

# The Feltmaker



The Magazine of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers November 2013 Master: Simon Bartley Issue No. 37

## The Master's Address

*The following is taken from the Address given by The Master, Simon Bartley, at his Installation Dinner.*

This is the third Installation Dinner at which I have had the privilege of speaking. The first was in 2002 when David Bentata asked me to propose the toast to his Guests; the second was in 2006 when Derek Bonham asked me to do the same; this time I seem to have been promoted!

My pleasure at becoming your Master is tonight tinged with sadness at the death of John Curteis, Master in 2006/7. He was Chairman of the Feltmakers' Charity Trustees and his wisdom and advice will be sorely missed. This year I plan to build on the work of recent Masters and develop the Livery Membership. We all agree on the need for new Members but two things strike me. First, whilst we have admitted over 60 new Members in the last 10 years, I'd like to see what we can do to up their participation in our activities. Secondly, I wonder whether we might look at what we might do to attract younger applicants.

Every Master knows that they become custodian of the Feltmakers for just a year and what we do during our year is to add a rock onto the column of rocks built by our predecessors. Some rocks are larger than others, some smaller. In the long term the size doesn't matter; what matters is that any particular rock doesn't cause the column to topple but for it to keep on growing. Fellow Feltmakers I pledge to you that during my year in office I will seek to grow the column, not demolish it.

During my year, which runs in parallel with the Mayoralty of Fiona Woolf, there

will be a lady speaker at every occasion that we dine as a Livery. We have an exceptionally talented group of Lady Liverymen and it is my hope that we can encourage more ladies to join us. Our Annual Carol Service this year is going to be at the Church of St Mary Moorfields. The Livery has been supporting Providence Row for many years and it has been training, in partner-



ship with the Andaz Hotel, some of the homeless who come to the Day Centre as Cooks and Chefs so that they can move off the streets and on with their lives. Some of those trainees are going to cook and serve our post Carol Service supper in the crypt of St Mary Moorfields on 10th December.

Both of my immediate predecessors arranged days at Ascot; however I will not be making this a hat trick. Jollyon has instead decided to row across Scotland! During the week of 16th June he will row from Fort William to Inverness – fear not we have already given notice to Nessie and she has decided to take refuge elsewhere. Stupidly, I have agreed to keep him company. Both of us will be seeking support; in my case

a number of Liverymen to carry me in a sedan chair would be most welcome. In concluding I would like to say a few thank yous.

First, I would like to thank Bishop Richard Moth, Bishop of the Armed Forces, for agreeing to be my Guest this evening and singing for his supper. Secondly, I would like to thank Immediate Past Master Anthony Phillips for his

tremendous year in office; he has been as solid as a rock and a credit to this Company.

Thirdly, I would like to thank the two Feltmakers for – back in 1986 - proposing and seconding my application for Membership. My seconder was Past Master Charles Simeons and my proposer was my Father who is here tonight with my Mother. My Father is the 5th longest serving Liverymen in the Company having been admitted in 1962.

Finally, I would like to thank the Court for giving me your trust and electing me to be your Master. I will do everything that I can to make sure that I fulfil your faith in me - and keep the column growing upwards.

**Master:** Simon Bartley

**Wardens:** Edward Hutton, Peter Simeons, Jeremy Brassington & Nicholas Hilliard **Immediate Past Master:** Anthony Phillips  
**Clerk:** Jollyon Coombs **Registered at Stationers Hall**

# Simon Bartley Master Feltmaker

Simon took up office as Master Feltmaker on 4th October 2013 having served thirteen years on the Court of Assistants and having been elected to the Livery in 1987. He is a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Lightmongers (2006/7) and a Member of the Company of Educators.

He was educated at Stonyhurst College from 1965 to 1975 and at Durham University from 1976 to 1979, from where he graduated with a BSc in Engineering Science and Management and from 1984 to 1985 where he achieved an MSc in Management Science. He is a Chartered Engineer, a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers and a Fellow of City and Guilds.

Upon graduating from Durham University in 1979 he worked for John Mowlem plc on a number of large construction projects including Terminal 4 at Heathrow Airport and the British Library at Kings Cross. After completing his MSc he joined the family firm of C J Bartley & Co Limited (Building Services Engineers) as Assistant Company Secretary and rose to become Chairman

and Managing Director. Whilst at C J Bartley he chaired the CBI's Small and Medium Enterprise Council, a post that he held for two years, as well as serving on the CBI's London, President's & Education Committees. He is currently a Member of the DWP's Social Security Advisory Committee and the BSI's Strategy and Policy Committee.

Passionate about developing the skills of young people Simon has undertaken a wide range of roles in the fields of both academic and vocational education. These have included being Chair of Governors at Malmesbury Primary School in Tower Hamlets and serving as the Chair of SummitSkills, the Sector Skills Council for the Building Services Engineering Industry. He sits on the Government's Skills Commission and the Apprentice Ambassadors' Network and is a Member of the Council of City & Guilds.

