

The Feltmaker



The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers November 2009 Master: Susan Wood Issue No. 33

Hats Off To Our First Lady Master!

It is a great honour to have been elected Master, and very many thanks to all Liverymen who were able to come and support me at the Installation Dinner on 2nd October. I am really looking forward to the year ahead and to serving the Livery to the best of my ability. I shall strive to support all those activities and initiatives that

are at the forefront of what we do. I am very proud of what the Feltmakers achieve in this respect. Our St Clement's Fund, through an annual toll on Liverymen, which is compulsory for new entrants and voluntary for the rest of us, now produces almost as much annual revenue to our Foundation as our investment income. Past Master Peter

Jennie Jerome, Churchill's American mother, by the historical biographer, Anne Sebba. I will circulate further details after Christmas and hope it will prove to be a popular event and a successful fundraiser.

I am supported by a very able team of Wardens and I would like to particularly welcome our newly elected Fourth Warden, Simon Bartley. Simon is, among other things, Chief Executive of UK Skills, a Member of the Guild of Educators, Chairman of Providence Row and a Past Master of The Worshipful Company of Lightmongers. His experience will be very valuable to our Master and Wardens Committee.

I have immediately succeeded Past Master Nicholas Heal, who must be congratulated on his enthusiastic and energetic year in office, which we all enjoyed greatly. But while Past Master Heal has passed me this particular baton, I also feel part of a much longer relay race and am conscious that each of our Past Masters has influenced our Company in some particular way. Our Committees, the Livery Society, the St. Clement's Fund, Life Members, lady Liverymen, the Feltmaker Hat Competition, our sporting activities, Common Hall, the Livery Lunch, our website and indeed this magazine, all reflect the careful thought and good initiatives of my predecessors. I am most grateful to them that it is my privilege to serve as Master of a well-



Master Susan Wood with husband, John

further our core purposes of charity, education and good fellowship.

I am particularly looking forward to serving as a Trustee of the Feltmaker Charitable Foundation, as all Masters do in their year in office. Charitable activities have underpinned Livery Companies since their establishment in mediaeval times and I believe it is vitally important that they remain at the

Grant suggested some years ago that each Master should organise a fundraising event in his or her year to boost our charitable revenues. Clearly last year the Clerk's magnificent Thames Challenge took centre stage and the Master, quite rightly, did not want to distract attention from that. However, with the Clerk taking a well-earned rest, I am planning an evening event in March, centred on a talk about

Master: Susan Wood

Wardens: John Ray, Eda Rose-Lawson, Anthony Phillips, Simon Bartley

Immediate Past Master: Nicholas Heal **Clerk:** Jollyon Coombs

Registered at Stationers Hall

managed Company and a Livery with so many enthusiastic and committed members.

Membership will be my theme for this year. Last July the Court took an important decision to re-launch



Susan Wood, John Ray, Eda Rose-Lawson, Anthony Phillips, Simon Bartley

Freemanship as a category of membership, designed specifically to attract younger members under 30 and those actively involved in millinery. The Third Warden, Anthony Phillips, led this initiative and I encourage you to read his article on page 13. My hope is that, collectively, we can identify a number of good candidates to admit as Freemen, ensuring this initiative gets off to the best possible start.

But I do not want to focus on potential Freemen at the expense of potential

Susan Wood ~ Master Feltmaker 09-10

Susan Wood was born in London in 1958, the eldest of Peter and Mary Winfield's six children. She was educated at St George's College, Weybridge and then Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, where she read Modern History, which still remains a great passion.

After a brief spell at Price Waterhouse, Susan decided to abandon accountancy in favour of a career in investment management. She joined Baring Brothers in 1981 and was appointed a Director of Baring Investment Management in 1989, the first woman Director in the bank's then

Liverymen. Like any club or society, we need to be refreshed and invigorated by new members. And it is not just the job of the Court to identify these new members. I invite each and every Liveryman to think of candidates to propose. We are looking for Liverymen

who will participate actively, contribute to our Charitable activities and whose company and conversation we will enjoy. Membership will be the main topic for our Common Hall on 26th January 2010 at the Cavalry and Guards Club and I do hope you will come and contribute to this important discussion. Before then I hope to see many Feltmakers at our hat stall at the Red Cross Fair in Guildhall, both on the evening of Monday 30th November and on Tuesday 1st December and at our Carol Service on Thursday 10th

227 year history. Susan subsequently worked at Mercury Asset Management, Samba Capital and Alta Advisers, the private office of the Rausing family, before establishing her own investment consultancy business in 2002. Her firm assists wealthy families and charities to select fund managers.

In addition to her consultancy business, Susan serves as a Governor of her old school, as a Trustee of Tower Hill Trust and as a non-executive Director of two investment companies. She also sits on the Advisory Board of Charifaith, an investment fund for Catholic charities.

December. I have broken with recent tradition and moved this year's Carol Service to St. Stephen Walbrook, with supper afterwards at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, a short walk from the church. St. Stephen Walbrook will be a sharp contrast to the dark and mysterious medieval beauty of St. Bartholomew the Great: it is generally regarded as one of Sir Christopher Wren's finest designs, and we shall sit in the round beneath its splendid Baroque dome.

In the New Year our Livery calendar will follow its established pattern of formal dinners and less formal events, including the Livery Lunch, which was launched so successfully by Past Master Heal last July. I do hope you will all attend as many events as possible.

As many of you know, my late father, Peter Winfield, served as Master of this Company nineteen years ago and I am immensely proud to follow him in this office. I can do no better than echo what my father said at his Installation Dinner in October 1990: "It is because of the qualities of the Feltmakers and their own special brand of friendship, that I face my year as Master with confidence and with deep gratitude for the most agreeable dimension this Company and its Liverymen have brought into my life."

Susan followed her father, Peter Winfield (Master 1990-1991) and her brother John, into the Livery, and was later joined by her other brothers: Michael, Peter and Edward. Susan was admitted with Joyce Nash on Plough Monday 1990 - our first two lady Liverymen.

