



The Master's Message

May I first of all thank the Court for the honour of electing me Master of our Company for the coming year. I am conscious that I follow a long line of distinguished Past Masters who have served the Company well and truly, and I shall do my best to continue the very high standards which my predecessors have set.

I know that I shall be supported by a very able team of Wardens, and may I say what a particular pleasure it is to have Mrs Susan Wood as the new Fourth Warden. Her family connections with the Company, combined with her expertise in financial matters, make her an admirable addition to the Master and Wardens group.

I must pay a warm tribute to our Immediate Past Master, Derek Bedford. Derek picked up the reins to see our 400th anniversary celebrations through to completion, including our participation in the Lord Mayor's Show and our very special Carol Service in the church of St Bartholomew the Great. Derek, on behalf of the Court and indeed the Livery, thank you for all your good work.

It is customary at this time for the new Master to set out his thoughts for the year ahead. Our programme of meetings and dinners falls into a well-established pattern and I do not intend to change that; indeed the calendar has already been produced in what is, I hope, a convenient form to go on one's mantelpiece. Common Hall on November 14th will, for this year, be exclusively a celebration of Nelson and Trafalgar. Looking further ahead, our Spring Livery Dinner is to be held in Lincoln's Inn, which I hope, will prove an interesting change from a Livery hall. Further ahead still will be the Livery weekend visit to Cardiff for which I hope to firm up the arrangements very shortly.

I will continue the good efforts of my predecessors to maintain our recruiting drive, support our charitable activities and, with the help of the admirable Feltmaker Society, encourage wider participation by some of our less-frequently seen members in our activities. If, in a year's time, the Company is as strong as it is today or, better still, with some value added, then I shall be content.

Finally, may I add that my father, who was very proud to have been elected an Honorary Member of our Company,



John Curteis - our new Master

would be I know be very happy to know of my installation as Master. He had great affection for the Feltmakers Company, which he held in high esteem. I recall him talking about the kindness and friendship he received at all the Feltmaker events he attended and he would be pleased to know that those features of friendship and good fellowship continue to prevail in our Company today as much as they did in his day.

Wardens: Derek Bonham, Geoffrey Vero, Nicholas Heal, Susan Wood

Immediate Past Master: Derek N. Bedford

Clerk: Major Jollyon Coombs

Registered at Stationers Hall **Editorial Committee:** Rowland Brown, Judy George, Nicholas Heal, Eric Shawyer, Susan Wood

Master and Commander John Curteis - A Potted History

John was born in 1941 in Inverness. After spending most of his childhood years in Sevenoaks, he was educated at Radley College and in 1961 took articles with Whinney, Smith & Whinney, Chartered Accountants, later to become Ernst & Whinney, in London. He qualified in 1965 and in 1968 moved to Cardiff where his firm merged with a local practice and was admitted to partnership in 1974. He worked mainly on the audit and accounting side of the practice. He took early retirement in 1991 shortly after the merger to form Ernst & Young. Since then he has worked as an independent business consultant.

John has had a "second career" with the Royal Naval Reserve. He joined the London Division as a rating in 1961 and was commissioned sub-lieutenant in 1962. On moving to Cardiff in 1968 he transferred to the South Wales Division, HMS Cambria, in which he held various appointments including Commanding Officer from 1988 to 1992. Perhaps the most interesting of his sea-going appointments was that of Squadron Supply Officer on Exercise Maplehaul, the deployment of four RNR minesweepers to Nova Scotia to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Since retiring from full-time work, John has been chairman of an NHS Trust and of a housing association and President of the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce. Amongst the many charities with which he is or has been involved are the Order of St John, King George's Fund for Sailors, The Mission to Seafarers, NSPCC and The Prince of Wales' Committee. He is Senior assistant in the Welsh Livery Guild.

In his local county of South Glamorgan, John was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 1990 and Vice Lord-Lieutenant in 2003 and was High Sheriff in 1993/94.

He is married to Fiona and has three grown up but as yet unmarried children. In what spare time he has he is trying to improve his golf but, so far, without much sign of success.

Feltmakers' Society Report-October 2005

It has been a busy and successful summer with our sporting activities reported elsewhere in this edition of the Feltmaker. There are a number of new Liverymen who may well be wondering what function the Feltmakers' Society fulfils. The Feltmakers' Society was established in 1994 to encourage participation amongst Livery members in the activities of the Livery, and in particular to encourage the newer Livery members to join in and meet their fellow members. This has been achieved in a number of ways over the years through sporting events, social evenings and an annual dinner for the newer Livery members. These are organised by the Feltmakers' Society. At the present moment we have 43 members of the Livery Society together with the Committee comprising myself, Peter Simeons, Brian Minnighan, Neil Edwards, Ian Wright and Jane Way. The principal events organised by the Livery Society Committee are the Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot, the Single Wicket and Livery Cricket matches, the Master's Golf Day and the Inter-Livery Tennis Competition. These events are open for participation to all members of the Livery, not just those who wish to engage in the sport, but also for those who wish to spectate and partake of the food and refreshments! Each event is organised on a voluntary basis and there is a need for support on the day to ensure its smooth running. Liverymen are encouraged to support these events and should contact a member of the Committee if they wish to assist. The Clerk sends out regular notices with regard to the timing of these activities, so there will be no excuses for non-attendance!

The Livery Society Committee are currently considering the inclusion of one or two additional non-sporting events during 2006 and suggestions from Livery members would be most welcome.

I took over as Chairman of the Livery Society this summer from Simon Bartley, who I would like to thank for his hard work over the last three years and for steering us through the 400th year's programme of events.

The Livery Society Dinner will again be held at the East India Club on January 23rd 2006. The dinner is well attended and is a chance for Livery Society members to get to know each other, to meet the Master and Wardens informally, and to meet our Clerk and our Chaplain without whom we would be organisationally and spiritually in the wilderness! Invitations will be despatched in early December and I look forward to meeting as many Livery Society Members as possible. In the meantime do not hesitate to get in touch with any suggestions you may have for future events, or activities you would like to participate in, via email to brasscom@globalnet.co.uk or by telephone on 01483 773378.

Jeremy Brassington

The Feltmakers' Society

Since I joined the Livery, I have admired the concept of the Society and supported its activities whenever possible. The Society provides an admirable forum for newly-elected Liverymen to get to know their colleagues at informal gatherings. I recall a number of visits to City attractions, such as the College of Arms and Guildhall, such visits usually concluding with a pint or two in the Wig and Pen, or similar establishment. The Society's annual dinner, now held at the East India club, is firmly established in the Livery calendar and is a well-supported and enjoyable event.

