

The Feltmaker



The Magazine of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers November 2012 Master: Anthony Phillips Issue No. 36

The Master's Address

At the Court Meeting on October 5th I was elected Master of your Livery Company. I thank the Court for electing me and all those who were able to attend the Installation Dinner. It is indeed a great honour and privilege to take over the reins from Past Master Eda Rose-Lawson and I wish to express our thanks and congratulations to her for an extremely successful year.

Also at the Court Meeting, Senior Assistant Jeremy Brassington was appointed Fourth Warden and I congratulate him on this appointment. I now have a great team of Wardens: Upper Warden – Simon Bartley; Renter Warden - Edward Hutton and Third Warden - Peter Simeons. It bodes well for the next few years but it will seem strange not having an eloquent female in our midst for the first time in many years. I am looking forward greatly to the year ahead and I shall be participating as fully as I can to further the cause and stature of the Feltmakers' Company. I believe that we are a very special Company. We are a great mixture of personalities, trades and professions from different parts of the country yet we have a friendliness and a culture which are second to none. I am aware how many of you travel from afar to be with us at Dinners and other occasions – and long may it continue.

It is customary for each Master to have a theme for his or her year and I have decided that my theme will be ENJOYMENT. Despite the economic austerity and uncertainty it is important that we enjoy our lives as far as possible. However, to enjoy it you have to participate in it! This of course means that I should like you to attend as many functions

as possible and to encourage your fellow Liverymen to do the same. Also, do introduce new members whom you feel will appreciate our company, our culture and our objectives.

One of our main purposes as a Livery is to support our charities. The Foundation under the leadership of Past Master Commander John Curteis has increased its donations quite consid-



erably over recent years and there are currently sixteen charities on the list. Charities are finding it extremely difficult in this economic climate to maintain funding at former levels. It is my intention to repeat the Ascot Charity Day in May 2013 following Past Master Eda Rose-Lawson's highly successful event. Three charities will benefit equally: the Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation; the Spinal Injuries Association and the Oracle Cancer Trust. With respect to the Livery Society I congratulate Assistant Simon Millar

on his appointment as Chairman and thank Assistant Sarah McLeod for her contribution during her three year tenure. I have decided to bring forward the annual Livery Society Dinner to November 19th. The venue will be at One Moorgate Place and it promises to be a really good evening.

Sporting and cultural activities form an important part of the Livery calendar

and the Livery Society is already busy planning further events for the ensuing year.

Other dates for your diaries should include the Carol Service on December 13th when we are returning to St Bartholomew the Great followed by supper in the Haberdashers' Hall. The Luton Lunch will be on February 7th and Common Hall is to be combined with the Livery Lunch in July 2013.

I wish you all an enjoyable Feltmakers' year.

Master: Anthony Phillips

Wardens: Simon Bartley, Edward Hutton, Peter Simeons, Jeremy Brassington **Immediate Past Master:** Eda Rose-Lawson
Clerk: Jollyon Coombs **Registered at Stationers Hall**

Anthony Phillips

Master Feltmaker

Anthony commenced his career in the retail sector and was the buying/marketing director for BHS for some ten years, in the days when it was an independent listed company. He was coincidentally on the SavaCentre board working on the early development of hypermarkets with Sainsburys before being appointed a director of the Littlewoods Organisation and managing director of its retail division. For the last twenty years or so he has been independent, working as “company doctor”/ chairman/ chief executive, restructuring many companies in a diverse range of industries. In all he has worked in over thirty companies. He was formerly a 3i independent director and also worked on behalf of banks

and venture capital organisations. He currently acts in a non-executive capacity. Following his association with the hatting industry through BHS, Dunns Group and Christys, he was introduced to the Feltmakers’ Company in 1995 by Past Master Peter Grant and was elected to the Court in 1999. He has organised the Feltmakers’ Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament, held annually at The Queens Club, for over five years with the support of the Livery Society and has been an active member of the Company. He was Deputy Chairman of the Renter Warden’s Finance Committee until his appointment as Upper Warden. He is Chairman of the Carl Rosa Trust,

a charitable organisation responsible for the Carl Rosa Opera archive and the continuation of the Carl Rosa name in its support of young opera singers. His charitable activities have supported Macmillan and St Catherine’s Hospice. He is a committee member of AROPS, the UK independent schools old pupils’ association. He and his wife, Carolyn, live in Sussex. He is a member of St George’s Hill Golf Club and Goodwood Horseracing Club. His other outside interests include tennis, bridge, enjoying Sussex, taking a keen interest in local council activities and spending time in his second home in the warm sunshine of Tenerife.

The Installation Dinner

Let the Enjoyment Begin!

On Friday, October 5 seventy-two liverymen and thirty-five guests gathered at the impressive Haberdashers’ Hall to attend the Installation Dinner hosted by our new Master, Anthony Phillips. The Master had been elected at the Court meeting preceding the dinner and Jeremy Brassington had been sworn in as our new Fourth Warden.