Susan lives in Kingston on Thames with her husband, John, whom she met at Oxford, and their two children, Christopher (19) and Sarah (16). Her interests include travel generally and French holidays in particular, theatre, opera, cooking, watching football and walking the dog.

The Spring Livery Dinner

This year's Spring Dinner was held in the Vintners' Hall and was, as ever, the occasion, which marks the halfway point in the Master's year. The Vintner's Hall, dating from the late 1600s, is one of the most attractive of the livery halls, and it was a great pleasure to be back there once again.

Following an excellent meal complemented by well-chosen wines, Liveryman Richard Farmer proposed the toast to our Guests, with great spirit and eloquence. This year's guest speaker was Murray Craig, Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court, whom many of us will have met for the first time when we became Freemen of the City of London, since he presides at the majority of these ceremonies. Murray is a fount of knowledge on all things to do with the Corporation, and he has a host of anecdotes, some serious, but many amusing, of his experiences in his role and of the interesting and illustrious people he has met in that capacity. As well as being knowledgeable about the Corporation, he is also a considerable expert on the City and its history, as those of us who have participated in



Murray Craig

one of his guided walks will know. Amongst our other distinguished guests were Commander Rory Bryan, and his Executive Officer, Stephen McGlory. Commander Bryan gave us an exciting update on HMS Lancaster's recent exploits, and immediate future plans.

The Master's own address focused on the history, the present, and the future of our Livery Company. From a Livery originally rooted firmly in its trade, it now has an outward focus in terms not

only of its charitable and educational activities, but also in the developing links it has made with other Companies, particularly those which, like the Feltmakers, have a textile or wool based heritage. The Master also referred to our Clerk's forthcoming Thames Challenge, and to the exciting programme of sporting and other events taking us through the Spring and Summer seasons.

Judy George

The July Lunch

On 14th July the inaugural Feltmakers' Summer Luncheon took place at the Cavalry and Guards Club on Piccadilly. The purpose of this new event in our Livery calendar is to attract Liverymen who find it difficult to attend our more formal dinners. On this score alone, the inaugural lunch should be deemed a good success: some 30 Liverymen sat down to lunch with the Master, Wardens and our Learned Clerk, accompanied by their spouses and partners.

It was particularly encouraging to see a number of Liverymen whom we have

not seen for many years and most enjoyable to get together without the distraction of formal speeches or external guests. Ladies were encouraged to wear hats and there was a lovely variety of summer hats on display, from pale pastels and elegant straws through to bold and vibrant creations.

After lunch, Eda Rose-Lawson, Third Warden, and Queen's Milliner, Rachel Trevor-Morgan, introduced a show of 40 hats from their current collections, most expertly modelled by two students: Victoria Cardon and Kate Copson. Neither of these young ladies

had ever put on a hat before, but under Eda and Rachel's expert tutelage they wore the hats beautifully and modelled a wide variety, decorated with every conceivable trimming: beads, veils, ribbons, flowers, feathers and even a shoe!

The hat show concluded a most enjoyable and relaxed luncheon. Hopefully, it was the first of many for the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers.

Susan Wood

The Mansion House Banquet

After their experiences at other major social gatherings during the year, the Company was contemplating with more than average



anticipation (even trepidation) what innovations Master Nicholas Heal might have for the occasion of the Company's principal social event of the year.

On this distinguished night however, Master Nick chose to blend the theme of innovation with tradition. The menu may have included a Watercress Sorbet in the centre of the main course dish of roasted fillet of beef, but tradition was not cast aside. From the graceful sounds of the Ariss String



Quintet, providing a relaxing background accompaniment to the arrival of guests, and then during the dinner, to the thoughtfulness of the

speech of Alderman Ian Luder, Lord Mayor, who extolled the virtues and



strengths of the Livery Companies in maintaining standards of manners, courtesy, chivalry and ceremonial in his address, the evening oozed smoothness and style.

Notable moments in the evening were the presentation of the Feltmakers' Award 2009 to the elegant Melissa Pemberton-Pigott, of Kensington and Chelsea College for her stunning hat

design, and the international ingredient brought to the evening by Mr. Rene Kalt, Der Zunftmeister Zur Waag, who gave a short address and rounded off his contribution by presenting the Master with a bottle of his local Swiss Vintage.

The evening will also undoubtedly go down in the memories of those present for the brilliance of the after-dinner speeches. Like a well-prepared sandwich, the meat was in the centre, notably provided by the Master and the Lord Mayor. But the casing was also a joy. The Upper Warden, Mrs Susan Wood, provided the first slice, with a very well-crafted and witty proposal of the toast to the Lord Mayor and the City. A flavour, perhaps, we thought, of things to come! The second slice was provided by the Reverend Canon Roger Royle, writer and broadcaster,

one time senior Chaplain at Eton, and Chaplain of Southwark Cathedral. Roger is a five-star after dinner speaker, and he did not disappoint. There were serious themes in his contribution – the Liveries' strength is to look outward. However, he was pitch-perfect, and sent us on our homeward way, chortling with mirth and aware that we had experienced a vintage evening.

Rowland Brown

Feltnakers' Hat Competition 2009

Once again, another memorable day was enjoyed by the judges and guests at the Feltnakers' Design Awards, expertly organised by Past Master William Horsman, at Haberdashers' Hall on 27th May.



Joining him in the judging were fellow liverymen Frederick Fox, LVO, Rachel Trevor-Morgan and Eda Rose-Lawson, as well as Carole Denford, the editor of The Hat magazine. It was extremely encouraging to see the high standard of work achieved by the students who presented us with an exciting collection of fine quality felt hats, all professionally modelled by Jasmine. Joining us and taking a great interest in the hats and the judging were the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by Delva Patman, Past Master of the Chartered Surveyors and escort of Sheriff George Gillon, our Master, Nicholas Heal with Ruth Heal, and Liveryman Peter Shirley.