Simon was elected President and Chairman of WorldSkills International in October 2010 and took up his 4-year post on 10th October 2011. World-

Skills International is a global not-for-profit membership organisation dedicated to raising the awareness of the value of vocational skills and careers, mainly through the use of skills competitions. Prior to his taking up the Presidency Simon was Chief Executive of UK Skills – the UK Member of WorldSkills - and Chief Executive of WorldSkills London 2011.

Simon is the long standing Chair of Providence Row, the Charity for the Homeless in the East End of London founded in 1860. Providence Row provides food, clothing and support for up to 180 homeless people and rough sleepers everyday and is Simon's Master's Charity of his year in office.

When not travelling on WorldSkills International business Simon is a keen yachtsman, an intrepid downhill skier, an advanced scuba-diver and an indifferent clay pigeon shot, as well as being a lover of live music - everything from Wagner and Benjamin Britten to Bruce Springsteen and Elvis, both Presley and Costello!

## The Installation Dinner

On the warm autumnal evening of Friday, 4th October, our Installation Dinner was once again held in the elegant atmosphere of Haberdashers' Hall. At the Court meeting beforehand Simon Bartley had been installed as our new Master and His Honour Judge Nicholas Hilliard QC had been sworn in as the new Fourth Warden. Following Grace offered by our Chaplain and the usual impressive menu and splendid selection of wines, Rachel Trevor-Morgan gave an eloquent welcome to all guests. The Master's principal guest was the Right Reverend Richard Moth, Bishop of the Forces, who had been appointed by Pope Benedict XVI in 2009. Other guests included the Masters of Haberdashers, Woolmen, Watermen & Lightermen and Tallow Chandlers; the Upper Bailiff of the

Weavers and Mr Alderman and Sheriff Jeffrey Evans.

Bishop Moth regaled us with some



amusing anecdotes on wearing hats. He recalled a visit to a school in Germany when, in an effort to entertain, he had taken off his mitre to reveal his zucchetto, only for one child to remark that that was 'silly'. On a serious note however Bishop Moth said that the wearing of the Master's hat brings with it responsibility and he felt certain that under the Master's direction the good work done by the City would continue. He concluded by saying that the Feltmakers' hat was a fine hat filled with a wise head on a sure path.

Following his address, in which he stated his main objectives and plans for the year, and subsequent thanks, the Master then hosted the stirrup cup bringing this hugely enjoyable evening to a close. **Elaine Howard**

# Our New Fourth Warden

## His Honour Judge Nicholas Hilliard QC

I joined the Feltmakers' Company in 1991 at the suggestion of the late Peter Winfield in his Master's year. His daughter, now Past Master Susan Wood, had been a friend of mine at University. Peter was a wonderful Master and it was a year on the grand scale. I still have the menu card (wine-stained) from his Plough Monday dinner in Middle Temple Hall where I had been called to the Bar 10 years before.

I was in practice at the Bar for 31 years from Chambers at 6 Kings Bench Walk in the Temple. My connections with the City were strengthened when I was appointed as Treasury Counsel at the Central Criminal Court in 1995. This meant that I was responsible for prosecuting some of the most serious cases tried there and I held the appointment until 2008. I also served for two periods on Common Council as a member for the Ward of Farringdon Without where my Chambers were situated. In the meantime, I came on to the



Court of the Feltmakers in 2005 after serving as one of the Stewards.

In 2008, I was appointed as Queen's Counsel. My practice had by this time diversified into inquests and I was appearing at the time at the inquest into the deaths of HRH The Princess of Wales and Dodi Al Fayed. Four years

in Silk came to an end in 2012 when I was appointed as a Senior Circuit Judge and Resident Judge at Woolwich Crown Court, and subsequently as Honorary Recorder of the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

And now I am delighted and honoured to become Fourth Warden in the same year that I have been privileged to return to the Old Bailey as Common Serjeant. As well as sitting full time as a Judge, the Common Serjeant also has a formal role in some of the City's ceremonies and events, and I am glad that I can do this whilst playing a greater part in my own Livery Company. Certainly some imaginative time-management is going to be required, not least because there is a life away from work with my wife, Jane, to be fitted in. This includes serving as a trustee of Crisis, the homelessness charity, and making full use of my season ticket at Chelsea and membership of the MCC and at the Oval.

## Welcome//Anniversaries//Obituaries

### Welcome

#### Honorary Freeman:

Mrs Pamela Devlin

#### Liverymen and Honorary Liverymen

Miss Rebecca Nelson

Mr Joe Petran

Mr Dan Benham

Mr Steve Bowles

Mr Tim Downing

Mr Richard Lawson

Mr Julian Bosdet

The Very Reverend Dr David Ison,

Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral

Commander Paul Chivers, OBE, RN

Commander Richard Moss, RN

### Anniversaries

**Past Master Jonathan Rowley** who has been a Liveryman for 40 years and a Court member for 25 years.

**Past Master Peter Cobb** who has been a Court member for 30 years.

**Past Master David Bentata** who has been a Liveryman for 30 years and a Court Member for 20 years.

We extend our congratulations to **His Honour Judge Nicholas Hilliard QC** on his appointment as Common Serjeant.