Following an excellent dinner in the elegant Livery Hall, Assistant Lt. Colonel Simon Wilkinson, TD, DL warmly and in jocular mood welcomed all guests. The principal guest was Sir John Baker CBE, Chairman of Renewable Energy Holdings plc. Sir John has combined a highly successful business career in both the public and private sectors with an active involvement in a variety of trusts and charities. Also attending was Mrs Deborah Knight, the first lady Master Haberdasher and, most significantly, the first female Master in the history of the Great Twelve Livery Companies. Other guests included Mr Jolyon Tibbits, Upper Bailiff of the Weavers, Mr

John Redmond, Master Waterman, and their respective Clerks.

Sir John Baker’s speech was entertaining and somewhat thought-provoking, drawing a parallel between the social, economic and political environments that existed at the time of the first



reference to the Feltmakers in 1180 and those which prevail today. After alluding to several remarkable similarities between historic deeds in the U.K., Europe and the Middle East with events in modern times, Sir John sombrely concluded that London today

mirrors the city of the past and that the problems which were insoluble then continue to pose key challenges. In his response the Master thanked Sir John for proposing the toast to the Company and the Court for his election, as well as Liverymen for their support. He

stated that his theme for the year would be one of enjoyment – and participation, hopefully by all! He subsequently thanked the Master Haberdasher and expressed the hope that the close relationship between our two Livery Companies would continue and, after congratulating Assistant

Simon Millar on becoming Chairman of the Livery Society and thanking Assistant Sarah McLeod and the Clerk for their invaluable contributions, he invited everyone to join him for a stirrup cup – a jolly end to a joyous evening.

Elaine Howard

Our New Fourth Warden

Jeremy Brassington

Jeremy Brassington has been a Feltmaker since 2001 and joined the Court in 2003. Jeremy became an active member of the Livery Society and organised the Inter Livery Tennis Tournament at Queen's Club for seven years and was Chair of the Livery Society for three years.

Jeremy was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford where he read Chemistry. He started his career in the City of London with the accountants, Coopers & Lybrand, qualifying in 1977. In 1981 he joined Barings as a Corporate Financier and three years later became a founding partner of Baring Brothers Hambrecht & Quist, an international venture capital firm which invested in high technology businesses in Europe, Japan and the USA. He subsequently co-founded a number of venture capital funds which invested in distressed companies.

He has been an investor and director of a number of successful start-up companies in a wide variety of industries. In 2003 he purchased an interest

in Conversor Limited, subsequently buying out the remaining shareholders



and becoming full time owner manager of that business. Conversor provides Assistive Listening devices for the hard of hearing and sells in 35 countries worldwide. Most recently contracts have been awarded by the Indian Government for the equipping of Deaf schools with Conversor devices. In response to requests from Government Conversor has now commissioned the development of a new product for that market. Disabilities in India have been

largely ignored with the exclusion of disabled people from the Census until recent years. Jeremy is working with the Indian Government, Deaf organisations and the British Council to address these issues for the hard of hearing and Deaf. In 2008 he founded Hearing Times, a not for profit organisation, which publishes a print newspaper and online website for the Deaf and hard of hearing. This will be launched in India in 2013 in collaboration with the Ali Yavar Jung Institute for the Hearing Handicapped.

Jeremy has an extensive knowledge of fine wine through ownership of a fine wine company which was subsequently sold to Berry Bros. He is a member of the East India Club and a member of the Wine Committee, the EPICS golfing society and Crocks. A past Captain and member of Worplesdon Golf Club he spends what little spare time is available on the golf course! Jeremy is married to Pearl and their daughter Janette and her partner live in the Lake District.

Anniversaries & Honours

We extend our congratulations to:

• **David Bartley on his 50th anniversary as a Feltmaker**

• **Nicholas Hilliard QC on his appointment as His Honour Judge Nicholas Hilliard QC**

We welcome the following New Liverymen admitted at the Court Meeting held in April 2012:



• Cynthia Gresham DL



• The Rev. Andrew Pritchard-Keens



• Charles Samek QC



• Lydia McClure



• Ben Robinson ACI

The Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation

Charities generally have continued to feel the effects of the so-called "economic downturn" during the past year, with income from individuals and other donations remaining more or less static.

In the circumstances, our foundation has done well with income levels enabling us to maintain our grant-making programme as planned and at a similar level to past years. Our investment portfolio continues to be carefully monitored and has again increased in value. Our Master, Mrs Eda Rose-Lawson, organised a most successful fund-raising event at Ascot Racecourse in May 2012. In spite of the racing being cancelled due to weather conditions, the event raised over £70,000 in support of her chosen charity, the Spinal

Injuries Association, with a substantial proportion of the proceeds accruing to our foundation.

Income from the St Clements initiative fell slightly from the previous year and so, whilst thanking all existing contributors for their support, the Trustees would encourage other Liverymen to support our charity by joining the scheme.