Jeremy Brassington, who has now taken over the reins from Simon Bartley, will have my full support during my year as Master.

John Curteis

A Master's Year in Retrospect. 2004-5.

I was very fortunate to have been installed, with some three months of the 400th Anniversary Year to run, and to lead at two of the special events. The first of these was our participation in the Lord Mayor's Show, which proved a real "fun for the family day", for those who walked or rode the bus; and culminated in a splendid firework display. The second was the Reception at 10 Downing Street, followed by Dinner at Mossimans, which proved a very memorable evening, and raised some £6,000 for Charity.

The Thanksgiving and Carol Service, at St Bartholomew the Great, will always stay in my mind. We had processed in wearing our hats, only to be outshone by their verger, whose hat looked positively Napoleonic! The organist and choir led the singing beautifully, and gave a wonderful rendition of the Feltmaker Anthem. A superb lead up to Christmas, and a very joyful occasion, with supper afterwards in Haberdashers' Hall.

The Installation Dinner, the Plough Monday Dinner at Cutlers' Hall, and April Dinner at Trinity House, went well, and the Speakers were well received, particularly General Sir Peter de la Billiere. These are reported elsewhere; as was the Ladies Banquet, which the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and our principal speaker Esther Rantzen, all enjoyed. In fact although we finished in good time, the Lord Mayor kept Sally and me talking, so long, that we were the last to leave, and in danger of having to turn out the lights!

In addition to our Feltmaker functions, there were some twenty four Luncheons, Receptions or Dinners that I attended, with other Livery Companies, often accompanied by Sally. We attended the Buckingham Palace Garden Party, on perhaps the hottest day in July; better weather than I had experienced when seeing the Queen, at the Fleet Review at the end of June! Altogether I attended more than fifty functions, which made it seem one of the busiest years of my life.

September saw the Inter Livery Tennis Tournament at Queens' Club, and the Cocktail Party aboard Lancaster, on the Thames. This was followed by the Election of the new Lord Mayor by open outcry. "All, next, later or never" is the outcry on the hustings, for each candidate, in descending order, although I doubt anyone would progress so far as to encounter the "never"!

Turning to the objectives I outlined at my Installation, on recruiting, we have admitted six new Liverymen, and one Apprentice, with three more candidates recommended to Court, and one more in the pipeline; so we continue to be on track. On Charitable giving, we have increased our distribution by some £7,500, which went to purchase the specialist wheelchair for a severely disabled pupil at the City of London Academy (Southwark). Finally I hope I have encouraged some of our younger and newer members to get involved, both by participating in committee work, and by speaking at Dinners.

It has been a wonderful year for both Sally and myself, and one which we shall never forget, for we have enjoyed it thoroughly. One comment, often repeated to us from other Livery Companies, is that the "Feltmakers are the friendly Livery Company" and we have done all we can to foster that tradition.

Immediate Past Master Bedford

The Master's Plough Monday Dinner

It was some years since we had last dined at Cutlers' Hall, which lends itself well to a Court Meeting, and provides a sense of intimacy, when the Sheriffs, Members of Court, and family and friends of the Master are entertained. This year, in addition to Alderman and Sheriff John Hughesdon and Mr Sheriff David Cobb CBE, we also welcomed Robin Sherlock, the Master of the Worshipful Company of Parish Clerks, and Air Commodore Marcus Witherow, who responded on behalf of the Guests.

The range of the Master's Guests was considerable, and stretched back over many years. There were family and friends, including Members of the Livery, friends from his days in the RAF in Aden, and his time at Nottingham University in the 1950s; Cranfield University in the 1960s, and more recently from business.

After an excellent Dinner of Langoustine Terrine, Tournedos of Beef, and Plum and Almond Pithivier, accompanied by Bouvet Ladubay 2003, Chateau Cantemerle 2001, and De La Force Port 1992; we were entertained by excellent speeches. The Toast to the Lord Mayor Corporation and Sheriffs was eloquently proposed by Liveryman Jeremy Bedford, to which both Sheriffs responded, in accordance with tradition.

The Master then proposed the health of the Guests, with anecdotal evidence of their past friendships. The response from Air Commodore Witherow thanked the Master for his hospitality, and took us back to their service in Aden in 1956/7, and the practical jokes played there amongst junior officers of competing Squadrons. It was great fun, but naturally the Master disclaimed any responsibility for such actions! We finished in good time, and a splendid evening was rounded off with a very convivial stirrup cup.

Life Members' Luncheon

The Life Members broke with tradition this year: they lunched in May rather than March, and at the Royal Automobile Club in Pall Mall, rather than at the East India Club. It was a convivial and relaxed occasion, with the Master as our guest. Past Master Keens welcomed the Master and glasses were raised to Past Masters Hilton and Grant who were unable to join us this year.

The next Life Members' Luncheon will take place on Tuesday 16 May 2006. The venue will be advised nearer the time.

Baroness Boothroyd OM

The RT Hon Betty Boothroyd, Member of the Feltmakers', was appointed OM by Her Majesty the Queen on 28th April 2005. Betty Boothroyd was an exceptional Speaker of the House of Commons from 1992 - 2000. Feltmakers are delighted that she has received the high distinction of Order of Merit.

Downing Street Reception

The line between opportunism and creativity is a narrow one. But it was a stroke of genius on the right side, one may confidently assert, that the Trustees of our Charitable Foundation hit upon the idea of holding a reception in No. 10 Downing Street, followed by a dinner for members of the Livery and their partners to celebrate our 400th anniversary of incorporation and to supplement our charitable funds. The Prime Minister's wife provided the opening for this some years ago when she decided that on some Thursday evenings No. 10 should be available to charities for fundraising purposes. There is heavy competition, so it was a very great privilege to



find ourselves in the Prime Minister's home on the evening of 2 December 2004, entering by the famous front door. One of the most powerful people in the world lives in what looks like a really rather ordinary house. And in fact it is in some ways: the development Sir George Downing built, which once extended down the side of Downing Street which is now occupied by the Foreign Office, round the bottom and then back toward Nos. 10, 11 and 12 was a jerry built project scheme. However the house at No. 10 had one considerable advantage: it had been joined to a much grander house behind. It is a typical English country house, designed for surprises: like the contrast of the rickety lift to the Prime Minister's family rooms and the exquisite, delicate plasterwork in the State Rooms, where we were headed. We passed through the somewhat domestic scale of the front hall and lower corridors and gathered in the State Rooms. Liverymen were able to explore and to enjoy themselves - and for a rather longer time than we had expected. The