The first prize of a cheque for £1000 was awarded to Melissa Pemberton-Pigott of Kensington and Chelsea

School of Art for her clever idea entitled 'The Alien Eye', a natty number in black and royal blue felt with diamante detail. Certainly eye-catching!

The second prize of £500 was won by Suzie Smith, also from Kensington and Chelsea, for her delicious little black leather and felt cocktail hat inspired by the shape of mussels, generously sprinkled with diamante.

And the third prize of £250 went to Isabella Mazzitelli, an apprentice of the milliner, Marie O'Regan, for her well-



executed piece inspired by the headgear of the Chinese terracotta army. Very attention-grabbing!

Four further awards of £100 each were made.

Miriam Benitez won the award for Craftsmanship with a most unusual helmet-like creation called, the 'Alien Hat', which was an amazingly intricate wire construction, supporting an outer shell of black melusine, surprisingly treated with washing-up liquid to produce an unexpected finish.

Caroline Law, again of Kensington and Chelsea, won the award for Commercial Appeal, inspired by drifting ice to create a cute pale blue and cream felt blocked beret, decorated with beaded shards of 'ice', and very wearable.

Lucy George of Northampton College, won the prize for Artwork and Presentation. Her theme was endangered plant species entitled 'Green Leaf'. Last, but certainly not least in the Feltnakers' Design Competition, was Innovative Use of Felt. The award went to Sarah Restrick of Leeds School of Art and Design for her jaunty grey felt blocked beret generously decorated with fine cut-out designs in navy felt, and featuring a side swept frill of felt.

Once again, Kensington and Chelsea School of Art continues to produce winning students, which is a credit to Ms. Kirsten Scott, Head of Millinery and



Fashion. Congratulations and hats off to them all!

Eda Rose-Lawson

The Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation

This is my first report following my appointment as Chairman of Trustees in May 2009, in succession to Past Master Peter Grant. Peter took over as Chairman following the untimely death of Brian Burgess in 2007. Much progress was achieved during his tenure, in particular the introduction of our new Trust Deed and improved control over our financial and management procedures. It is my aim to build on and develop the solid foundations which Peter has established.

One of the changes made last year was to alter our reporting date from 31st December to 31st March, so that our accounts to 31st March 2009 covered a fifteen-month period. The change was made to reduce the pressure on the administration during the period of preparing the final accounts.

In spite of the downturn in the financial

markets, which caused a substantial fall in the value of our investments, our income was considerably higher than the year before. The change of accounting date accounted for only part of the increase; there was a welcome increase in the number of contributors to our St Clement's scheme and two of our Trustees held fund-raising events. Geoffrey Vero organised a Master's weight loss challenge (and achieved the desired result) and Simon Curtis walked the Ridgeway. Well done to both of them! As a result of the increase in our income we were able to distribute substantially more in grants than the previous year – some £39,000 in the fifteen month period compared with £25,000 in the year before.

In conjunction with the Haberdashers' Charity, we continued to support Pensioner Hatters with grants of some £8,500 and we provided prize money for the Feltmakers' Hat Design Award. In

addition to the Lord Mayor's Charity and certain other good causes, which we support each year, a number of new charities were assisted during the year. In particular, we provided and will continue to provide substantial awards to the armed forces and cadets charities, (one example of which is described below) and we are grateful to Lieutenant Colonel Simon Wilkinson for identifying suitable recipients for these worthwhile awards.

The Trustees are hopeful of continuing the programme of grant-making at a similar level in 2009/10 and we welcome any suggestions which Liverymen might care to bring forward for new charitable recipients – please channel any such suggestions through the Clerk.

Finally, I thank my fellow Trustees for their input to our work and, in particular, Peter Grant for undertaking the new role of Treasurer to the Foundation.

John Curteis

Accounts Summary

The Company's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2008 were approved by the Court at its Spring meeting on 6th April 2009. Unfortunately, along with many other institutions and individuals, the Company has suffered during the current economic crisis and its investments decreased in value by

almost 40% during the year. However, all the investments held by the Company increased their dividends during the year, resulting in an increase of some 18% in investment income. Helped by this increase in investment income, total income for the Company increased by nearly 4% during 2008. Due to strict controls on expenditure,

this reduced during the year by some 7%. All this resulted in a net operating surplus for the year of £3,100 compared to a deficit of £2,300 for the previous year. The surplus in 2008 was the first for 3 years. At 31st December 2008, the Company's funds stood at £228,000.

John Ray

Cadet Force Association Outreach

One of the many worthy projects supported by the Charitable Foundation in the last year has been the Army Cadet Force Association's Youth and Community Project 'Outreach'. This project is designed to help crime-vulnerable, and socially and educationally disadvantaged boys and girls gain self-esteem, build confidence and broaden

their perspective on their own potential through a programme of adventurous and challenging activities. Through its one-week residential 'Achiever' course, based on military training, the participants, who are referred by schools, local police, youth offending teams or social services, are challenged continuously through participation in activities which ACF

Cadets take for granted. The project (which receives no Government funding) is run by volunteers, costs only £350 per participant and has a most impressive success rate. For example, some 92% of those subject to police warning have not reoffended since the programme.

Simon Wilkinson

The City and the Livery

As one might expect, given the history of the Livery Companies, there are many ways in which our own Livery's year is linked with the City of London Corporation's civic year.

In January, on the first Monday after Epiphany, we celebrate Plough Monday, which traditionally marks the



Guildhall

return to work after the Christmas holidays. At this year's Dinner, we were delighted to welcome the two Sheriffs, Alderman and Sheriff Roger Gifford and Sheriff George Gillon, our principal guests. Whilst one or both of them are usually in attendance on the Lord Mayor, on this Monday evening each

year the Lord Mayor hosts the Corporation's own "Plow" Monday celebrations at the Mansion House, whilst we are uniquely accorded the pleasure of entertaining the Sheriffs.