During the year the Foundation made grants totalling some £42,000. Recipients include the Design Award winner, the Lord Mayor's Appeal, support for trainee milliners, and the Armed Forces and cadet organisations. Additionally, in the past year, we made a grant of £2,500 to the Luton Hat Museum. We continue to support Pensioner Hatters with grants at Christmas and by

a contribution towards the Atherstone Pensioners Lunch. The Trustees again record their appreciation of the continuing support given by the Haberdashers' Company in part-funding these grants.

In the current year we will continue to support our regular beneficiaries but we are always receptive to requests from Liverymen to support charitable ventures in which they are personally involved.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their help and advice. In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our new Treasurer, John Ray, for looking after our finances during the past year.

John Curteis *Chairman of Trustees*

The Master's Charity Event: Springtime at Ascot

This year's Feltmakers' charitable fund-raising event took place at Ascot Racecourse on May 2nd. Over 265 guests assembled in the magnificent Pavilion Restaurant to enjoy a spectacular and highly entertaining day thanks to the professionalism of the organising committee led by our Master, Eda Rose-Lawson, and her husband, George. All the hard work proved worthwhile, as more than £70,000 was raised for the Spinal Injuries Association. The Feltmakers' Charitable Trust will receive 10% of the net funds raised.

Following a Champagne reception and luncheon, professional charity auctioneer Russ Williams conducted the auction, possibly the showpiece of the whole event. A most impressive list of auction lots had been secured to suit a wide range of tastes and credit cards. The silent auction also offered a range of equally interesting but less expen-

sive lots to tempt the guests and both auctions and the raffle raised some £43,000 on the day - a truly staggering



result. Thanks are owed to the generosity of the many contributors as well as those, including a good number of Liverymen, who donated auction lots and raffle prizes. There were also many generous donations from people who could not attend on the day.

Due to a waterlogged course the Ascot race card was transferred to Kempton Park, where the races could be

watched on large TV screens in the restaurant with the Tote on hand to take bets. Ladies were wearing their

best millinery, adding dazzling colour and glamour to the day's activities, and during the afternoon with the help of ten professional models, the Master organised and compered a fashion show of mag-

nificent couture designer dresses by Kruszynska Couture of Knightsbridge and hats by Eda Rose Millinery.

Guests were finally treated to an excellent afternoon tea in preparation for the return home.

Springtime at Ascot was a day to treasure and a brilliantly successful event, thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended. **Edward Hutton**

Master's Plough Monday Dinner

The Master invited 50 guests to spend a very convivial evening at the Cutlers' Hall. At the Court meeting it was agreed that Simon Wood and Peter Winfield should become Assistants and Louise Waller a Steward.

The Master outlined her activities to date and celebrated the fundraising at the Red Cross Stall before Christmas. She announced the Race Day event on 2nd May, and encouraged Liverymen to attend.

Honoured guests of the Master included Prime Warden of the Fishmongers, Mr Thomas Boyd; Master Glover, Mr Keith Ebsworth; City Sheriff Wendy Mead; Alderman and Sheriff

Alan Yarrow and the Master's personal guest, Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards KVCO. Assistant Bill Gammell proposed the toast to the guests and informed us that Sheriff Alan Yarrow, a senior and highly respected banker, is responsible for the smooth running of the Central Criminal Court and supports several charities. Sheriff Wendy Mead is well known for The Save Bart's Campaign and is a board member of numerous institutions and charities. In his response Sheriff Yarrow outlined some enjoyable duties, including attending the Sheriff's Bravery Awards, and Wendy Mead spoke interestingly about Open Spaces in the City and

Bunhill Fields.

Sir Norman regaled guests amusingly – "My job is to talk, yours is to listen; hopefully I shall finish mine before you finish yours" – and captivated his audience by recounting stories from his days in a minesweeper.

We welcomed honorary Liveryman, Captain Steve Moorhouse RN, who gave an enthusiastic rundown of the planned sea trials after refit and likely deployment of HMS Lancaster in late 2012.

We thank the Worshipful Company of Cutlers for the use of their fine Hall and hope to revisit in the future.

Simon Wood

The Feltmakers' Banquet

Our annual Banquet took place in the Mansion House with the Lord and Lady Mayoress joining Feltmakers and their guests at a truly splendid occasion. Melanie Lewiston, this year's winner of the Feltmaker Award, and her tutor Pauline Millar were amongst a host of distinguished guests including Alderman and Sheriff Alan Yarrow, Lady Judge, Gillian Lady Howard de Walden and Sheriff Wendy Mead.

After a sumptuous feast accompanied by fine wines Anthony Phillips, the Upper Warden, eloquently introduced the principal guests and proposed the toast to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of London. The Lord Mayor

responded and gave an interesting account of his role in an extraordinary week in the City's history hosting the Jubilee celebrations and the River Pageant.

The Master gave an entertaining speech and was delighted to announce that her Charity auction had raised the magnificent sum of £78,000, principally for her chosen Charity, the Spinal Injuries Association. 10% of the total sum raised was donated to the Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation. Gillian, Lady Howard de Walden, Vice President of the Spinal Injuries Association, made an impromptu speech thanking the Feltmakers for their kind donation.