astonishing weight of history was palpable. The furniture, and pictures and sculptures filling the rooms were from best examples of English craftsmanship and artistry over the last three centuries and the many memorabilia evocative and fascinating. Mrs. Blair came down from her private apartments shortly after the start of the occasion and made a point of personally welcoming everyone who attended. (Fashion note: she was wearing a dark blue suit). All were impressed by the attention she gave to them and to what they said. The Master, with considerable

deftness, guided her through the gathering. When she



addressed the assembled Company herself in the White Drawing Room, it was clear that she knew a great deal about us - and the mercantile virtues of the Livery. When we finally departed, it was a short journey to Mossiman's at the Belfry and there more riches were in store. After chatting together in the great-beamed octagonal room situated in the dome of the building, we sat down to a menu, which admirably complemented the quality of the evening so far. Our menu card, artfully and amusingly compiled by the Chairman of our Charity Trustees, recalled the various members of the Company who had been associated with No. 10.



The whole evening was delightfully jovial and reflected everyone's sense of satisfaction not just with our historic visit but also with the concomitant gratifying increase in our charitable resources. The funds raised enabled us to buy a wheelchair for a severely handicapped pupil at our adopted Southwark Academy. Many congratulations to our organisers and sincere thanks to our very elegant and articulate hostess!

By Past Master Patrick Burgess

The Ladies' Banquet

I have often thought that if one were to examine Wisden, it would show that in the game of cricket, most batsmen find themselves back in the pavilion shortly after they have raised their bat in celebration of a century – pundits would undoubtedly attribute this to a major shift in the batsman's emotional balance the moment a century has been achieved.



For a batsman to stay at the crease long enough to score a quadruple century would require the temperament to strike the 101st, 201st and 301st runs as if they were the very first of the innings. In this our 401st year, the Livery resisted any temptation to play to the crowd and send balls crashing into the proverbial confectionery stall, but instead kept its head down and returned to the steady

but enjoyable game which has brought the Company such longevity and which will hopefully keep the scoreboard ticking over so that in 2104, another generation of Feltmakers may enjoy the celebrations which we so relished last year. This year, The Master brought an air of the Highlands to the Mansion House on Friday 10th June as Pipe Major John Spooore, RVM, led the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress and our principal guests into the Egyptian Room to the skirl of the pipes. John Gray, Liveryman and Master of the



Guild of Public Relations Practitioners, proposed the Civic Toast, and The Right Honourable The Lord Mayor, Alderman Michael Savory, responded with many humorous anecdotes from his overseas visits representing the City this year. The Master presented The Lord Mayor with the customary cheque for one of his many charities and invited the Lady Mayoress to present the Feltmaker Award for 2005 to Ms E. Stoker, winner of the 2005 hat design competition. We were honoured to

have Esther Rantzen, OBE, to reply on behalf of the guests. Ms Rantzen entertained us with many insights into her career on and off television and, more importantly, reminded us of the work of her Childline charity. The Master was delighted to present Ms Rantzen with a cheque for the charity. The Ladies Banquet is the highlight of the Livery's year and the success of the evening is enhanced by the broad support of the members of our company. In one evening we see demonstrated our threefold purpose: charitable donations, education and good fellowship. We are grateful to The Lord Mayor for allowing us to use his magnificent home for this special occasion and hope that the Ladies Banquet will continue to flourish and prosper in years to come. **By Jeremy Bedford**

Esther Rantzen, OBE, is seen in a photograph on the left, wearing a brown hat and a dark dress, standing next to a table covered with a blue cloth. She is holding a cheque. A woman in a dark dress is standing next to her, also holding a cheque. The room is grand with a large chandelier and ornate architecture.



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The Fleet Review by Her Majesty the Queen.

On Tuesday 28th June your Immediate Past Master, Fourth Warden and gallant Clerk risked life and limb to be aboard HMS Lancaster for Her Majesty's review of the fleet. The full description of the adventurous 45 minute journey by launch from Portsmouth harbour to the ship, moored off the Isle of Wight, will be published on the website shortly. There is only space here to record that the Company's intrepid representatives had the memorable experience of boarding HMS Lancaster by pilot ladder from a civvy launch in high seas!

Having been welcomed aboard, we were escorted to the Captain's Cabin, given a reviving coffee, and then taken up on the Bridge, as we were to move, with three Destroyers, to take position with the rest of the Fleet. We steamed in line astern, with HMS Nottingham leading, and Exeter and Southampton following on, paid the due respects to those ships we passed, and anchored back in the Solent, for the Review. We were moored in the third rank, behind the French nuclear Carrier, Charles de Gaulle, a Spanish Carrier, and the USS Eagle. There were by my count sixty three Royal Navy ships present, while foreign navies increased the total to well over a hundred.

After lunch and a brief rehearsal of our three cheers for Her Majesty, it was time to take our positions. The Queen was perhaps eighty yards away as Endurance passed us, but with some borrowed binoculars I could clearly see her smile and wave to Lancaster, which she had personally launched, and is counted as something of a favourite in Royal Circles.

We were then stood down, and after more refreshments, the three Feltmakers enjoyed a thorough tour of Lancaster, conducted by Steve Deacon. A marvel of weaponry and technology, but with so much to fit in, work and living space seemed tight, particularly to an ex RAF man, and industrialist.

After thanking Commander Morley and the crew, it was time to leave at around 5pm. The journey back ashore was much easier and we enjoyed the stunning display by the Red Arrows, which seemed even more impressive being seen from sea level.

I spent the evening watching the mock battle and fireworks from a good vantage point on the shore. As darkness fell it became more difficult to make out the manoeuvring of the replica sailing ships, but as they headed back into harbour, they were beautifully silhouetted against the starbursts of the most magnificent firework display I have ever seen. A truly marvellous celebration of Nelson's Victory two centuries ago, and a day I shall never forget.

By Immediate Past Master Derek Bedford

HMS Lancaster Reception

The last official Livery event in Past Master Bedford's year only appeared on the calendar in late summer. HMS Lancaster was asked to attend an International Defence Sales Exhibition at EXCEL and kindly offered the Livery the opportunity to host a reception aboard. Our gallant Clerk leapt into action and on 16th September 90 guests boarded the ship for a most enjoyable evening.

The Commanding Officer, J D Morley, who assumed command of HMS Lancaster in 2004, was in attendance along with Lt Commander Steve Deacon and a large number of the officers and crew. The Feltmakers and their guests received a very warm welcome. The drinks were in accordance with naval proportions and readily available from attending staff. The Clerk's daughter, Daisy, provided the food.