It is the inalienable privilege of the Livery 'in Common Hall assembled' at Midsummer, and again at Michaelmas, to elect, firstly, the Sheriffs and,

subsequently, the Lord Mayor for the coming year. These are wonderful occasions, full of tradition and ceremony. The Lord Mayor, Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the 108 Livery Companies, the Aldermen, and senior officials of the Corporation, together with the Mace Bearer, Sword

Bearer and the City Marshal, constitute a colourful and impressive sight as they process through Guildhall. At Midsummer, other office holders are also elected, including our own Pip Wright, who was re-elected as an Ale Conner. This year, very unusually, there was a contested Shrieval election. It having proved impossible to determine the result on a show of hands, the matter was put back to a formal poll, held on 8th July. The two candidates ultimately successful were David Wootton, as Aldermanic Sheriff and Peter Cook, as Lay Sheriff. Both took up their office on 25th September, in time to preside over the election of the incoming Lord Mayor for 2009-10, Alderman Nicholas Anstey.

The Livery Committee and the City of London Corporation organise regular City Briefings, aimed (but not exclusively) at new Liverymen. The evening is both informative and entertaining. The briefings, held at Innholders' Hall at a modest charge of £10 per person, start at 5.00 pm and end with a buffet at 7.15 pm. Details of both the briefings, and the elections are placed on the website and also publicised by our Clerk, through whom applications for both should be made.

Judy George

Red Cross Christmas Market

The Red Cross Christmas Market is held biennially at Guildhall. More than 80 stalls will be selling an eclectic mix of merchandise not found on the high street: from stylish handbags and clothing to an array of delicious foods; unusual gifts and bargain new / nearly new designer items.

A team of Feltmakers, under the leadership of our Renter Warden and milliner, Eda Rose-Lawson, will again be running a hat stall at the Market.

Please come and support them by buying tickets either for the Preview Night, or the Public Day (details below).

This year we will be selling second-hand as well as brand new hats and we should be delighted to receive any donations that are taking up space in your wardrobe or attic! Please let Eda Rose-Lawson know, and we will arrange collection.

Preview Night - official opening by the

Lady Mayoress: 30th November, 5:30pm – 9:00pm. Tickets £20, advance purchase only, includes champagne and canapes.

Public Day – 1st December, 10.30am – 8:00pm. Entry £5 at the door, including a glass of wine.

For further information please visit www.redcross.org.uk/market

Or contact Kate Crandon on 020 7382 4650 or citymarket@redcross.org.uk

For hats -

edarose.lawson@btconnect.com

The Installation Dinner

The Installation Dinner held on 2nd October was a very special and historic occasion at which members of the Livery were able to welcome the first lady Master of the Feltmakers' Company.

Nicholas Hilliard QC in a very amusing speech welcomed the guests – the Masters, Upper Wardens and Upper Bailiffs of the Haberdashers, Tallow Chandlers, Weavers, Makers of Playing Cards and Watermen & Lightermen and their Clerks. He congratulated Mrs



Freda Newcombe on becoming the first lady Upper Bailiff of the Weavers Company after 900 years and compared it to the indecent haste of the Feltmakers in taking only 405 years to install our first lady Master! He also welcomed the principal guest Jonathan Ruffer and proposed the toast to the guests.

The Master thanked the outgoing Master, Nicholas Heal for a marvellous year, which had been carried out with such energy and enthusiasm and would be a hard act to follow. She welcomed the new Fourth Warden and Commander Rory Bryan who updated us on the activities of HMS Lancaster and its forthcoming deployment.

She referred to the Company's relative success in the Inter Livery Tennis tournament at Queen's Club and hoped that the improvement could be sustained in 2010. She also congratulated Past Master Geoffrey Farr MBE and Liveryman Michael Burgess OBE on receiving honours in the Queen's Birthday List.

The Feltmakers' Company has strong

family traditions which were noted as having been passed down through many generations, particularly the Wontner, Christie Miller, Bowler, Keen and Burgess families. Indeed it was splendid that the descendants of those families were present at this Dinner some 216 years after Sir Thomas Wontner was Master of the Company.

Jonathan Ruffer (pictured) who had known the Master as business colleague in investment management, responded in a delightfully amusing speech on behalf of the guests. He commented on the warmth of the Company and the support for the new Master. He noted the long relationship of the Feltmakers' with the Haberdashers' (although in 1604 they were probably angry with each other!). Having worked with Mercury Asset Management, he noted its relevance within the hatting industry – mad as a hatter! He then proposed the toast to the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers and the Master.

Anthony Phillips

Our Sporting Year 2009

Tennis

Queen's Club hosts the annual Feltmakers' Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament and provides a stunning location and first class facilities for the event. This year provided some top quality tennis and great excitement in the closing stages of the tournament. We are seeing an encouraging influx of new teams and younger players, which has raised the standard to a very high level. Both Feltmaker teams reached the closing stages of the main competition. Feltmaker Gilly Yarrow and Howard Rudebeck battled valiantly into the Semi-Finals and Christopher Wood, Master Susan Wood's son, and Francesca Warner reached the Quarter Finals.

The Final of the Feltmakers' Trophy was an exciting duel between Nick Hollis and Yvonne Burrige of the Leathersellers and the Tallow Chandlers pairing of Alexandra Kurkjian and Rodney Pope. The Leathersellers finally succumbed 7-5 after an epic match, which finished at



7pm. In the Plate Competition, last year's losers in the final of the Feltmakers' Trophy, Michael Jones and Sally Sawyer of the Vintners, beat new entrants Robert Siefert and Elvira Olbrich of the World Traders.

Dinner for 85 players and guests - a record attendance - was held in the President's room with the prizes presented by the Master Nicholas Heal. Feltmakers who would like to play in next year's tournament on Thursday 16th September should contact Dominic Ely, the new Tennis organiser.