### Obituaries

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Past Master Derek Hilton who died on 22nd November 2013.



# Obituaries

## Past Master Commander

### John Curteis RNR, Ost.J, RD, FCA, DL, 1941 to 2013

John's early and sudden death at the age of 72 shocked us all. He was born in Inverness in July 1941, the only son of a distinguished Naval Officer. John was educated at Radley College and poor eyesight prevented him following his father into the Navy. Instead, he joined Whinney, Smith and Whinney (now Ernst and Young) with whom he qualified as a Chartered Accountant. As an accountant he had a distinguished career and was constantly being invited to be treasurer of charities. He never said no.

John held many honorary roles including Commanding Officer of HMS Cambria; President of the Barry Branch RNA, Porthcawl Sea Cadets and Ruperra Castle Preservation Trust; Vice-President of King George's Fund for Sailors; Chairman of The Mission

to Seafarers and Past Master of the Welsh Livery Guild. His public service included being Vice Lord Lieutenant



and High Sheriff of South Glamorgan and President of the Cardiff Chamber of Commerce. He followed his father as a Liveryman in the Feltmakers and was our Master in 2005/6.

His main interest and delight has always been his family. He married Fiona in 1970 and they had 3 children and now also grandchildren. He was always cheerful with a sunny smile and a zest for life. One never saw him angry or unpleasant to others. If upset, he did not show it – surely a true embodiment of an officer and gentleman. His name was a French version of 'courtesy' and he lived up to it. A cultured man who enjoyed the theatre and Glyndebourne, he was also a sportsman, being a member of the MCC, as well as a sailor and golfer. He will be much missed by the Feltmakers, his many friends and of course by Fiona and his family.

**From obituaries written by Captain Sir Norman Lloyd Edwards and Past Master Geoffrey Vero.**

## Past Master Giles Wontner 1936 to 2013

Arthur Giles Irvin Wontner was born in September 1936 into a legal family. He was educated at Oundle and then studied Jurisprudence at Lincoln College Oxford, with the intention of becoming a barrister. He very much enjoyed the university dining clubs and was also a keen athlete and sportsman. However, he suffered from epilepsy as a result of a pole vaulting accident at school and decided that maybe a career as a solicitor would be more sensible. He did his articles at the family firm, Wontners, which was long established, having been founded in 1874. He subsequently joined Mercantile Credit and finally qualified as a solicitor in 1969. He then worked for the Director of Public Prosecutions at New Scotland Yard for a few years before returning to the family firm. Giles also had a great love of the theatre and

throughout his life acting and the stage were at the forefront of his interests. His grandfather, Arthur Wontner, had



been a famous actor in the early part of the last century. Giles' father made him a director of the Savoy theatre. He became its chairman in 1992. Giles was renowned for his risky activities such as, when young, keeping a gun

in his room to shoot squirrels and once shooting a hole through his bedroom wall. Later in life, on holiday in New York, he balanced on the edge of a skyscraper balcony much to the consternation of his family. He was a dedicated family man having married Sarah, whom he met at Oxford, in 1967, two years before he qualified. He was said to be brilliant with children and in 2010 he made his grandson, Ned, his apprentice in the Feltmakers. Giles followed the family tradition of becoming Master of the Feltmakers' Company in 1983 and in recent years became involved with the Historical Committee, adding his energy to the production of the booklet, 'The Early History of Feltmaking in London'. He will be greatly missed.

**From eulogies given by Sir Mark Waller and Charlotte Wontner.**

# The Master's Plow Monday Dinner

## The Girdlers Hall Monday 7th January 2013

For those within the Feltmakers Livery Company who have attended a Plow Monday Dinner, you will know all too well that it is one of the most convivial evenings of the year. This year was no exception and in many respects it reached a new level, if only for the stunning location.

The Master had clearly pulled some strings to enable the Court Meeting and then Plow Monday Dinner to take place at the Girdlers Hall. Something not achieved in living memory. It is in an exceptionally unusual setting being a 1968 building of a traditional, more or less Queen Anne style, set in its own wonderful garden (do I sound like an Estate Agent?) yet surrounded by skyscrapers!

Being an old Livery Company – Number 23, it has a rich heritage and

many treasures, not least the Lahore Carpet 1635 along the Dining Room wall, a wonderful sight to see. The



Dinner commenced with our Chaplain singing the Plow Monday Grace, followed by the assembled diners' retort of 'God speed the plow' Amen. Always a wonderful and cheery start to the evening.

The guests were welcomed by Assistant Simon Wood in fine and jocular

style.