The reception took place on the flight deck, but a number of the visitors were offered a broader tour of the frigate and this was taken with enthusiasm. It was particular fun to watch senior Liverymen manoeuvring in and out of the Merlin helicopter!

The time passed very quickly and soon we were all shore side again, having had a most enjoyable time. It was encouraging that an event arranged at short notice received such strong support, and especially welcome to see Liverymen whom we do not see as regularly as we would like at other events.

Our warmest thanks to HMS Lancaster for hosting a memorable evening. Long may our affiliation continue!

by Brian Minnighan



April Livery Dinner

On the first Monday in April, as required by our Charter, the Court met at Trinity House. This 18th Century mansion on Tower Green overlooking the Tower of London has long been the home of the Corporation of Trinity House established by Henry VIII in 1514. The Corporation, governed by the Elder Brethren, is now the General Lighthouse Authority for England and Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar. It is also The British Deep Sea Pilotage Authority, promotes aids to navigation and has a number of charities for the benefit of the maritime community.

The Feltmakers have had friendly relations with Trinity House for many years and have the privilege of using its magnificent state rooms and dining in the library. When arranged for a dinner, the books are housed behind panels but the splendid collection of silver is on display. The evening was well supported by the Livery and for once we comfortably outnumbered our guests. The toast to the guests was charmingly and adroitly proposed by Mrs Judy George who was admitted to the Livery in 2004. Our tables were graced by the Deputy Master of Trinity House, Rear Admiral de Halpert, and the Masters of several other Livery Companies accompanied by their Clerks.

The principal guest who replied to the toast was Professor R. J. Cormack who is charged with creating the University of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The present Millennium Institute of which he is the principal is already a teaching body functioning on the lines of the Open University. He explained how it is bringing university facilities to an extensive but lightly populated area and is supported by Derek Bedford, our Master. It is well on its way to full university status and recognition as an examining body.

By Past Master Harper

British Red Cross Christmas Market

For the first time the Feltmakers will have a stall at the British Red Cross City Christmas Market in Guildhall this year. Eda Rose-Lawson has persuaded twenty leading milliners to donate hats to be sold in aid of the British Red Cross. Do come and support your fellow Liverymen in this excellent endeavour and do your Christmas shopping at the same time! The Christmas Market takes place in Guildhall on Tuesday 22nd November (11.00am to 6:00pm) and on Wednesday 23rd November (11:00am to 4:00pm). Entrance £3. The Preview Night on Monday 21st November is for pre-booked tickets only (£15 single, £25 for two). Further details are available on the British Red Cross website: www.redcross.org.uk

Review of Christmas Carol Services

It is good to have founded a simple tradition, the Carol Service just before Christmas. My original idea was to produce something familial but with dignity, followed by relatively inexpensive food. The hope was that children and grandchildren would not feel like total aliens, even in grand surroundings. The idea was to produce something not too long, and enjoyable. (I hope I do not deceive myself)

Masters like to make their mark but it is difficult given a format which has been created for the nation by King's College, Cambridge. So a sense of place becomes important. We have had the grand and the bijou, Westminster Abbey and St Paul's, and a small city church. My prize for the most apposite location must go to Ian Wellesley-Harding. As the year 2000 was about to dawn, we sang astride the Greenwich Meridian in the Royal Naval College Chapel where Ian had been Commander, and we dined in the Painted Hall. Magic! The historic and the personal came together.

The prize for the most intimate environment must go to Jonathan Rowley with St Martin within Ludgate. A quartet of professional voices filled the church as we sat, it felt, in the round.

The prize for the most creative input to a service, music and words goes to Patrick Burgess on crutches. Every idea worked triumphantly, save one reading and it wasn't the fault of the reader!

My personal award for location goes to Derek Bedford for securing The Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great, Smithfield. There is no finer parish church in the kingdom than the Four Weddings and a Funeral film-set.

But the location that eclipsed all others was David Bentata's synagogue, Bevis Marks. This attracted criticism. It was not criticism of David, nor of the idea of visiting his synagogue. It was criticism of the loss of "our carol service." I might have been with the critics but for two vital concerns. David is not what is sometimes called a "community Jew"; he is a devout religious Jew of a very distinctive tradition. Additionally, I have always thought it important to support the Master. It is a good Livery principle. So, we went to Bevis Marks and, I think, the decision was justified. We had an illuminating and warm occasion of considerable emotive power.

Traditions need examination from time to time. We have sung well. We have read well. Our choirs have given us a high quality of music. The preaching has been patchy. The food ditto but cheerful. The fellowship has, as always, been exemplary. So, maybe the Carol Service has a bit more mileage in it, don't you think?

By our Chaplain, Colin Semper

Trafalgar Trek 10th - 17th July

The Feltmakers Charity Challenge 2005 in support of SSAFA, Treloars and Promise Nepal



Congratulations to our intrepid Clerk and Liveryman Jane Way! They raised over £15,000 by walking the 75 miles from Cadiz to Gibraltar, via Cape Trafalgar, in mid July. Jollyon has written a wonderful account of their trek across flat, sandy and hilly terrain, via deserted beaches, coastal paths, a cork forest and main roads. It will be published in full on our website. The photograph shows the Chairman of the Charity Trustees, Brian Burgess, presenting Jollyon and Jane with a well-earned bottle of champagne when they reached Gibraltar. Jollyon then returned to UK in style: aboard HMS Lancaster. The journey included a moment of remembrance off Cape Trafalgar, where a wreath was laid in honour of those who had given their lives in the battle.

The Feltmaker's Charitable Foundation: Working in your name!

In September 2004 I received an unsolicited e-mail from the City of London Academy (Southwark) one of the new City Academy Schools with whom we had had discussions and is sponsored by the City Corporation. It was quite brief. It simply said could the Feltmaker's Charitable Foundation help with funding as they had sourced a very special and adaptable wheelchair for one of their disabled students. This was to be no ordinary chair while providing conventional mobility it also had the capacity to provide support to allow the disabled person to stand up. With this chair the disabled student could enjoy much more equality with student contemporaries. The trustees accepted the challenge, and pleased to be asked raised the £7,500 needed to provide the chair. Most of the funds were raised at a fund-raising evening at 10 Downing Street organised by the Trustees in November 2004 as part of our Quatercentenary celebrations. On a recent visit to the Academy the Prime Minister was introduced to the disabled student, shown the chair and told how this was provided by the Feltmakers. On November 3rd 2005 the Master has been invited to accompany the Lord Mayor who is to officially open the Academy now it has been built on a site in North Southwark (definitely hatters territory in times gone by!) This fledgling relationship with the Academy we look to prosper in the years ahead.