Dominic.Ely@btinternet.com

Inter-Livery Clay Shoot

The Inter-Livery Clay Shoot took place on the 20th May at the Holland & Holland shooting ground in Northwood, Middlesex. This annual event is organised by the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners and raises a significant sum of money for charity. After a breakfast buffet, with bacon sandwiches and croissants on offer, a record ninety nine teams battled it out over a testing course and made it a very competitive year. Holland & Holland put on a very well managed, impressive layout and a thoroughly enjoyable and challenging shoot. The Feltmakers entered two teams, and the guns comprised:

Team 1: Jollyon Coombs, Bill Gammell, Simon Wilkinson and Peter Winfield

Team 2: Brian Minnighan, Peter Shirley, Simon Millar and William Battersby



Master's Golf Day

This year's Master's golf day was a most friendly affair and very relaxed. Thirteen golfers took to Harpenden Golf Club's 18-hole course, including the Master himself (pictured) 'fore' an afternoon's round of golf. Handicaps varied from the early teens up to 28. This provided plenty of scope for some majestic golf and high points scoring. The day was admirably supported by Steward Brian Minnighan on his "Ben Hur" mobile chariot, which was seen whizzing from hole to hole with the gift of refreshments.

The winner of the golf day was Peter Gartside, a guest of Edward Hutton,



with 32 points. In second place, and the winner of a bottle of champagne, was Catherine Farr, wife of Past Master Geoffrey Farr. The longest drive was won by Past Master Peter Keens, outshining some of the younger and heavier golfers, who had thought the prize was theirs for the taking! Peter Simeons won a prize for the best outward nine holes and Jeremy Brassington secured a prize for the best inward nine holes. An excellent Dinner was laid on by Harpenden Golf Club in the evening, after which Master Nicholas Heal kindly presented his prizes.

Cricket

On a pleasant summer's evening, amongst the rolling hills of the Buckinghamshire countryside, 14 players participated in the Livery Cricket Pairs competition at Amersham Cricket Club. The weather was good but play was interrupted by a brief shower, during which the Master

invited all to join him in the bar! Happily, the drinks break was brief and all returned to play - some more enthusiastically than others. The Master bowled his overs very economically, as did Past Master Geoffrey Farr, whilst Simon Curtis produced a good all round performance. However, the Competition was won by Past Master

Geoffrey Vero who, with a guest, scored 37 points, with Peter Simeons and a guest, in second place with 32 points. Afterwards, 23 players and spectators enjoyed an excellent buffet supper in the clubhouse. The event was organised by Peter Simeons and Simon Curtis, and it was an excellent day.

Our Man in a Boat ~ The Clerk's Thames Challenge

Many of us have contributed to, assisted with, or followed (physically or by checking his progress on the website) Jollyon's progress in his demanding Thames Challenge, which has formed one of the highlights of our year. This is a very much abbreviated version of his own delightful account of his adventures.



Having set myself the task of building a boat and rowing it the length of the Thames, and armed with masses of enthusiasm, but little else, I set off to consult the one friend, John Squires, who had actually built a boat. We pored over plans of John's past achievements and I left with my mind whirling with ideas, but they all required the machinery of a woodworker to complete the task! Eventually I discovered a firm called Fyne Boats of Burnside in Cumbria who specialised in boat kits, and the whole possibility became far more realistic. A night in Burnside had me convinced that even I could build a boat in kit form and an Annapolis Wherry (an American design) was decided on, similar to a Thames Skiff but lighter and faster, rather more of a racing skiff at 18' long.

Clearly this rather 'overweight' Livery Clerk needed to train hard and fast, if he

was going to honour his pledge to row down the navigable length of the Thames at the beginning of May. Alcohol was immediately given up and a daily routine of rowing was started. Very slowly it all started to come together.

The Row was to start at Lechlade, Gloucestershire, at 1030hrs, on Friday

1st May, and finish at Tower Bridge on Sunday 10th May. The whole team effort at the outset went off without a hitch. Friday 1st May was perfect, the sun shone the wind was indifferent and it didn't rain. The first two days heading east to Oxford were, in some ways the worst two days; this was due to the narrowness of the river Isis, as the early



part of the river is called, the incessant bends that never quite allow a rower to get into his stride and the lack of view with river banks at least 6' above the rower – round and round I went and day one eventually ended at Newbridge at 1830 hrs. Day two, similar to day one, ended at 'Teddies' boathouses, on the north west side of Oxford; around the corner lay the world famous Trout Inn. Day three dawned with bright sunshine and a brisk westerly wind, as I ventured south towards Abingdon. Abingdon and the cooling towers of the power station loomed on the horizon at about midday; the towers never did get out of sight all day and that evening we 'parked up' in the boathouse of a complete stranger near Dorchester (Oxon). The following day we started quite early and headed south for Pangbourne, making it to Goring for a late lunch. The afternoon stretch to Pangbourne is one of the pretty stretches of river.

On leaving Pangbourne on day five and just east of Whitchurch lock, one of the prettiest, I passed Hardwick House, around which 'Wind in the Willows' was set. Night five was spent at Reading Rowing Club, as always with these clubs, delighted to see us. Day six was another short day with the finish at Leander Club in Henley – still the

weather held and no rain or adverse wind so far – how long could I be so lucky? Day seven dawned and slipping the boat gently into the water on the hallowed landing stage of the Leander

Teddington was soon passed and as I rowed in this almost fantasy world I could easily imagine the Watermen of centuries past as they made their way up to Hampton Court to give Henry VIII

photographs and preening myself with inevitable success!! when the boat lurched bow upwards at about 30 degrees and on the downward motion took in about two dustbin loads of water over the poop! Luckily no damage was done and apart from floating guide books I was complete, but it did give me quite a shock in its suddenness and ferocity. Four hundred yards further on, Tower Bridge came into view. The row finished at 0950 hrs on Sunday 10th May. On the jetty of HMS President were about 30 friends and family, including my four grand-children, who had gathered to welcome me – thank you.