This is one of the few occasions where the Sheriffs are entertained by us, without the Lord Mayor. On previous occasions the Sheriffs have done a double act but on the night both spoke independently. Alderman and Sheriff Jeffrey Evans spoke interestingly and amusingly of City Life and the Feltmakers and then Sheriff Nigel Pullman entertained us with other stories.

The Master's principal guest, Rear Admiral Sir Robert Woodard, KCVO, DL, spoke without notes and entertained us in fine style, regaling us with stories and also a little of Lancing College, which he attended with the Master. Certainly most, if not all, of those in attendance were very satisfied with the wonderful setting, the fine food and wines and of course the Company. A very good evening to remember.

**Simon Wilkinson**

# The Spring Livery Dinner 2013

## Feltmakers and their Guests are full of the joys of Spring

The Spring Livery Dinner heralded the first mild evening of the year as our Master, Anthony Phillips, welcomed Masters from other Companies, their Clerks and Officers from HMS Lancaster in the elegant surroundings of Skinners' Hall. This is a Grade 1 listed building dating from 1670, described as "the country house venue in the heart of the City".

An appropriately sombre note was struck when our Chaplain, The Very Reverend Colin Semper, offered prayers in memory of the late Baroness Thatcher who had passed away earlier in the day.

However, the hall was soon ringing again with lively chatter over a sumptuous meal complemented by well-chosen wine.

The toast to the guests was proposed by Assistant, Mrs Gilly Yarrow, who recalled Winston Churchill's advice that "a good speech should be like a

woman's skirt: long enough to cover the subject and short enough to create interest"!

The Master's principal speaker was Christopher Saunders, MA, former



Headmaster of Lancing College, who regaled us with humorous anecdotes drawn from his life in academia. His entertaining speech was peppered with witty aphorisms not least a definition of "monotony" – having only one wife – and a reminder to avoid being like a thrombosis – "a bloody clot that circulates around the system"!

In his response, the Master noted the record number of Liverymen in attendance at the evening's Dinner and congratulated the Liverymen who had been sworn in during the prior Court meeting

He encouraged the guests to support the Company's charitable objectives, reminding us to honour our long tradition of philanthropy in the City of London and that "it is more agreeable to give than to receive".

He was followed by Senior Naval Officer, Lt Cdr Charlie Guy, who gave a fascinating glimpse into life aboard HMS Lancaster. Tales of lost navigation lights after high water in The Solent were not for the faint-hearted!

In keeping with tradition, the assembled Liverymen and guests joined the Master for a stirrup cup and, given his theme for the year is enjoyment, this was accepted with gusto!

**Rebecca Nelson**

# The Luton Lunch

The annual Feltmakers' Luton Lunch was held on 7th February, a Thursday on this occasion, chosen to avoid the



Friday afternoon rush-hour traffic. We met as usual at the Luton Masonic

Centre and thirty-four Liverymen and guests sat down to a delicious three-course lunch provided by our regular caterers.

For the third year running, our guest speaker was Veronica Main, Curator of Clothing and Textiles at the nearby War-down Park Museum, which contains a large number of hats. Veronica demonstrated some hats made of straw plait dating from the late nineteenth century and made in Luton and Dunstable and then delighted the audience by showing a lady's hat which may prove to be of considerable importance. This had reached her at the Museum in a postal package, having been found in a wall

in an old house near the Essex coast. It probably dates from the early eighteenth century or even earlier and much of the fabric is of plant material which must have been imported. The hat will be investigated with radiocarbon dating and minute examination of the stitching and may yield new information on hat manufacture three centuries ago. Veronica's talk was fascinating and drew several questions from a clearly engaged audience. The Master proposed the vote of thanks and congratulated the organisers of what again proved to be a convivial and successful event.

**David Siegler**

# The Livery Lunch

The Livery Lunch is a relatively new event in our calendar and was instituted in 2009 by Past Master Susan Wood. It provides an opportunity for Liverymen, their spouses and partners, and particularly those who might find it difficult to attend evening events, to enjoy an informal lunch together. This year's lunch took place on (a scorching) Wednesday 17th July at the Cavalry and Guards' Club. With temperatures in the low thirties and, as our Master mentioned in his introductory remarks, a 'warm' welcome from the Company to its members and their guests was certainly not lacking! However our Company was, as ever, undaunted in the face of adversity and, following grace by our Chaplain (and a welcome invitation to the gentlemen to remove their jackets), forty of us sat down to enjoy some excellent food, wine and conversation. The occasion was further brightened by the delightful display of summer hats, in a variety of styles, worn by the ladies present. Following the toasts to Her Majesty and to the Royal Family, Master Anthony Phillips introduced our speaker, Miss Emma Whitaker, Principal of Mercer Investment Consulting and Chairman

of the Trustees of the St. Paul's Cathedral Chorister Trust. We were very interested to hear from her about the aims and objectives of the Trust, which