Introducing the news about the Foundation in this way serves to illustrate that decisions taken two or three years ago to refocus our efforts has shown developing success and opportunity. None of it would have been possible without the strong support and generosity of the whole Livery, to whom we are so grateful, which has encouraged us as Trustees to strive to do better for the Foundation. So what does 'better' in the context of our Foundation really mean? It means to mention but one example, we have been able to provide a bursary at Kensington and Chelsea College particularly for the millinery students. Those privileged to attend the hat show at this college in July saw some outstanding creations

crafted by the student milliners some of whom will be celebrated designers in the future; the show had 'hatmosphere'! We are fortunate to be able to help these students develop their undoubted skills thanks to the initiative of Past Master Bill Horsman who helped us make the connection.

A number of Liverymen have expressed interest in the criteria we adopt as Trustees when providing charitable support. Others enquire about the role of the Charity Committee of the Livery, chaired by Liveryman David Bartley, who perform an essential function researching and advising on requests received. Many might be considering a legacy in their will and need the wording suitable to be inserted in the will to give effect to their wishes, or want to make a life-time gift. Still others hear we wish to support Liverymen's charitable endeavours but how do they apply? All this questioning is very encouraging and leads the Trustees to believe we should produce a leaflet which will enable any Liveryman to have to hand the appropriate information needed. We hope to distribute this in the months ahead.

Though important charity projects, the Academy and Kensington and Chelsea College are but two mentioned here nevertheless many other Charities have been supported being some new projects as well as our regular recipients. Any article about the Foundation should make mention of the St. Clements Initiative, for this fund with Gift Aid (a 28% add on!) now represents as much annual revenue for us as continues to be provided from our investment income. So with greater revenue resources we have been able to do more. All Liverymen must take the credit for this improved situation.

So a big 'thank you' to you the Livery for enabling your Trustees to give greater effect to your wishes, as we face the future with greater confidence about our ability to meet demands made of the Foundation.

Brian Burgess
Chairman of the Trustees.

Observations of the Lord Mayor's Procession by a spectator

Freemen of the City of London are more likely to experience the Lord Mayor's Show as part of the procession. What is it like to be among the crowd lining the route? Last Autumn I took my family to watch. As guests of the Corporation of London, we had grandstand seats, opposite the Guildhall. Having travelled into London by train, and battled our way across the capital to take our places in good time, we were part of a captive audience. A spectacle lasting an hour and fifteen minutes needs to have continuing interest and a capacity to surprise. Furthermore, it needs to have an appeal that spans age groups.

My son, then aged 7, loved the military regiments, corps and bands: the more the better. On balance the Royal Marines commando squadron probably went down best. Then again, some of the tanks were pretty impressive too. What my daughter, then 5, most liked was the giant unicorn, the float of the Unicorn children's theatre company. The Ascension Eagles Cheerleaders, right at the start of the procession, added action and interest. I seem to remember some floats distributed handfuls of sweets to children in the crowd. Another (from Spitalfields Market?) had bunches of bananas to give away.

My own favourites were the pikemen accompanying the Lord Mayor's state coach, just like in the classic children's story Humbert by John Burningham. Golly, those pikes are tall. The music, from the military, scouts and Church Lads Brigade bands to African drumming from Ujamaa Arts and Bengali pop from Sitar Fusion, added to the carnival atmosphere and sense of excitement.

Interspersed amid all this pageantry and vibrancy, of course, were the livery companies. Now, I know livery companies are integral to the history of the City and, therefore, to the Lord Mayor's Show. But - how can I put this delicately? - some of the companies seemed to have put remarkably little thought or effort into their own contribution to the spectacle. Try to imagine the procession from the perspective of members of the crowd. They want to be entertained. What they see when many of the livery companies pass by is (largely) men, some in gowns, but basically looking fairly dull. The odd glove puppet here and there doesn't really set the imagination racing.

The Feltmakers, I must say, did enter into the spirit of the day with an open top bus, jolly music system and, naturally, some notable headwear. However, remembering the effort and energy that goes into the floats and displays by some of the community groups (and if the Corporation of London's Cleansing Department can enter into the spirit of the show, decorating a dustcart with recycled rubbish) surely some of the livery companies could do more to spice up their contributions. **Greg Hurst**



A Past Master's View of the Lord Mayor's Show



It was always going to be a grand occasion. Thirty-third float in a Lord Mayor's procession almost 3.5 miles long was only right and proper for a Livery now chartered for 400 years.

We had gathered as instructed on London Wall and all were hatted, though not all the headgear would have won a prize at Luton. The Master in his flowing robes and overflowing hat would be marching ahead of our Livery "Float", supported by his four Wardens and a posse of Past Masters. We waited. Immediate Past Master Patrick Burgess, who led us into our Quatercentennial Year, looked up at the sky and wrinkled his nose as Englishmen do when assessing the weather. Master Bedford did the same and out of the blue the RAF roared past. We were off. Our programmes told us that in 14 minutes the Pageant Master expected us in front of the Mansion House.



Our programme also told us that the "Floats" in the Show had originally been river barges, because in 1452 the Lord Mayor, Sir John Norman, was too disabled to ride to Westminster and so chose a sumptuous State Barge instead. This tradition lasted for a couple of centuries until the foulness of the Thames drove the Show back on the road, so to speak, but the tableaux kept their watery title. And our programmes told us more: in 1711 poor Lord Mayor Heathcote fell off his horse and thereafter the City fathers borrowed State carriages whenever possible. Finally in 1757 they went up to Berry and Barker's in Holborn and paid out £1,065 (and sixpence please note!) for the magnificent three-ton trundler we would be seeing later. For two hundred years the Lord Mayor's coach had no brakes at all, so negotiating Ludgate Hill must have called on all the coachman's skill.

Our route to Mansion House took us down Gresham Street, past all those little streets with their evocative mediaeval names...Gutter

Lane, Wood Street, Love Lane, Milk Street and King Street. This was the corner in 1817 where the Marshall's horse reared and threw him to the ground. Worse still, it plunged on him, apparently agitated by his scarlet uniform and so fractured his leg that it had to be amputated. It is reported that the City fathers awarded him "Four freedoms of the City" and compensated his wife with 200 Guineas! This unhorsing was not in our programme but the Marshall's name was John Wontner...a great-great-great uncle. The late Pageant Master may have heard the story from my father. Anyway he chose a deep dark blue for his uniform.