Club, I made my way, for the first time in about 46 years, down the Henley Royal Regatta course – the longest straight stretch on the river – down to Temple Island. The day end saw us at Maidenhead Rowing Club. The start of day eight was the first time I donned waterproof clothing and only the fourth time in three months that I had got wet - amazing! Later that afternoon, while transiting Windsor Park, the wind began to be far more aggressive and for a couple of hours or more I had to fight it and I made slow progress to Staines Rowing Club; wind really is the oarsman's nightmare – if blowing the wrong way!

an early morning call! The last morning I rowed 19 miles in four and a half hours, without getting out of the boat, from Chelsea Bridge, greatly assisted by the tide. As I progressed, early morning

My wife, Ruthie had looked after me all the way for ten days – the worst job of all. My thanks go especially to her and all of you who helped, encouraged, put us up for the night and fed us so superbly; also to Peter Shirley for being the 'webmaster', Louise Waller for being the 'Just Giving' organiser, Jane Way for organising the wonderful 'bank support



Day nine was special, because I was joined by Simon Wood who accompanied me all the way to Teddington in his, much faster, scull. We made the last night stop at Teddington, arriving on a beautiful May evening with a slight chill in the air.

rowers from around the Putney area began to appear. At Putney I picked up my escort for the more commercial part of the Tideway. The bridges sped past as did the Houses of Parliament et al.

team' and Jeremy Brassington for organising the Livery input. And last, but not least, a big thank you to you all for donating so generously. Approximately 335 people made a donation, and apart from a few trusts, ALL friends. The sum raised for the charities now stands at £26,000.

The last day started at 0420 hrs!! The boat was launched with the help of Ruthie and a friend, Michael Winfield and his son Patrick. The idea was to pass down river to Richmond, in point of fact the last lock on the Thames, but only operable 2 hours after high tide, and pick up an escort provided by Chas Newens Boats, at Putney Bridge.

Now came the one moment of near disaster; I had been told of the 'three foot standing wave' that can sometimes appear under London bridge, largely caused by the foundations of a previous bridge that were never removed; the morning had been so blissful, I had completely forgotten about this phenomenon, as had my escort. One minute I was taking yet more

We all send Jollyon our congratulations for having succeeded in this remarkable and very demanding challenge, and are delighted that his heroic efforts have raised such a magnificent sum for charitable causes. Well done, Jollyon!

A Busy Year for The “Red Rose”

Proudly displaying our Red Rose emblem, HMS Lancaster has enjoyed a busy past 12 months. As many of you will be aware, the Ship returned from operations, primarily in the Northern Arabian Gulf, in February 2009. HMS Lancaster deployed from Portsmouth on 21st August 2008 when we received a warm farewell. To mark the start of our two-month passage to Iraq we were honoured to experience a fly-past by the world’s only flying World War II Lancaster Bomber.



Tasked with protecting Iraq’s two major oil platforms, colloquially known as the OPLATs, we commenced our first patrol in late October. Maritime operations in the region remained relevant as the OPLATs generate between 70 to 90 percent of Iraq’s GDP and their protection is extremely important to the future of Iraq. Our primary role was to maintain the exclusion zones around them and permit access only to authorised vessels. Supported as required by the Ship’s Lynx helicopter, boarding teams conducted security sweeps of tankers wishing to visit the OPLATs to confirm that they were safe to do so. At the same time, good relations were fostered with the local fishermen,

visiting them on a daily basis. These measures helped to maintain confidence in our operations, encouraging vital maritime trade in the region. We conducted patrols until the end of February, undertaking periodic port visits to rest and replenish.

The deployment was not all hard work and we enjoyed a number of highlights. A stand-off period in November enabled Lancaster to visit Dubai and undertake the honour of

escorting the cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth II, on the last few miles of her final voyage. We conducted a sail past during which the Ship’s Company lined the Upper Deck and gave three cheers for the distinguished liner, recalling her role as a hospital ship and troop carrier during the 1982 Falklands Campaign. Another highlight was the participation of the Ship’s rugby team in the prestigious ‘Dubai 7s’ tournament. They performed admirably, making the semi-finals of the plate competition, before comprising part of the largest ever 7s crowd to enjoy the England v South Africa Finals.

We arrived back in Portsmouth on 27th February to an emotional return and



we stepped ashore carrying single red roses for our loved ones. After a well-earned rest, the Ship’s Company returned to business during March and April, conducting essential maintenance and continuation training. In May, we were back at sea taking part in Exercise Joint Warrior, a UK-led major exercise off the coast of Scotland involving all 3 Armed Services and 12 invited NATO and Allied Nations.

In October this year, Lancaster deploys once again to conduct maritime security operations in the vicinity of the Horn of Africa and the wider region. To prepare for this, in July we undertook a pre-deployment training package with the Royal Navy’s Sea Training organisation. Having passed with flying colours, we now hope that the next 12 months will be as successful for Lancaster as the past year has been. I thank you for your continued support.

**Commander Rory Brian Royal Navy
Commanding Officer HMS Lancaster**

Freemanship

It is often said that a club or society is only as strong as its membership. The Company of Feltmakers, over the years, has grown at a steady rate and the number of Liverymen now stands at 180 people. It is important that our culture and traditions maintain our high historical standards but at the same time we should seek ways to change and encompass modern society. It is also desirable to maintain close links with our associated industries.

During recent months the Court has been discussing the introduction of a new category of membership to the

Livery - Freemen. The reasons for this are that we wish not only to increase the membership of the Livery but also to encourage younger members together with people from the Hatting and Felt industries.

For young Freemen, applicants may apply to join the Livery if they are between the ages of 18 and 30 years and at the age of 30 years it is anticipated that they would wish to become full members of the Company. Members, irrespective of age, of the Hatting and Felt Industries may also apply if they do not wish to become full Liverymen of the Company.

Potential Freemen will be exposed to an interview process and may be proposed and seconded by existing Liverymen. Freemen will not be able to attend the formal Dinners in their own right. They may attend the Luton Lunch, the Carol Service and other social events organised by the Livery Society. The cost of membership will take account of the reduced number of functions which can be attended.

Further enquiries to join the Feltmakers' Company as a Freeman should be addressed, in the first instance, to the Clerk.