principally focus on financial support to the parents of talented boys suffering financial hardship, whose sons would not otherwise be able to accept a place at the School. The Trust awards scholarships and bursaries, thus enabling these youngsters to have the unique experience of membership of the choir. We were also most interested to learn about the wide range of music and academic subjects undertaken by the boys and their very hardworking lives. The thirty boy choristers are the only boarders in the 250 strong school and are chosen for their musical ability

and promise. In addition to choral singing each boy learns two musical instruments and pursues the usual prep' school curriculum. Their lives are busy. They perform to an enormously practised and professional standard throughout the School terms and also during the Cathedral's major festivals, including Christmas and Easter, as well as at exceptional events such as the recent funeral of Baroness Thatcher. Health and wider interests, however,

are certainly not overlooked. The Livery has the opportunity to see the Choir in action at the Sons of the Clergy, at the United Guilds' services and, of course, at the regular services held at St. Paul's Cathedral.

In concluding this very pleasant luncheon the Master thanked our speaker most warmly for her fascinating talk, commenting that during his year he has spent a great deal of time in the Cathedral and certainly endorsed the truly excellent standard achieved by the Choir.

**Judy George**

# Master's Charity Event at Ascot



Under a virtually clear blue sky in May, the Master's 2013 Charity Day at Ascot got underway with a welcoming Champagne reception in the Ascot Pavilion restaurant. Livery members and their guests, some 319 in all, were liberally refreshed and able to enjoy the glorious sunshine and superb variety of ladies' hats. This was not just a perfect start to the day but also, hopefully, to the summer in prospect. Following the Master's welcome we sat down to a mouth-watering 3 course meal, accompanied by impressive wines,

kindly donated by Patricia Atkinson of Clos d'Yvigne. During lunch the Master introduced Mike Cattermole, a well-known racing correspondent, who gave us a short talk offering advice and tips for the afternoon's racing.

Towards the end of lunch it was time for the auction. Charlie Ross, both an Antiques expert and Charity Auctioneer, worked

the room with great energy and skill, successfully disposing of the 11 lots on offer and raising more than £23,000. Lunch and the auction over, it was now time for the racing, a time for smiles and frowns, anticipation and reality, but always a day of joy simply to be at Ascot in the sunshine watching the world and the horses go by. I was informed that Mike Cattermole managed four results out of six races - well done Mike! As the day's racing drew to a close, afternoon tea was served, during which

the raffle was drawn. The first prize was a luxury 8 days' cruise donated by Fred Olsen Cruise Line. The raffle raised £4,500 and the silent auction, which followed, raised a further £10,000. The net total including donations was in excess of £50,000 to be divided between the Spinal Injuries Association, Oracle Cancer Trust and the Feltmakers Charitable Trust. Truly a successful and enjoyable day was had by all. **Bill Gammell.** Photographs courtesy of Photocall Events



## Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation

During the year ended 31st March 2013, the Charitable Foundation enjoyed another successful year. Income increased from £34,800 in the previous year to £43,500. As mentioned in last year's report, the then Master, Mrs Eda Rose-Lawson, held a successful fundraising event at Ascot Racecourse and this contributed some £7,000 to the increased income. Since the year end, the Master for 2012-13, Mr Anthony Phillips, held another very successful event at Ascot in May, raising some £17,000 for the Charity. This will be reflected in next year's accounts. The Trustees have decided that part of this should be invested to enhance income in future years.

Income from the St Clements initiative rose slightly during the year with new Liverymen joining. The Trustees would

like to thank all existing contributors for their support but would encourage other Liverymen to support the Charity by joining the scheme.

The Foundation's investment portfolio continues to be carefully monitored and has again increased in value. The Trustees thank the members of the Investment Committee for their invaluable support.

The Foundation made grants totalling some £36,000 during the year. Recipients included the winners of the Feltmaker Design Award, the Lord Mayor's Appeal, along with support for trainee milliners, the Armed Forces and cadet organisations. The Charity continued to support Pensioner Hatters with grants at Christmas and by a contribution towards the annual Atherstone Pensioners Lunch. The Trustees again

record their appreciation for the continuing support given by The Haberdashers' Company in part-funding the grants to the Pensioner Hatters.

During the current year the Foundation will continue to support its regular beneficiaries but the Trustees are always receptive to requests from Liverymen to support charitable ventures in which they are personally involved.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Past Master Commander John Curteis. John became Chairman of Trustees in April 2009 and successfully led the Foundation until his untimely death in September this year. His quiet leadership, guidance and advice will be sorely missed. I would also like to thank all the Trustees for their work for the Foundation during the year.

**John Ray**

# The Feltmakers' Design Award 2013

Once again we were presented with a wonderful array of entries, thirty-four in total, to both delight and amaze the judges as we carefully made our assessment of the creations for this year's awards.

The qualification for this annual competition is that the hat must be made out of, or incorporate, felt, and it is open to British and European students and apprentices of the millinery trade. In keeping with tradition the judg-



ing took place at Haberdashers' Hall on April 17th, which meant that our principal guests, the Lady Mayoress of the City of London and the wives of the Sheriffs, could not join us, as their presence was expected at St. Paul's Cathedral to attend the funeral of Baroness Thatcher.