The Master's men divided fairly evenly. Naturally Past Master Bowler wore a bowler, and so did Past Masters Burgess B, Mellstrom and Cobb. But Burgess P, Harper and our learned, gallant and energetic Clerk were all silkily topped. Past Masters Keens and Hilton chose classic English trilbies, as against my rather sinister black fedora, and Susan Wood wore an elegant low crowned, wider brimmed black hat. Past Master Bentata favoured the deerstalker and the concomitant outfit of a certain Victorian gentleman seriously stalking. But to cap it all the late Robin



Shirley came in a multi coloured jester's outfit that contrasted nicely with the crisp black of the Master's umbrella-ed, be-bowled or topped men.

As we turned onto Ludgate Hill Past Master Wright boarded our bus, cunningly disguised as an official programme seller, complete with cap. We progressed along Fleet Street and pulled in by the Aldwych for much needed sustenance, before embarking on the return journey via the Embankment and Queen Victoria Street. The new Lord Mayor was already at Mansion House as we swept by. Did we get an extra wave? I felt we did.

How many came to the show? Some said a quarter of a million. Whatever the actual number, it seemed astonishing that so many people could cram into an area so small. And the happiest memory many of us will keep of the Feltmakers' day in the sun was of how pleased everyone seemed to be to see us in our float.

By Past Master Wontner



Robin Shirley 1941 - 2005

Robin Shirley died on Easter Sunday from complications from Hepatitis A virus, which he contracted during a short lecture tour in Egypt at the end of last year. Robin was an enthusiastic supporter of the Livery. He regularly attended official dinners and functions, and also served on the editorial committee for this publication. As the picture shows, he really got into the



Robin with the Feltmakers at the Lord Mayor's Show - with hat (of a sort).....

spirit of the Company's 400th year celebratory contribution to last year's Lord Mayor's Show.

Robin was an internationally acclaimed expert in crystallography, having written the industry-leading software to determine the molecular structure of substances from the scatter patterns of X-rays fired at powdered crystals. It was on this subject that he was invited to lecture in Egypt, and indeed all over the world in recent years. However his range of interests and expertise did not end there. He lectured in statistics in the Psychology department at Surrey University, was a very active poet and member of the Wey Poets group in his home city of Guildford, was a keen collector of butterflies and moths, an active member of the Computer Conservation Society, contributing to their museum at Bletchley Park, and was a founder member of the Computer Arts Society, having contributed to many of their events including the Edinburgh Festival. At one point he even had his own interactive computer poetry exhibit at the Science Museum.

Robin was born in Harrow, the eldest son of John Shirley, sculptor, aircraft industry designer, and later, Liveryman in the Feltmakers' Company. During the war Robin was evacuated with his mother to his grandfather's house in Glastonbury, where they became close to the Quaker Morland family, renowned for their sheepskin products. After the war, the Shirley family moved to Crowthorne in Berkshire, where his brother Peter was born. His journalistic interests became apparent at the Forest Grammar School in Winnersh where he started up and edited the school newspaper. A brilliant student, in 1959, he won a State Scholarship and went to University College London to read Chemistry. However, the

distractions of the big city and his keenness to take an interest in a wide range of other activities meant that he did not complete his degree until 1964, graduating then with a 2.1. On the way he also studied film at the Slade School of Art, edited the university Union diary for 3 years, and helped set up and regularly contributed to the university's Poetry Society.

After eventually graduating, Robin was invited to study for his PhD in Crystallography at UCL, by the eminent Dame Kathleen Lonsdale FRS. Robin admired her greatly, not just for her research skills, but also for her Quaker beliefs. It was this influence, as well as his earlier wartime friendships, that made him decide to become a Quaker himself. He followed Quaker beliefs for the rest of his life. He never finished his doctorate, as Dame Kathleen died before he could finish. He later started two more PhDs, after he joined the staff of Surrey University, but never managed to finish either of them. It was typical of Robin that he rarely considered that anything he was doing was ever properly finished to his satisfaction. He always delayed submitting his thesis for examination, until he had just done that one extra piece of work.

When he was 21 he married Linda. They had three children, Alison, Stephen and Elizabeth. He was a devoted family man and was devastated when Linda died in 1988, after battling with illness for many years. His way of tackling his loss was to get involved in even more activities. As well as his lecturing work at Surrey University, he became a visiting researcher at the prestigious Clarendon laboratory in Oxford, and ran his own commercial consultancy in computer hardware and software. He also became Chairman of the Surrey branch of the Association of University Teachers and actively negotiated on behalf of his colleagues.

His energy, enthusiasm and good humour will be sadly missed by his family, friends, his work colleagues, Crystallographers worldwide, and, of course all Liverymen who knew him, even if just as a lively dinner companion.



... and in slightly more formal attire at the Middle Temple

Prince Arthur of Connaught Cup Golf Competition Walton Heath on 19th May 2005.

Playing in a strong breeze and the odd shower of rain, the Feltmakers Livery Golf Team achieved an historic first by winning this prestigious golf event at Walton Heath on 19th May. The Feltmakers have regularly entered this Livery Companies Golf Event, competed for by 56 teams playing in 6's, but this is the first year in the cup's 78 year history that the Feltmakers have been able to put their name on the trophy.

Representing the Feltmakers' were Adrian Salmon and Geoffrey Vero as first pair and Geoffrey Farr and Richard Nobbs our second pair. Both pairs played with skill and acumen, and ended as 4th best pair and 10th best respectively, with a winning combined score card of -12, comfortably outshining the modest score of -48 recorded by the Chartered Accountants.

Geoffrey Farr has handed over the Golf captaincy to Geoffrey Vero on a high note, and in a strong position. A full report of the day's golf can be read on the Company's website - it makes for fascinating reading.



The Winning Team

Feltmakers Golf Day

The golf day was held for the third time at Camberley Heath Golf Club on a May afternoon which, on the first tee, felt like a February afternoon. However, the cold did not take away the enthusiasm of the 24 golfers which included the Master, Derek Bedford and Upper Warden, John Curteis together with the Clerk and 12 other Liverymen.

The standard of golf by all players was well above average for the Company's golf day and this was reflected in the scores with almost every golfer achieving higher than 20 Stapleford points. Indeed, the day's winner was Graham Homewood, a guest of Dennis Syberg who amassed an amazing 40 points playing off scratch!