The Master then asked the Lady Mayoress to present the Feltmaker Award to Melanie Lewiston.



The Master's principal guest, Lady Judge, has had an illustrious career in the law, the SEC and venture capital, and most recently serving as Chairman of the Pension Protection Fund and former Chair of the UK Atomic Energy Authority. Lady Judge gave us a witty insight into the worlds of nuclear power and pensions before ending on a lighter note in the world of hatting. It was nice to be "back home" in the Mansion House in the Jubilee year to celebrate what we hope will continue to be an Annus Mirabilis for our noble Queen. **Jeremy Brassington**

Photographs courtesy of Gerald Sharp Photography



The Luton Lunch

This year we were again blessed with fine weather for the Feltmakers' Luton Lunch at the Luton Masonic Pavilion on Friday, January 27 for thirty Liverymen and guests.

We were very pleased to welcome back Veronica Main, Curator of Costume and Textiles at Luton Museum, as our speaker. She told us about the first helmets for the Luton Police Force, which were made of straw plait, and demonstrated two such helmets and

also two early truncheons.

She then showed a beautiful bonnet, which had been very recently donated to the Hat Collection of the Museum; a silk cap almost certainly made in Italy to be worn at home by a lady of substance in the late nineteenth century. Veronica also told us about the use being made of donations from our Company by the Museum towards the conservation of old and important hats, both silk and felt. **David Siegler**



Livery Society Dinner

The Feltmakers' Livery Society met on 27th February in the elegant surroundings of the penthouse suite of the Grange City Hotel with fantastic panoramic views over the Shard.

After an excellent dinner Past Master Geoffrey Farr stated that, having proposed the idea to have a body where Liverymen of up to ten years' standing could meet in less formal surroundings to promote the fellowship for which the Company is widely known, he was encouraged to see its continued good health.

Assistant Simon Wilkinson said a

few words regarding Wear a Hat day, which has been organised by several charities concerned with fighting brain tumours. The Renter Warden, Simon Bartley, mentioned the work of Providence Row, the charity of which he is Chairman and to which the Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation makes a donation, and Assistant Gilly Yarrow told the assembled diners about an evening of ballet followed by drinks at the Old Bailey in aid of the Sheriffs and Records Fund.

Finally the Master, Eda Rose-Lawson, urged everyone to support her Charity

Day at Ascot, as well as a visit to Windsor Castle arranged for 29th March. She finished with an anecdote about the French idea of happiness, which rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable dinner.

The only sad part of the evening was the non-attendance through illness of Assistant Sarah McLeod, whose efforts had made the dinner such a success. Our thanks go to her and to Assistant Simon Wood for stepping in as host and for arranging such a wonderful venue. **Simon Millar**

Spring Livery Dinner

This year our Spring Livery Dinner was held in the historic Vintners' Hall. Our Master, Eda Rose-Lawson, welcomed the five new Liverymen, who had all been sworn in at the preceding Court meeting: Lydia McClure, Cynthia Gresham, The Reverend Andrew Pritchard-



Keens, Ben Robinson and Charles Samek.

The toast to the guests was proposed by Assistant Nicholas Hilliard QC, who in a witty speech stressed that the Master's special guest, Sir Ivan Lawrence QC, was one of the finest judges on the circuit. Nicholas felt he should mention this just in case he should appear before him. He added that the same would apply to any other judges dining... for the same reason. He also mentioned that, as MP for Burton-on-Trent, Sir Ivan had held the notable record for the longest speech in parliament, of 4½ hours, and it was hoped that he would not be tempted to repeat

that feat this evening.

Sir Ivan responded with a very amusing speech, entertaining us with anecdotes from both his legal and parliamentary careers. He remarked that nothing was better than to dine with nice people, to wine with nice people and to sleep with a peaceful mind. He then proposed the toast to the Company and to the Master.

Our Master responded, making reference to Sir Ivan's involvement in the Brinks Matt bullion robbery, albeit in his legal capacity.

As tradition dictates, the evening was brought to a close with the call to join the Master for a stirrup cup. **Peter Alvey**

The Historical Committee

The Historical Committee has been in place for over 7 years. It was established after the 400th anniversary of our Incorporation, when the History written to mark that event revealed great gaps in our knowledge, particularly about the Company's history in the 17th and early 18th centuries. The Court felt it was important to try to fill those gaps, as well as ensure that our current records are archived properly. The Committee meets 3 times a year to review progress and consider new initiatives. However a great deal of the work of the Historical Committee is actually carried out between meetings by individual members, or by our paid freelance archivist Stephen Freeth or unpaid Canadian researcher Professor Harry Duckworth, a retired academic with a lifelong interest in hatmaking. In recent years Alastair Hay has researched the precise location of our Hall on Queen Victoria Street, which burned down in the Great Fire; Stephen Freeth has unearthed from Oath Rolls in the National Archives the names of previously unknown Masters in the first 50 years of our existence; Jane

Way has updated the List of Members for the years 1726-1781, painstakingly transcribing the details of 1,153 Liverymen from the Court Minutes



of the period; William Battersby has researched details of our meeting places in the 18th and 19th centuries and Past Master Wontner has written a modern interpretation of our original Letters Patent, which was reproduced in the latest version of the Livery List. This gives an idea of the range of projects undertaken. We have several other projects underway, as well as a long list of subjects that we would like to research in due course, time and

money permitting.