The judges were Carole Denford, Fashion Editor of The Hat Magazine; Leica Finch, Millinery Buyer for Fenwick's; Frederick Fox, LVO, milliner and Liveryman; William Horsman, retired millinery manufacturer and Past Master of the Feltmakers' Livery; Edwina Ibbotson, milliner and lecturer; Amber Morales, Fashion Editor of the Daily

Mirror; Eda Rose-Lawson, milliner and Past Master of the Feltmakers' Livery; Rachel Trevor-Morgan, milliner, lecturer and Liveryman, and Ian Wright, millinery manufacturer and Liveryman. The panel was ably assisted by the beautiful model, Jasmine Pearce, Master Feltmaker Anthony Phillips and Liveryman Peter Shirley, who took the photographs.



After much deliberation the judging panel made the final selection. Taking the first prize of £1,200 was Marina Walger of Lincoln College of Art for a sculptural hat in brown wool felt, highlighted by a pair of bright orange quills. Marina was presented with her cheque on the occasion of the Feltmakers' Banquet at Mansion House in June. Second prize of £600 was awarded for an eye-catching gilded felt creation by Martine Henry of Kensington and Chelsea College. The third prize-winner was Millie Turner of Northampton College for her swirled felt hat decorated with pearls. She received £450. The special category awards of £200 each were as follows:  
Craftsmanship: An unusual winged

head-dress using felt in both a practical and a precisely executed manner by Sarah Townsend of Kensington and Chelsea College.

Commercial Appeal: A neat black peach-bloom felt hat featuring curved ostrich feathers and fine veiling by Emily Ellwood from Leeds College of Art.

Art-work and Presentation: A fine portfolio of ideas and working drawings for a hat submitted by Samantha Dixon of Nottingham College.

Innovative Use of Felt: A spray of white felt flowers, feathers and crystals to



form a very becoming bridal head-dress by Marie Hennessy-Halewood of Leeds College of Art.

Following the pleasurable task of the day, the judges, joined by our Clerk, Major Jollyon Coombs, repaired to the beautifully panelled dining room, where we all enjoyed a well-earned and perfectly presented light luncheon.

The Master addressed the party and thanked Rachel Trevor-Morgan and Ian Wright for organising a very successful event.

**Eda Rose-Lawson**

# The Feltmakers' Banquet



Alderman Alan Yarrow, and Sheriff Nigel Pullman.

The Upper Warden, Simon Bartley, eloquently introduced the principal guests and proposed the toast to the Lord Mayor and the Corporation of London.

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Roger Gifford, responded and described his Livery legacy initiative which he

hopes will secure funding for Livery charities for generations to come.

The Master gave an inspired speech during which he announced that his Charity Day at Ascot had been a great success, with fine weather

and £51,000 raised for the three charitable causes: The Feltmakers' Charitable Trust, the Spinal Injuries Association and the Oracle Cancer Trust. He then presented a cheque to the Lord Mayor in support of his charity and the Lord Mayor then presented cheques to Raquel Sigantoria, a Trustee of the

Spinal Injuries Association, and Peter Rhys Evans, Chairman of the Oracle Cancer Trust.

The Master then asked the Lady Mayoress to present the Feltmaker Award to Marina Walger and the winning design "catwalked" through the Egyptian Hall.

The Master's principal guest, David



Our annual Banquet took place in the Mansion House with the Lord and Lady Mayoress joining Feltmakers and their guests in the Egyptian Hall of the Mansion House. As guests arrived to be presented to the Master, Anthony Phillips, his wife Carolyn, and the Wardens, the champagne flowed to the tune of our pianist for the evening, Edward Dye.

Marina Walger, this year's winner of the Feltmaker Award, and her tutor Dagmara Childs, herself a winner of the award some 12 years ago, were amongst a host of distinguished guests including Professor David Purdie, Alderman and Sheriff Jeffrey Evans,

Purdie, regaled us with many a story from his repertoire, leading us on a witty journey through the origins of the chimpanzee to the corridors of Sunningdale golf club!

**Jeremy Brassington**

Photographs courtesy of Philip McCarthy Photography

## Feltmakers' Lodge White Table Event



Liverymen and their families were invited to dine with the Feltmakers Lodge at Butchers' Hall in January to learn more about what Freemasonry is and stands for. 25 guests joined the members of the Lodge in the Great Hall for a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Commander Ian Wellesley-Harding RN, a Past Master of both the Livery and the Lodge, formally welcomed the guests, dispelling myths and misperceptions and emphasising Freemasonry's major role in nationwide charitable giving.



The Lodge enjoys an excellent relationship with the Court of the Company and aims to cement this further in the coming years as it makes preparations for its Centenary in 2018.