Richard Nobbs and Peter Cobb both once again retained their Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin prizes and indeed, Peter Cobb was clearly able to concentrate far better with his immaculate shot on the fourteenth green unlike many other golfers who were clearly distracted by Simon Bartley's champagne stand at the far end of the green.

The prize winners were as follows:

Nearest the Pin	Peter Cobb	Runner up Liveryman	Geoffrey Farr
Longest Drive	Richard Nobbs	Runner up Guest	Barry Edwards
Ladies' Prize	Catherine Farr	Winner Liveryman	Gerry Higginson
Player with Endeavour	Tony Skrimshire	Winner Guest	Graham Holmewood

Next year's golf day will be held at Harpenden Golf Club on Wednesday 10th May 2006 and I hope will be well supported again by those who played this year and by those unable to play who could make a diary note on reading this report.

By Neil Edwards

Cricket Activites 2005

Single Wicket Competition

The Single Wicket Competition was held on Wednesday 25th May 2005 at Knotty Green Cricket Club, near Beaconsfield. This year there were 14 players and a scorer, with 24 attendees in total. The weather was warm and sunny, which surprised some of our regular participants!

We were delighted to have a lady Feltmaker participating again in the competition. Sarah McLeod partnered her husband Rob, and they achieved a very creditable fifth place.

All players contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable evening either with bat or ball. Fourth Warden Nick Heal captured three wickets in one over to ensure victory in the competition with 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 18th June 2005, the Feltmakers organised a Family Day at Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, which included a 22 over match against the Chiltern 100's C.C. Again it was another fine sunny afternoon and this encouraged a steady stream of supporters during the day.

The Chiltern 100's batted first and were all out for 150 in their 22 overs, with 3 wickets being taken by Simon Curtis. Mention must also be made of the keen fielding by the Feltmakers, not least by Past Master Geoffrey Farr, who had already played 18 holes of golf in the morning. The Feltmakers got off to an excellent start with Patrick Waterfield scoring fluently. With solid contributions from Nick Heal and Peter Simeons, the Feltmakers achieved their target of 151 with two overs to spare.

Afterwards, Simon Bartley and the Clerk prepared an excellent barbecue for over 35 attendees.

Peter Simeons organised both events with the help of Simon Curtis

By Peter Simeons

Feltmakers' Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament 2005

The heavens opened very early on 15th September, the day of the annual Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament at Queens Club in London. With six courts booked outside we clearly had to fall back on the contingency plan. What contingency plan?! We had four indoor courts as backup, and two extra courts were granted on the day for an hour apiece. With 25 pairs competing from 12 Livery companies there were some 50 qualifying matches to play before the play could begin in the knock-out section for the Feltmaker Trophy and the Plate Competition. Fortunately with a little help from my friends, Louise Waller and Jane Way we were able to squeeze a quart into a pint pot and play the finals on time at 5.30pm. We were delighted to have as our guests a team of four from HMS Lancaster led by Captain James Morley who acquitted themselves well on the day.

The Tallow Chandlers lead pair of Christopher Kurkjian and his sister Alexandra lifted the trophy for the Tallow Chandlers for the fourth successive year. We are, however, seeing beginnings of the Tiger Woods effect as the standard of tennis is improving year on year with the final being fiercely contested by a pair from the Vintners, Jane Hartley and Rupert Clevely. The winners receive tickets for finals day at the Stella Artois Tournament

The Plate Competition was won again by the Goldsmith's pairing of Nick Fraser and Suzanne Came who managed to stamp their authority on the Chartered Surveyors pairing of Nick Smith and Rebecca Mason.

A fitting finale to the day was dinner in the President's room overlooking one of London's finest squares. Next year the Tournament will be held on Thursday 14th September. We are looking for tennis players to represent the Livery, additional teams from other Livery Companies, and participation from other Feltmakers to come and support the tournament and enjoy the delights of the dinner in the evening. Please get in touch if you are interested in supporting this event.

By Jeremy Brassington



Tennis Tournament Finalists - Winners on the right

The 11th Inter Livery Clay Shoot at Holland & Holland Shooting Ground

Once again this event was very well organised by The Environmental Cleaners Company. This year the Feltmakers Company entered two teams (one livery and one guest). The Livery team consisted of Sir Neville Bowman-Shaw and his brother, our Clerk Jollyon Coombs and Brian Minnighan. Accompanying us were Past Master Bill Horsman, and Liveryman Louise Waller, who was attending her first event and shot very well on the 'driven pheasant' stand. Our team presented themselves very well and were above average on the '80 bird flush' stand. Our overall score put us mid way of the 74 teams who competed. Our guest team also shot very well and were in the top 10 finishers.

An excellent lunch and prize giving followed around 2pm; needless to say The Gunmakers Company took the top prizes. Their demonstration of side-by-side classic guns was quite spectacular. Once again the weather was very kind to us and we all agreed it was a very enjoyable day.

The event will be repeated in May 2006 and I would ask all Feltmakers who shoot to come along and have a go. **By Brian Minnighan**



Installation Dinner - Haberdashers' Hall - 7th October 2005

It was a very good evening with all the right ingredients; a Court Meeting with an agenda which allowed the Master, Wardens, Past Masters to express their views trenchantly and at some length, followed by a reception in the pleasant ambience of the new Haberdashers' Hall, an excellent dinner and some very good speeches. A Feltmakers' dinner with good friends and guests is always a memorable occasion and the 2005 Installation dinner was certainly one of the very best.

Our Chaplain, Colin Semper, introduced the dinner with an uplifting grace after which the Very Reverend Dean of St Pauls' was seen to nod his approval. The Master and the Clerk had managed to arrange an excellent dinner; the English beef was particularly good, supported by a very drinkable Margaux. What a skill it is to provide food for 140 people that is delicious and hot. After the Loyal Toast, Assistant Jeremy Brassington proposed a toast to our guests in an elegant speech. The Lord Lieutenant of South Glamorgan, Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards RNR responded with a thoroughly entertaining speech full of amusing stories and one-liners which had the Feltmakers and their guests laughing uproariously. The Master concluded proceedings with a dignified and thoughtful speech which set the seal on a delightful evening. **By Past Master Cobb**

Assistant Nicholas Hilliard Elected to Common Council

In March 2005 Assistant Nicholas Hilliard was elected a Member of Common Council. He is one of ten Members representing the Ward of Farringdon Without, which encompasses both Smithfield Market and Temple. As a result of the recent City franchise changes, Nicholas will hold that seat for four years. He served on the same Ward between 1994 and 1996, but resigned in 1996 following his appointment as Treasury Counsel at the Old Bailey. As well as representing the interests of his Ward, Nicholas will also serve on the Port Health and Environmental Services Committee.