Anthony Phillips

The New Fourth Warden



Simon Bartley has been a Feltmaker since he was 30; having become a Liveryman in 1987. A Steward in 1998/9 he joined the Court in 2000 and chaired the Livery Society for 3 years from 2002. His Father, David, is also a Liveryman, having joined the Company in 1962.

His day job is as Chief Executive of UK Skills, a not for profit organisation

which champions skills and learning for work with the prime purpose of raising skills levels across the UK. As part of this role he manages Team UK which competes at the biennial WorldSkills and EuroSkills Competitions. In October 2011 the WorldSkills Competition takes place. This involves 1,200 competitors under the age of 23, from 65 countries, each competing for 4 days in one of 50 trade disciplines in front of 250,000 visitors. It is being hosted at the ExCel centre in East London. This will be the largest event staged in London this millennium and is an 'overture' to the Olympics six months later.

Simon was educated at Durham University where in 1979 he graduated with a BSc in Engineering Science and Management and again in 1985 with an MSc in Management Science. He is a Chartered and a European Engineer, a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, as well as a Fellow and Council Member of City & Guilds. Prior to his current job he worked at Civil

Engineers John Mowlem and the family business, C J Bartley.

His particular business interests are vocational education and small businesses, especially when they are considered together, and his hobbies are sailing, skiing and shooting, carriage driving, opera and London. He is a recent Chairman of Governors at Malmesbury Primary School in Tower Hamlets and of the admissions appeal panels at the Sir John Cass School in the City and the City Academy in Southwark. He is the long-standing Chair of Providence Row – a Charity for the Homeless in the East End of London supported by the Company. He was Master of the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers in 2006/7 and is a Member of the Guild of Educators.

Simon's partner, Christine, is an Ophthalmic Surgeon by profession, the Chief Executive of the Medical Defence Union and a Member of the Court of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers.

Profiles of Our Liverymen

The profiles of some of our members, below, highlight the diversity of our Company

Rt. Rev Graeme Knowles



and, of course, a Feltmaker. I have links with the Luton hatting trade, having

I became a Liveryman this year, having been appointed Dean of St. Paul's, following in the footsteps of The Very Reverend Dr. John Moses, the previous Dean

been educated at Dunstable Grammar School, before attending King's College, London and spending my final year of training at St. Augustine's, Canterbury.

I served my curacy at St. Peter in Thanet, prior to becoming the Senior Curate at Leeds Parish Church. In 1981 I became Precentor at Portsmouth Cathedral and held the post of Chapter Clerk. In 1987, I became Vicar of Leigh Park and also took on the role of Rural Dean of Havant from 1990.

I was appointed Archdeacon of Portsmouth in 1993, a post held until 1999 when I was appointed Dean of Carlisle. In 2003 I moved to the Isle of Man and was appointed Bishop of Sodor and Man. In 2007, I succeeded John Moses, who retired in 2006, as Dean of St. Paul's.

Favourite pleasures include the novels of E.F. Benson, Victorian and Edwardian ballads and songs, architecture and good food and wine!

Nicholas Hilliard Q.C.



Peter Winfield, who invited me to join the Feltmakers in 1991 when he was Master. By that time I had been a barrister for ten

My career began with a degree from Oxford University and it was there that I first met Susan Wood and her husband John. It was Susan's father,

years, specializing in criminal cases.

In 1995 I was appointed as Treasury Counsel at the Old Bailey which meant that I was engaged in prosecuting some of the most serious cases heard there. It was fascinating work but by 2008 I had decided that it was time for a rest, and I became a QC! I took silk in the middle of the Diana inquest where I was one of the Coroner's team. Later in 2008 I was Counsel to the Coroner in the inquest into the death of Jean Charles de Menezes. It would be hard to imagine two more different inquests. In 2006 I was

elected as Chairman of the Criminal Bar Association I also sit as a Recorder, a part-time Judge.

Away from the law, I have served as a member of the Court of Common Council for two periods and I joined the Court of the Feltmakers in 2005. I am a season-ticket holder at Chelsea, a poor and infrequent golfer at Woking, and am currently engaged in cooking lessons and training for a half marathon! This year I joined the Roman Catholic church. Future projects include getting my novel published- but I still have to write it first!

Rachel Trevor-Morgan



mornings. However it was not until some years later that I found myself searching for a suitably creative career that hats came to mind as an option. It was from a sense of the dramatic, arising from an early childhood ambition to act, coupled with my mother's love of hats, that my passion for millinery evolved. I took it upon myself to write to various milliners

I must have been made subconsciously aware of hats by my mother's love of them and her reputation for always wearing a splendid creation on Sunday

based in W1- somewhat naively I imagined that being based in central London meant that they were the best!

It was Kangol who responded and invited me to visit them. Graham Smith was their design director and after a brief chat he agreed to give me a try. It was not until I had been working there for a few weeks that I realised that I really had landed on my feet. Graham was my biggest influence: he offered a rigorous training in the disciplined craft of millinery whilst maintaining the individuality of design and flawless finish which are central to its art. This background gave me a strong base in couture millinery so learning my craft in his workroom was the best start I could have wished for.

Three years later, having served my apprenticeship, I moved on to Phillip

Somerville -working in his shop gave me valuable sales experience. My dealings with buyers and private clients as well as the insight gained from seeing the workings of a business as a whole, were enormously beneficial.

Established in 1990, Rachel Trevor-Morgan millinery is now a thriving and successful business. In summer 2006, I received the accolade of being appointed to design hats for H.M. The Queen, who has worn my hats on many high profile occasions: Royal Ascot, Her 80th birthday celebrations at St Paul's, Her Diamond Wedding celebration at Westminster Abbey, meeting George Bush in Washington, to name but a few. Whilst I am based in London, I regularly retreat to the peace and quiet of our cottage in mid Wales to relax with my husband, Andrew and my three children.

Honours

Warmest congratulations are extended to Michael Burgess and to Past Master Geoffrey Farr, on the recent award of Honours by Her Majesty The Queen.

Michael Burgess O.B.E.