From time to time we also organise visits of historical interest. The most recent of these was to the Museum of London in September, where William Battersby arranged a private view of selected felt hats from the Museum's collection, led by Beatrice Behlen, Senior Curator of Fashion and Decorative Arts. It was a fascinating afternoon with the chance to examine a wide selection of hats dating from 1560 to the 1980's. We saw bowlers, top hats, collapsible hats, trilbies, cloches and even one splendid feathered hat worn by Queen Victoria for military reviews. However the undoubted highlight was the Duke of Wellington's hat, pictured here with its distinctive plumed cockade of swan feathers.

The Historical Committee believes its work is important in improving our understanding of the Company's origins, heritage and early struggles and finds it is also interesting and hugely enjoyable. If there are any Liverymen who would like to join us, do please contact the Chairman or the Secretary, Tony Skrimshire. **Susan Wood** *Chairman*

Master's visit to Windsor Castle

On a sunny afternoon at the end of March a group of 19 Feltmakers headed by the Master and her husband George assembled at the entrance to Windsor Castle for what was to be a stunning visit. The Castle is truly remarkable in architecture, from the oldest part, the Keep, standing on its own hill with a dry moat now filled with flowers, to the many later additions. As we walked to St. George's Chapel, a smart squad of Her Majesty's Guards marched briskly past. The sheer size of the Castle is amazing and to tour it we were much helped by our electronic Guides. We were told the story of St. George's Chapel and of the service held there each year by the Members of the Order of the Garter headed by

the Queen following the ceremonial procession in striking hats and robes. We then toured the State Apartments



and admired the wonderful restoration work carried out after the disastrous fire

of 1992. We examined the Great Hall in which the Queen entertains visiting dignitaries to State Banquets and the expert fashion in which the roof had been totally rebuilt, with the Coats of Arms of those honoured by successive Kings and Queens together with the blank spaces of those who had transgressed and been stripped of their honours. After we had viewed with interest the Grace and Favour apartments we partook of a most elegant Afternoon Tea at the neighbouring Mercure Windsor Castle Hotel and reflected on a lovely day. Thanks go to the Master and to Steward Louise Waller for organising it, although sadly, due to a prior commitment, Louise was unable to be with us.

Past Master David Bentata

Feltnakers'

Design Award 2012

The annual judging for The Feltmaker's Design Award took place on April 25th at Haberdashers' Hall under the new organizing team of Rachel Trevor-Morgan and Philip Wright. There were over 35 entries and seven judges in attendance. We were very pleased to welcome two new judges to the panel: Lecia Finch, the Accessories Buyer at Fenwicks of Bond Street, and Amber Morales, the Fashion Editor of The Daily Mirror. We were also very grateful to Edwina Ibbotson, Milliner, and Carol Denford, The Editor of The Hat Magazine, for once again lending their expertise to the proceedings. Past Master Bill Horsman, having retired as organiser of the competition, actually had the opportunity to judge this year, along with Liverymen Philip Wright and Rachel Trevor-Morgan. Of course Master Eda Rose-Lawson, a master milliner herself, joined in the judging as well as welcoming The Lady Mayoress, Liz Wootton and the Sheriff's Consorts, Liveryman Gilly Yarrow and Robert Tip-

ping who were there to witness the final winners being selected.

The First Prize was awarded to Melanie Lewiston from Waltham Forest CLaSS for 'Tally Ho', a delightful little perching riding hat with beaded vintage veil and veiling 'snood'. It was beautifully crafted and well balanced. She will receive a cheque for £1200.

The Second Prize went to Emily Curtis from Northampton College for her winter white felt hat. Sculpted in fur felt and hand encrusted with pearl beading, this was a contemporary take on a vintage look. Several judges would have been happy to wear it home. She will receive a cheque for £600.

The Third Prize was awarded to Anna Sargent from Waltham Forest CLaSS, for 'Winter in Ragnarok', a felt hat with white fur and beautiful silver embroidery. The use of colour was subtle and the shaping exact so that when worn the hat framed the face. She will receive a cheque for £400.

Further prizes were awarded. The

Craftsmanship Prize went to Rosanna Totiah from Leeds College of Art for her sculpted felt headpiece with hand stitched felt flowers. The prize for Commercial Appeal went to Charlie Evans from Kensington and Chelsea College for her felt rose swirl. The Artwork and Presentation Prize went to Katherine Gerrish from Waltham College CLaSS for her night out at the movies, which was concise and illustrated her witty popcorn and film reel hat beautifully. The Innovative Use of Felt Prize went to Jo Miller from Kensington and Chelsea for her large black felt coolie hat cleverly made to resemble cowhide using two types of fur felt and chicken bones! We were also joined by Jollyon Coombs, our Clerk, and Liveryman Peter Shirley who took the photographs for this piece.