# Celebrating the Court of Feltmakers

## Captain Peter Cobb OBE Royal Navy

When my uncle, Past Master Keith Cobb, invited me to become a member of the Feltmakers in 1974, I said "Uncle, I am a sailor, currently commanding a nuclear powered submarine, what possible connection can I have with the Feltmakers? He replied quite simply "I think that you will enjoy it". And I have. Within the Company I have made many friends and enjoyed many happy days, especially as a Warden and then Master, working with the Clerk and Wardens, interviewing new members and setting the course which the Company would take in the years ahead. Personally I have been privileged to sail with Past Master Derek Hilton in his yacht BOLD BENDIGO. I have also enjoyed playing golf with and for the Feltmakers with good friends including Geoffrey Farr, Nick Heal, Anthony Phillips and Geoffrey Vero.

During my time in the Royal Navy 1947-1979, I was privileged to command 3 submarines: HMS SENESCHAL; HMS

## Jonathan Rowley

I was 23 and hopeful of following in the footsteps of my Father and Grandfather as I arrived for my Feltmaker admission interview. Dressed in a dark suit and sober tie, I sat in the waiting room where I noticed another interviewee. He was resplendent in Morning coat complete with buttonhole. Had I got it wrong? It wasn't until my admission at the Court meeting on Friday 5th October 1973 that I discovered the debonair hopeful had been bound for Royal Ascot! Admission to the Freedom of the City then cost £2.10s! Sir Hugh Wontner GBE, CVO was Lord Mayor of London and our Master that year. As Alderman in 1968 he had established the Company tradition of presenting each Lord Mayor with his ceremonial hat. I felt privileged to be welcomed by him into the Livery especially since the Wontners are among the oldest direct line of Feltmaker families (having been admitted around 1750) – a reminder that many

NARWHAL and HMS DREADNOUGHT. When I was promoted to Captain, I was appointed to HMS GURKHA, a Tribal Class frigate. I also spent a happy 2 years in command of HMS AJAX. Sadly I had retired before the Falklands conflict.

On retiring I was appointed as Chief Executive of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association [UK Branch]. With a small team we arranged parliamentary seminars and conferences in the UK and in the Commonwealth. The annual conference held in London in 1986 was opened by Her Majesty the Queen and delegates were later entertained by Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace. Before I left the CPA, I was awarded an OBE for services to Parliament.

While working in Parliament I became Chairman of Governors of Gordons School near Woking. At that time Gordons was a failing school but with the help of a new and outstanding Headmaster we managed to turn the school round. When I left after 10

families had a Livery involvement far longer than mine. This was epitomised when the Court held a special Dinner at Leathersellers' Hall on 18th May 1989 to celebrate 50 years of membership of the Livery for Mr Arthur Hemens, Sir



Hugh Wontner, Mr John Christie-Miller and Mr Basil Rought-Rought. All had given illustrious and generous service to the Feltmakers. With the example of these predecessors – among others – I feel presumptuous to be recalling a

years Gordons was established as the best State School in Surrey based on GCSE results.

In 1995 I resigned from the CPA and Gordons in order to give my full attention to becoming the Master Feltmaker.



It was for me and for my wife Jenny a memorable and magical year. I would like to thank our gallant Clerk and all those many friends in the Feltmakers who have helped to make this old sailor a happy man.

mere 40 years. I was appointed a Steward on 11th January 1982, Assistant on the same date in 1988, and Master on 6th October 2000. During that time one pleasing development has been the admission of women to our Livery, approved in April 1988.

Memories include: annual attendance at the United Guilds service in St Paul's followed for many years by lunch in the Gondoliers Room at the Savoy (charged in 1973 at £15 per head !); informal meetings of the junior Assistants in the Crusting Pipe; entertaining the Ship's Company of HMS LANCASTER on the eve of the New York twin towers disaster - and lunching on board Ship in Portsmouth followed by witnessing a simulated attack in the Operations Room. Above all, I cherish the conviviality, friendship and fun of Feltmaker functions. I trust we, in turn, may pass this spirit of goodwill to future generations of Feltmakers.

# An Interview with Paul Stafford

Paul Stafford won 1st Prize in the Felt-makers' Design Award in 2008 whilst a student at the Kensington & Chelsea College. He then interned with Rachel Trevor-Morgan and studied at the Royal College of Art. After spending a year designing the menswear collection at Misa Harada he and his wife Selina are in the process of setting up their own business designing headwear for men and women.



## When did you first develop an interest in millinery?

I used to design headpieces for friends at Cambridge to wear at the summer balls but my first formal step into millinery was in 2007 when I embarked on various short courses at the London College of Fashion. As I enjoyed the millinery course best, I went on to do an HNC in Millinery at the KCC followed by an MA at the Royal College of Art. There was an element of serendipity about it all.