Michael was appointed O.B.E. in June 2009, for services to the administration of justice, recognising the significant

contributions he has made as Coroner of The Queen's Household from January 2002 (and as Deputy between 1991 and 2002), as HM Coroner for Surrey, from October 1986 (and as Deputy 1979 and 1986), and as Honorary Secretary to the Coroners'

Society of England and Wales between 1993 and 2003 (and as Assistant Secretary between 1991 and 1993).

As Hon. Secretary to the Coroners' Society he was involved in close liaison with various Government Departments (including meetings with Ministers) and professional organisations, including the Royal College of Pathologists, Law Society and Association of Chief Police Officers. Michael prepared detailed submissions, and gave both oral and written evidence to Committees of the House of Commons, and to Judicial Inquiries, including those in relation to B.S.E., the 'Marchioness' disaster and Dame Janet Smith's inquiry into Dr. Shipman.

Michael has played an active part in terms of the modernisation of the Coroners' service, co-ordinating the Coroners' Society response during both the Home Office Review of Death certification in 2000, and also the Home Office' Fundamental Review of Coroners, chaired by Tom Luce, between 2001 and 2003. In addition, he has played an active part in teaching others, having tutored and lectured on law, practice, procedure and associated matters for the Home Office' Coroners' Professional Training and Development organisation. He has regularly lectured outside bodies and interest groups on practice and procedure.

Geoffrey Farr M.B.E.

Past Master Geoffrey Farr received the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, for services to the community, with particular reference to the Luton and Bedfordshire areas, which he has served, in a variety of capacities, for 49 years.

Initially elected to Luton Borough Council at the early age of 24, he became Chairman of Education only five years later. He subsequently moved to Bedfordshire C.C., becoming, again, Chairman of Education.

In addition, he started the Business/Education Sub-Committee,



and, as well as his involvement with Adult Education and Residential Colleges in the Cotswolds and Wales, he chaired the Bedford College of H.E., together with the Polhill Teacher

Training College and the Bedford P.E. College (now all part of the University of Bedfordshire). Geoffrey served for several years as a Governor of the University of Luton and was Chair in 2000/01.

Whilst High Sheriff of Bedfordshire he spent much time promoting Luton as a Unitary Authority, while being mindful (and reminding others) that it also plays an important role in Bedfordshire.

Accompanying Geoffrey at the investiture (pictured) were his wife Catherine and their three daughters, Sarah, Nicki (who had flown over from her new home in Canada) and Liz.

Obituary

It is with sadness that we record the death of George Walpole Brown on 16th March 2009. George was born in 1948, twin brother to Edward, and son of Edward Senior, who owned the millinery house of J & K Connor and who played a major role in setting up the Millinery Trades Benevolent

Association. A gifted musician, George was educated at Oundle, where he played the trombone, a lifelong interest. After school, he chose accountancy and joined Price Waterhouse and, subsequently, Deloitte. When forced by ill-health to give up his career, he concentrated his

professional experience into managing the family interests. George was a Liveryman of both the Company of Makers of Playing Cards, and of the Feltmakers. He was an enthusiastic traveller and a generous benefactor. George married Sylvia, who survives him, in 2002.

Livery Society Report

We held the Livery Society Dinner for 33 Liverymen in the Clive Room of The East India Club on 26th February, a welcome respite from the cooler weather outside. The Master entertained us with a lively and entertaining speech.

In May, 20 Feltmakers were guided around the City Livery halls by the highly knowledgeable and thoroughly entertaining Clerk to the Chamberlain's Court, Murray Craig which was followed by a sumptuous feast at the "Bleeding Heart". We followed this with another guided walk around the Barbican in July. We were most privileged to be invited into a resident's apartment overlooking the central gardens and to be shown many of the estate's remarkable architectural features both inside and out. This walk was rounded off with fish pie and ale at the "Butcher's Hook and Cleaver".

The Livery Society is a forum for the newer Livery members to meet with fellow Liverymen, to become acquainted with the aims and objectives of the Livery

and to do so in convivial surroundings. Members of the Livery Society also organise a number of the sporting events during the year - Brian Minnighan, the Livery Clay Shoot; Neil Edwards, the Master's Golf Day; Peter Simeons, the Single Wicket Competition

contact Sarah McLeod at sarah.e.mcleod@btinternet.com or 01525 861568

Jeremy Brassington

It has been another lively year for the Livery Society, under the excellent



and Dominic Ely, the Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament at Queens Club.

We welcome participation in all the Livery Society events and if members of the Livery have any suggestions they would like us to consider or would like to become more actively involved, please

leadership and guidance of Jeremy Brassington. In the coming year, Jeremy will be handing over the reins to Sarah McLeod, who has taken up the challenge. Warmest thanks go to Jeremy for all his hard work, and welcome, Sarah, in this new role.

Feltmakers ~ On Line

Both The Feltmaker magazine and the Livery's website are produced by the Company's Editorial and IT Committee. These two media are intended to complement each other as means of communicating with members of the Livery. The magazine is published once a year and provides a record of the Master's year together with articles of interest for the Livery. The website is intended for the use of all Liverymen and the intent is to make the content as interesting and up to date as possible. Upcoming events, not only for the Livery (like our calendar of events) but also within the City of London are

promoted as early as possible so that you may plan your diary. We try and report on the Livery events within days of the particular function being held so that those who were not able to attend can read all about it. This year we have been able to extend the website's activities and the users' interaction. The daily updates of the Clerk's intrepid journey rowing the length of the Thames kept us informed of his progress and even allowed people to sponsor him online.

The Company is investing in upgrading the website and ensuring that in terms of presentation and security it is also

kept up to date. Over the course of the next year you will see better screen utilisation giving the ability to read more on each page without scrolling down so frequently. It is also planned to put the Livery List on the website within the password protected pages allowing details to be updated on a more regular basis.

We hope that the Feltmakers' website is on your "desk top" as a favourite and that you use it regularly. www.feltmakers.co.uk

Peter Shirley