The judges and guests were then able to enjoy a delicious lunch after all the excitement of the morning!

Rachel Trevor-Morgan



David Bartley celebrates 50 years as a Feltmaker

This year marks David's 50 years with the Company and our celestial reporter was able to record the following:

At a meeting of the Celestial Court (City Division) earlier this year the Archangel responsible for Livery Companies was asked to investigate a report that David



Bartley had been a member of the Feltmakers' Company for 50 years.

At the Court meeting last week the Archangel said that he had managed to meet with David, who confirmed that he joined the Feltmakers in 1962 at the suggestion of Cecil Atkinson, a fellow director of the family company. He found that David, a chartered engineer and seemingly a quite ordinary chap, used the dinners and banquets for many years for entertaining but otherwise had no particular involvement

with the Company. He well remembers scintillating after dinner speeches, especially those given by A.P. Herbert, who was a great friend of the Master of the day.

It was only when he attended a dinner solely for Feltmakers at the Honourable Artillery Company that he began to meet other Liverymen (as they were at that time) and he particularly remembers exchanging seats after the main course, which made it possible to extend the range of acquaintances. He found that the Master and members of the Court were not too godlike but interesting and friendly human beings and as a consequence put forward his son, Simon, for membership in 1987. At the same time he was delighted to hear that lady members were to be admitted.

Shortly after this, and possibly because of the ripples that Simon had made in the Livery, he was invited to join with the Trustees of the Company at a splendid military establishment near Bond Street to comment at the end of their meetings on charitable donations to be made by the Company. He even, for a short time, chaired a charity

committee but this was abandoned pretty quickly; by this time he had got some idea as to how the organisation operated.

He clearly remembers entertaining the off watch crew of HMS Lancaster when she made a visit to London and especially being invited to a day of manoeuvres on the ship in the English Channel. These were particularly poignant because of the time he had spent on the lower deck during his years of National Service. David expressed his pleasure at new innovations, including summer lunches for members and their partners, who were encouraged to wear hats, many quite splendid. He was sad however that Common Hall appeared to have been abandoned.

His more recent warm memory is of being asked, with his wife Joan, to have lunch with the Master and her *temps perdu* of Past Masters at a restaurant in Normandy during their visit to the battlefields and cemeteries connected with the 1944 invasion. The Celestial Master thanked the Archangel for his report and we are lucky that our celestial reporter was able to obtain a copy.

The Livery Lunch & River Cruise

The Master's Final Fling!

This last occasion arranged by the Master was a lovely drinks party and summer lunch on an elegant river launch and the Gods, especially Isis, were smiling on us as the weather was perfect!

We cruised for four hours, during which time the Master entertained us with her knowledge of the area and many of the historical aspects of the stretch of the Thames from Hambledon to Sonning. At the Start of the Henley Royal Regatta course is the beautiful Temple Island, famed for being the subject of the Dickens story, *The Phantom of Regatta*

Island. The Master wanted to show us the frescoes on the walls of the Temple but we were not allowed access on this occasion, although it has been promised for the future.

To round off a happy day we had the invitation to visit the world famous Leander Club for further refreshment, which gave us the opportunity to soak up the atmosphere of the Olympic Rowing World and admire the priceless trophies on display. Did you know that ladies were not admitted as members until 1998, the first one being HRH The Princess Royal!

Past Master Peter Cobb brought a

wonderful day to a very fitting close with a greatly appreciative word of thanks.

Colin Semper



Don't Step on the Corgis

Freddie Fox

In this, Her Majesty the Queen's Jubilee year, Liveryman Freddie Fox LVO recalls some events in the nearly 50 years since his millinery work was first recommended to her.



I was recommended to Her Majesty by Hardy Amies. In 1962, I took over the company in Brook Street at no. 26, opposite the Handel House. Hardy Amies had been supplying the Queen with clothing, usually accompanied by hats, that were made by the, then Royal Milliner, Aage Thaarup, a Danish designer. I had made it my business to meet Aage when he was in Australia. Aage was a charming man but I have to admit that I was not particularly impressed with the hats.

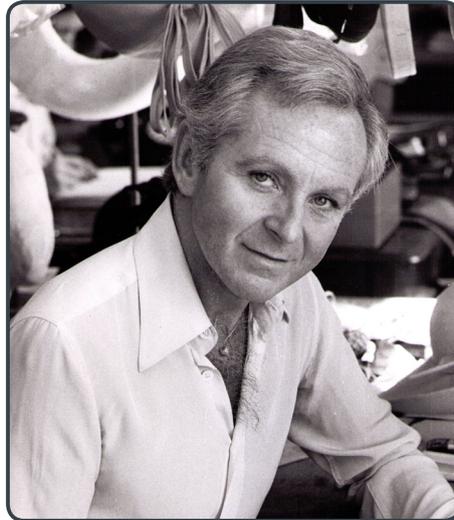
When I took over Langée, the company that I had been working for in 1964, Miss Betty, the Queen's vendeuse at Hardy Amies, suggested to the Queen, at Hardy's suggestion, that 'our milliner', meaning myself, could make some hats to accompany the clothes for her tour of Argentina and Chile. It was a relationship that lasted for many years and was a happy experience for all concerned.