In his day job, Nicholas is a barrister, specialising in criminal prosecutions. He has been involved in several high profile cases, including the so-called "coughing Major" and Sion Jenkins. He is Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association, senior Treasury Counsel at the Old Bailey and a Recorder of the Crown Court. He was called to the Bar, Middle Temple, in 1981 and made a Bencher of Middle Temple in 2003. Nicholas lives in Chelsea with his partner, Jane, who is an actress. Jane's latest role is in Steven Spielberg's film about the Munich Olympics.

New Liverymen

William Battersby

William is married to Julia and they live in Kennington with their three teenaged children - Madeleine, Hannah and Jamie. William comes from a long-established hatmaking family. His Great Grandfather started in the hatting industry in the 1850's and the family's business, Battersby & Co., Ltd., made hats in Stockport until 1966. William studied Archaeology at London University before starting his career in the City. He now works for Mellon Global Investments, based in Blackfriars, and manages the firm's relationships with investment consultants in Europe. In his spare time he is a keen private pilot.



Adrian Doble

Adrian lives in Essex with his German wife and their three children. He is head of Turnaround Services in the Business Recovery Group at Numerica, a business services firm which he joined in 2002. Before that Adrian spent 23 years with a major clearing bank, including five years in their business workout team. He is a founder Fellow of the Society of Turnaround Professionals, a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers and an affiliate of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. In his spare time, Adrian is a keen footballer and golfer.



Richard Gray

Richard retired in 2001 after a varied and interesting business career. His experience includes assessing wartime bomb damage claims with a firm of West End architects, working for the Italian oil firm AGIP and senior management positions in the charitable sector, with the Spastics Society and Cerebral Palsy Overseas. In 1990 he joined the London Hostels Association, which looks after 1400 young working people and students in 13 major buildings in central London. In "retirement" Richard remains both a Director and Trustee of this organisation. His charitable activities continue as a Director of Pennies from Heaven. His sporting interests include cricket and rugby, and he recently took over as Treasurer of the Middlesex Charity Sevens. Richard lives in Old Amersham with his wife, Olive, and they have one son, who is a Partner at Knight Frank.



John Harvey Horn

John was born in Luton and has spent all his working life in the dyeing side of millinery. Together with his father and brother, he currently runs Barford Brothers Limited (formerly Hubbards of Luton Ltd), whose business is dyeing all types of straw/sisal hoods, ribbons and feathers. John is an active member of the Rotary Club of Luton and was International Chairman 1998-2002, when he forged an especially strong link with the link club Halberstadt, in Germany. John enjoys all aspects of woodwork, DIY and decorating. When he is not renovating or servicing his 1934 MG PB sports car, he is most likely in his garden: designing and building decking or new pagodas. He is married to Christine and they have two daughters.



Chris Horsburgh

Chris grew up in Broadstairs Kent. He graduated in Chemistry from University College London and completed his doctorate at Birkbeck College, University of London. During this time he developed an interest in computing and spent the next 11 years working in different parts of the University of London's academic computing service. This corresponded to the time of the introduction of the first pcs and networks. In 1990 he joined a startup software company that produced systems for investment banks trading derivatives. After 10 years and 2 Queen's awards for exports he joined a consultancy and has spent the last 5 years working with investment banks specialising in the area of derivative operations. Chris is married to Madeleine and they have a teenage daughter. His interests include cricket and he is a member of the MCC.



Christopher Mackaness

Christopher was born in Ipswich and now lives in Chiswick with his wife, Ruth, and their two young sons. He studied Estate Management at Oxford Brookes University and is now an Equity Partner at GVA Grimley, a leading firm of international property consultants, which he joined in 1994. He is head of Retail Property Services at GVA Grimley and a founding member of Accessible Retail, an organisation set up to lobby Government and other relevant parties in respect of out of centre retailing matters. Christopher is a keen sportsman and played rugby for Northampton and Richmond. It is rugby that has brought him to the Feltmakers, via his friendship with Neil Edwards. Christopher is now a coach at Richmond Rugby Club and a member of the MCC. His other interests include travel, shooting and cooking.



Accounts Summary

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2004 cover the period of our Quatercentenary celebrations. Consequently they include £16,800 of net additional expenditure related directly to events organised to celebrate that historic milestone. In the Accounts of a public company such expenditure would be labelled an "Extraordinary Item", signifying that it is not expected to recur in the normal course of business. Our extra expenditure last year had been planned and was well below the £30,000 limit approved by the Court. Nevertheless, it did produce a deficit of £18,000 in the Income and Expenditure Account.

The Balance Sheet showed a healthy improvement in the value of the Company's investments, from £229,000 to £254,000, reflecting better conditions in financial markets. This contributed to an overall increase in Reserves of £11,000.

Renter Warden

FELTMAKERS AWARD 2005

The first record of feltmaking in England was in 1180 and because of its protective and malleable properties has been used in the manufacture of headwear ever since. To continue the traditional use of felt and to take the qualities of the material forward, The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London stage a competition to design a ladies hat each year, organised Mr William Horsman, Past Master of the Livery.

To enter the competition each person has to be either a student of millinery or an apprentice milliner. There are substantial cash prizes for certain categories and the overall first prize winner and their tutor are also invited to the historic Mansion House in the City of London as guests of The Master to receive the award at the annual Lady's Banquet.

The hats produced this year were just amazing and it was extremely difficult for the judges to agree on a winner. Three students from Kensington and Chelsea College (see page 40) battled it out for the top prizes.

1st Prize of £1,000:
Sarah Stoker
from Kensington & Chelsea College

2nd Prize of £500:
Rebecca Willis
from Kensington & Chelsea College

3rd Prize of £250:
Amy Fleuriot
from Kensington & Chelsea College

The following awards are for entries that fall into special categories, but cannot be awarded to the same milliners as the major prizes:

Prize for Craftsmanship of £100:
Rachel Richardson

Prize for Commercial Appeal of £100:
Agatha Bainbridge

Prize for Artwork and Presentation £100:
Amna Abdallah

Prize for the Innovative Use of Felt £100:
Simone Pritchard



1st Prize hat by Sarah Stoker



2nd Prize hat by Rebecca Willis



3rd Prize hat by Amy Fleuriot



Prize for Craftsmanship hat by Rachel Richardson



Decision time (l to r): Carole Denford, Eda Rose, Frederick Fox and Beth Butterwick



Entries and sketches