday)	United Guilds Service, St. Pauls followed by lunch	Savoy Hotel
04 April (Monday)	Court Meeting, Livery Dinner	Trinity House
03 May (Tuesday)	Life Members, Lunch	East India Club
04 May (Wednesday)	The Master's Golf Day	Camberley Heath Golf Club
17 May (Tuesday)	Sons of the Clergy Service	St. Paul's Cathedral
18 May (Wednesday)	Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot	Holland & Holland
19 May (Thursday)	Inter-Livery Golf Competition	Walton Heath
26 May (Thursday)	Charity Committee Meeting	Clerks' Office
01 June (Wednesday)	Single Wicket Cricket Tournament	Beaconsfield Knotty Green
09 June (Thursday)	Master & Wardens' Meeting followed by lunch	56 Davies Street, W1.
10 June (Friday)	Ladies' Banquet	Mansion House
24 June (Friday)	Election of Sheriffs	Guildhall
25 June (Saturday)	Livery Cricket Match	Amersham
04 July (Monday)	Court Meeting, July Court Dinner	Salters' Hall
08 September (Thursday)	Renter Wardens Committee Meeting 10.30 a.m.	56 Davies Street, W1.
14 September (Wednesday)	Trustees Meeting P.M.	56 Davies Street, W1.
14 September (Wednesday)	Master's Dinner for Wardens	RAF Club
15 September (Thursday)	Master & Wardens' Meeting followed by lunch	56 Davies Street, W1.
29 September (Thursday)	Election of Lord Mayor	Guildhall
07 October (Friday)	Court Meeting, Installation of new Master & warden, Installation Dinner	Haberdashers' Hall