## Did you have a muse or mentor at any stage?

People have been very helpful throughout. A career adviser at Cambridge had suggested the London College of Fashion and it was an amazing experience working with Rachel Trevor-Morgan. I never even knew how to sew in petersham properly before my internship and with Rachel I learned how hats were made well and put together as though they had been made by magic not by the human hand.

## Do you have a favourite designer with whom you work?

I have been working consistently with Steffie Christiens and Yiqing Yin in Paris, both of whom I met whilst working there in 2011. When collaborating with Steffie my work is dedicated to designing and making headwear, whereas with Yiqing it is a matter of creating full length designs which drape over the whole look.

## Do you have favourite materials which you like to use?

The Graduate Collection from the RCA was made mainly out of draped jersey and plastics. I enjoy melting materials in order to bond them together without any stitching involved, so that a more unified and fluid look is achieved. A lot of the intention with this collection was based on symbiotic tree formations which I had seen in Sri Lanka the summer before.

## What techniques do you employ when working with such materials?

For the design from Yiqing Yin's AW2012 Couture Collection (pictured here), layers of plastic and fabric were bonded together and laser cut at different times. They were then melted and formed around the mannequin in order to be shaped and the plastic re-melted whilst on her. At times I had to support the composition physically when using a heat press with the result that my hands got very burnt in the process and my mannequin now looks a little beaten!

## How would you describe your style?

I hope people think that my designs are attractive but do not really know what is going on. I could either minimise the description by saying 'very long hats' or go over the top by stating it is my intention to create something that is technically interesting but also timeless. When people look at my designs, they won't know whether it is 2013 or a century earlier – or a century later.

## What has been your greatest achievement to date?

I was really proud of the piece made for the 2012 Couture Collection. To have a design appear in Couture Week in Paris was incredibly special. It has been popular in the press and a dancer commissioned a modified version of the piece for her retirement celebration.

## How much did winning the Feltmaker Design Award help you?

It was timed extremely well because it coincided with designing the Graduate Collection at KCC. The prize funded all the materials for the 5 piece Collection, as well a bit of eating and surviving around it. The Feltmakers were also very supportive during my course at the RCA, giving me a bursary which was greatly appreciated.

## What advice would you give to young aspiring milliners?

I would always advocate learning and making up as many techniques as possible. Also, looking at things properly in the context of how things relate to fashion at the highest level now. I think that this is core to design.

We wish Paul and Selina the very best of luck with their exciting new venture.

Elaine Howard



# The Feltmakers' Sporting Year

## Golf

The Company's sporting year kicked off, or rather teed off, with the Inter-Livery Golf Tournament on 16th May, held at Walton Heath Golf Club. Our team consisted of pairings: Geoffrey Vero with the Master, Anthony Phillips and Gerry Higginson with 4th Warden, Jeremy Brassington. They sadly finished

well down the field. The Leathersellers prevailed. The Feltmakers' team would welcome some new golfers for next year's event.

Later in the year, on 26th June, the Master's Golf Day was held at Tandrige Golf Club. 28 Feltmakers took part, in teams of four, with the eventual

winners being the Master's wife's team - Carolyn Phillips, Joy Sampson, David Thornton and Peter Stowers. The individual Stableford competition was won by Past Master Peter Cobb.

**Jeremy Brassington**

## Inter-Livery Charity Clay Shoot



On 22nd May, the day after the cricket, the Feltmakers' team of Bill Gammell, Peter Shirley, Peter Winfield and William Battersby, assisted by our Clerk, Jollyon Coombs, assembled at Holland and Holland's shooting grounds in Northwood to work their way round the 10 stands plus the flush. We were sadly missing our usual captain, Brian Minnighan. Rain threatened all morn-

ing, but thankfully held off, but even so the strong winds had their effect on the trajectory of the clays and shots, which added to the challenge facing the guns. 100 teams took part and we came a respectable 38th, equal with the Cutlers. Early afternoon saw the team heading for the lunch marquee and the traditional hog roast.

**Peter Shirley**

## Cricket

We go back to May for the only Livery cricket event this year – the Pairs Cricket competition held at Amersham Cricket Club on 21st May. 12 participants took to the field and the winners at the end of the day were Assistant Sarah McLeod's sons, Oliver and Jack.

**Peter Simeons**



## Inter-Livery Tennis Competition

The Livery's sporting year ended with this tennis competition, held at the prestigious Queen's Club on 11th September. This competition is organised each year by the Feltmakers' Company. This year saw 20 pairs from 11 different Livery companies battling it

out, and this included two pairs from the Feltmakers, Bruce Fraser and partner Sarah Ward, and Gilly Yarrow with her husband Alan. Bruce and Sarah made it to the semi-finals and Gilly and Alan to the quarter-finals but, as in previous years, the Tallow Chan-

dlers' brother and sister pairing of Alex and Chris Kurkijan won the trophy. The Plate Competition was won by the Carmen's team of June Saywell and Frank Wallis. The day ended with an excellent dinner followed by our Master, Anthony Phillips, awarding the prizes. **Simon Millar**

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