I cannot remember if it was five or six hats that I made for the tour but they were made without ever having met the Queen. I made all of the hats myself at my work table without the knowledge of the workroom staff. I thought if this doesn't work, my credibility with the milliners would be zero, so I worked with a postage stamp stuck to the table, when not working on the hats, a

cotton box was placed over the stamp to avoid clues to the staff.

The day of meeting the Queen arrived, with great excitement and a lot of nerves.

We went to the palace with all the garments in large bags, piped with blue, carried by all the people involved. Quite a procession from 17 Saville Row. First the Queen's vendeuse, then the head tailor, the head dressmaker, a fitter, and the designer, and myself. Needless to say, my first hats were successful. In fact, most of them are still on show at one time or another in exhibitions of the Queen's wardrobe in various museums. Over the years, my relationship with the Queen changed. I became less frightened of stepping on the Royal corgis or saying something



that might upset Royal protocol. The team would travel to Balmoral, Windsor, or Sandringham, if fittings were not able to be scheduled into Buckingham Palace.

On one occasion, we were all given our tickets for the rail journey to Sandringham. I left in plenty of time for Liverpool Street but found I had chosen the wrong station and so had to change and arrived at Sandringham station late. I was greeted by the same cheerful driver who had just delivered the others on time and had come straight

back for me and my hat boxes. These are not the little things that private clients get their hats in but great big trunks made of fibre board that measure 3 ft. by 2 ft. by 3 ft. 6 ins. On arrival I was shown into an ante-room and around the door came the Queen's head, smiling and saying 'Don't worry. The others are having lunch. I have arranged for you to have lunch here. They can start to fit the clothes and you can do the hats last'. What a relief. It never happened again.

It was always interesting to see the Royal residences, particularly the Queen's private apartments. My favourite is Windsor Castle. It is, I am told, also the Queen's favourite despite a distant view of Slough from one of the state rooms.

I managed to survive 3 tailors, 4 dress-makers, 3 vendeuses and 2 designers. I was able to give continuity to millinery for 34 years of our monarch's remarkable reign. All thanks to Hardy Amies who believed in me, and gave me the opportunity to work for the most photographed woman in the world. I have just been informed that the Australian government has named me Australian Personality of the Year in recognition of my contribution to the high quality of the image presented by Her Majesty and I am to receive this award formally on Australia Day in January 2013.

Freddie Fox



Message from LT Commander Paul Thomson

From Lieutenant Commander Paul Thomson Royal Navy, Weapon Engineering Officer and Feltmakers Affiliation Officer HMS LANCASTER:

Over recent months HMS LANCASTER, The Queens Frigate, has continued to regenerate herself and her Ship's Company, into an operational warship. This has entailed the Ship's Company re-familiarising themselves with the equipment and procedures on board, from Fire-Fighting and Damage Control Exercises to Helicopter Operations and Gunnery. Since completing her post refit sea trials and entering back into the Operational Fleet in March this year, LANCASTER has combined this training with some very important, but equally enjoyable, wider regional engagement, both within the UK and in Europe.

First, the Ship visited Falmouth, where we were able to provide a full Capability Demonstration to the local business community and various affiliates of the Royal Navy. The Capability Demonstration is designed to provide a snapshot of LANCASTER's capability in various operational scenarios, including a very loud and intimidating Operations Room, during an air attack and a fire fighting demonstration should the enemy's weapons successfully engage the Ship. These demonstrations are key to keeping the Royal Navy in the public eye, including pushing our recruitment campaign, and it was a pleasure to show off to over 150 guests in front of the wonderful summer backdrop of Falmouth Harbour.

We then sailed to La Coruna in Northern Spain for a similar visit, which also coincided with Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and which saw Lieutenant Commander Paul Thomson Royal Navy, LANCASTER's Weapon Engineer Officer, join the Master and her guests for lunch with Her Majesty at Westminster Hall. Whilst in La Coruna a group of sailors from

the Ship visited and conducted some vital maintenance at a Cemetery for the sailors of HMS SERPENT. She was lost in 1890 during a terrible storm off the North Coast of Spain with only 3 survivors from the Ship's Company. The survivors were the only members of the Ship's Company wearing lifejackets and this tragedy led to the personal issue of lifejackets to all members of the Royal Navy at sea, which is still a requirement today. LANCASTER later sailed to the final resting place of



HMS SERPENT and conducted a short ceremony on the Flight Deck, with a memorial wreath of flowers thrown in to the sea by the Commanding Officer. Following a short period in Portsmouth, LANCASTER sailed to the Netherlands for the first of two visits to the country. First, the Ship visited the extremely busy port of Rotterdam. This was in support of the GREAT campaign, which sought to celebrate British endeavour in 2012 on the international stage. With the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics grabbing the headlines, it is clear that there is a great deal to be proud of, and we helped to convey that message at the same time as supporting and pushing UK trade abroad. The visit to Rotterdam included a Capability Demonstration to the British Ambassador, as well as Dutch military and civilian dignitaries.

