



The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London

Winter Newsletter 2011

Welcome to the Winter 2011 edition of our e-Newsletter

In the last e-newsletter, we encouraged Liverymen to attend the election of the new Lord Mayor, which took place on 3 October at Guildhall. Alderman David Wootton was elected, and his term of office started on 11 November, followed the next day by the pageantry of the Lord Mayor's show.

We are very pleased to welcome our new Master, Eda Rose-Lawson, who took up the reins from John Ray prior to the Installation dinner on 7 October. Our thanks to John for leading the Company so well, albeit through a year in which he had to cope with a severe injury to his foot. We are also pleased to welcome Peter Simeons as our new Fourth Warden. One of the first duties for our Master was for her to present the new Lord Mayor with his official hat, which she did at a ceremony at the Mansion House on 15 November, accompanied by the Wardens and the Clerk.

So, a lively summer of livery sporting activities and the Livery Lunch, is behind us, and we look forward to the coming livery year. All too soon it will be Christmas, and Liverymen have had the annual event that leads us so well into this festive time - the Carol Service, which was held at St. Mary-le-Bow church in Cheapside on 12 December.



Our new Warden team 2011— 2012

**Peter Simeons,
Anthony Phillips, The
Master, Simon Bartley
and Edward Hutton**



Our new Master is installed

At the Court meeting held at the Haberdashers' Hall on Friday 7 October, Eda Rose-Lawson was installed as our Master. Eda, a Milliner by profession, was previously our Upper Warden.

A Christmas Message to all Feltmakers from the Master

I wish all Liverymen, friends, and families a very merry Christmas, and a happy and healthy new year. I am looking forward to seeing you at as many Livery events in 2012, as possible. I am sure we are going to have a lot of fun! I would also like to thank the 148 strong congregation of Liverymen and guests at the Carol service for their support and for the collection which amounted to an amazing £945 for the St.Mary-le-Bow Homeless. They are most grateful.

Our New Fourth Warden



From 7 October Peter Simeons became our new Fourth Warden. Peter has been a Feltmaker since 1987. Shortly after joining the Company, he became a member of the Livery Society committee. He arranged the Luton lunch for four years, and has organised the Cricket activities

for the Livery since the early 1990s. He was a Steward in 2000/01 and joined the Court in 2004.



Recent Events

The Feltmakers' Carol Service

See <http://www.feltmakers.co.uk/carol-service-2011> for more details.

The annual carol service was held at St Mary le Bow Cheapside Mon 12-Dec, and to mark the occasion our Master arranged for the historic bells to be rung prior to the service. The company enjoyed supper afterwards in the 'Café Below'

Our Chaplain Colin Semper gave the address. He spoke of the current political and economic turmoil, and the climate of hardship now facing our Nation, and also of the ultimate mystery of Christmas; 'The Word made Flesh'. Not just a delightful story, but a cataclysmic event that changed the world forever.

Rebuilt by Sir Christopher Wren, St Mary-le-Bow was almost completely destroyed by enemy action in 1941 but was again rebuilt and re-consecrated in 1964. Prayer and worship have been offered on the site occupied by St Mary-le-Bow for over a thousand years.

Further details of the Church and the Café Below can be found at <http://www.stmarylebow.co.uk/#> and <http://www.cafebelow.co.uk/Bill-CB-howitallbegan.htm>



Presenting the Lord Mayor's hat

The annual presentation of the Lord Mayor's hat took place in November, here the Master is seen presenting the hat to the Lord Mayor at Mansion House, and greeting the Lady Mayoress.



The Red Cross Market 2011— The Feltmakers very much in evidence

The biennial Christmas Fair at Guildhall is one of the major fund-raising events for the British Red Cross and the Feltmakers were there again in force this year. Thanks to the generosity of many milliners, retailers and individual donors, our stall was once again fully stocked with many wonderful hats.

The Master started working on the Fair as early as April, contacting nearly 40 milliners and retailers and asking for donations. Despite poor economic conditions, we had more willing donors than ever responding generously to the Master's request. We received a superb and varied selection, including designer millinery, contemporary casual, vintage formal, felt, tweed, sinamay, waxed cotton and straw and just about every colour imaginable. For the full report see <http://www.feltmakers.co.uk/red-cross-market-2011>

The Red Cross Market 2011 — The Master and some of the Feltmaker team on the Monday evening.

We are still awaiting confirmation of the final figure, but we certainly raised over £4,000, net of expenses, which exceeded what we raised in 2009.

A great result for a very good cause. We will do it again in 2013



More Work by our Historical Committee

Tony Skrimshire has produced another interesting report, following the one on the original Feltmakers' Hall which featured in our last e-Newsletter. The Committee has had a presentation from Chris Heal, from Bristol University, on his research into the local felt hat industry 1540-1900, and has also been visited by retired Professor Harry Duckworth from Canada, who has been researching the North American fur trade and how this fur was used in London. He presented his 'Notes on the Early History of Feltmaking in London and the Beginnings of the Feltmakers' Company'. Committee member, William Battersby has been researching the meeting venues for our Company after their hall was destroyed in the Great Fire, and has revealed the use of a number of places, including the Ship Tavern in Lime Street, illustrated here. For the full report, see <http://www.feltmakers.co.uk/activities-of-the-feltmakers-historical-committee>



The Feltmakers' Website

Don't forget to visit our website www.feltmakers.co.uk which is updated regularly and includes information and reports on all Feltmakers' events.

Editorial Committee

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Special thanks are due to Chris Horsburgh who has taken over the design and production of the e-Newsletter. e-Newsletter design by Peter Shirley. © Worshipful Company of Feltmakers 2011