Our second visit to Holland was to the port of Den Helder. As the home of the Royal Netherlands Navy, it is the venue

for their Navy Days, allowing the public access to the Ships and a plethora of exciting demonstrations from Search and Rescue to abseiling from helicopters, boat-handling and weapons demonstrations. LANCASTER was one of only three non-Dutch ships represented, along with a German mine hunter and a Russian frigate. During the course of the weekend the Ship had in excess of 25,000 eager visitors, including the Commander in Chief of the Netherlands Navy. On sailing from Den Helder LANCASTER had the honour of hosting the Master Feltmaker and her husband on our return passage to the UK, which concluded with Eda and George leaving the Ship off Spithead, Portsmouth, in true 007 fashion. It was a great chance for us to show first hand the busy life on board a 21st century operational warship.

On return to Portsmouth in early July we were put back into the dockyard's hands as we began another period of maintenance on our Gas Turbine Engines, which unfortunately led to the cancellation of our Affiliates Day, which will be re-planned in the near future. This resulted in LANCASTER's Ship's Company taking an early summer leave break and have since returned to re-commence our preparations for the very intense training period of Operational Sea Training in the Plymouth Exercise Areas later this year. This will test our readiness for warfighting and prove that we are ready to be deployed anywhere in the world to continue maintaining British interests. On completion of this LANCASTER will assume the role of Fleet Ready Escort, FRE, which will see her at 24 hour' notice to respond to any emergent threat to the UK and her homeland waters until early into 2013, when on completion the Ship will deploy out of UK waters for a period of around 7 months before returning to Portsmouth for a well earned Christmas break.

Sports

Golf

The sporting year for the Feltmakers commenced on 9th May with the Master's Golf Day held at Camberley Heath Golf Club. The forecasters had prepared the country for drought and so, inevitably, the weather for much of May and for most of the summer showed above average rainfall. The golfers had a wet day, but nevertheless the challenging course was enjoyed by

Liverymen and guests. Stewart Wolmersley, a guest of Edward Hutton, was the winner with Upper Warden, Anthony Phillips, being the runner up. The Master not only awarded the prizes but had also generously donated them. The second golfing event took place in splendid weather. This was the Inter-Livery Golf Competition for the prize of the Prince Arthur of Connaught Cup,

and this took place on 17th May at Walton Heath Golf Club. The Feltmakers' pairings were Geoffrey Vero and Gerry Higginson and Geoffrey Farr and Jeremy Brassington. The Feltmakers had won the trophy twice in recent years but this year came in 36th out of 54 Livery companies.

Gerry Higginson & Geoffrey Vero

Clay Pigeon Shooting



Only one day before this, the Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition was held at Holland and Holland's grounds in Northwood, Middlesex. Luckily this was the start of the brief period of fine weather and the Feltmakers' team of Jollyon Coombs, Peter Winfield, William Battersby and Peter Shirley under our usual captain, Brian Minnighan, made an early start as soon as the stands opened after breakfast. A team consists of 4 guns, so Jollyon

and Brian took turns to shoot as we made our way round the 10 stands and the adrenaline fuelled activity of the 80 bird flurry. An early start meant an early return to the marquee and the traditional sumptuous buffet lunch featuring roast hogs amongst many other delights. Ours was a mixed ability team and we won no prizes but still thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Peter Shirley

Cricket

Just one cricketing activity was held this year, the Feltmakers' Pairs Cricket Competition, and the 26 players as well as a number of spectators, enjoyed another fine May evening at Amersham Cricket Club. A notable feature was the first mass wearing of the Feltmak-

ers' Diamond Jubilee straw hat, which Past Master Derek Hilton had designed and which was sported by many of the spectators. The winners were two guests and the prizes, again generously donated by the Master, were presented after a most enjoyable buffet.

Peter Simeons



Tennis

The last sporting event this year was the Inter-Livery Tennis held at Queen's Club on 13 September. A small team from the Feltmakers, led by Sarah McLeod, organised the event and this day, too, was blessed by fine weather. 13 Livery Companies were represented by 22 pairs, with the main competition

being won, as in previous years, by the Tallow Chandlers' brother and sister pairing of Alexandra & Christopher Kurkjian. The Feltmakers' pair of Bruce Fraser and playing partner Sarah Ward battled through as far as the quarter finals. The Feltmakers were represented in the Plate competition by Past Master

Geoffrey Farr and his playing partner, Margaret Harris, and they reached the finals, where they were beaten by the pair from the Barber Surgeons. A splendid supper in the President's Room completed an excellent day, with prizes awarded by our Master, Eda Rose-Lawson. **Sarah McLeod**