

The Feltmaker



The Magazine of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers November 2014 Master: Edward Hutton Issue No. 38

The Master's Address

The following is taken from the address given by our new Master, Edward Hutton, at the Installation Dinner.

Over the past few months my dear wife Cathy has been discreetly tipping off our friends that I was in line to be the Master Feltmaker. Some of the questions were what you would expect, for example, "are you looking forward to it?" Answer: very much so. "Are you feeling a little nervous?" Answer: well yes, a little apprehensive. However, on one occasion, when I was asked "sounds like a great honour, is it?" my answer might have been a touch over the top because I was then asked: "WOW, so you must get a company car?" Without exception they have all commented on what an honour it must be. And of course, without exception, they were right.

I must thank Sir David Wootton for the great honour he has done us in proposing the toast to the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers. My thanks also to Senior Assistant Nigel Macdonald for welcoming the Guests so eloquently and for proposing the Toast to the Guests.

I must pay a warm tribute to our Immediate Past Master Simon Bartley on a most successful year. Congratulations are also due to Bill Gammell as our newly elected 4th Warden. I am very lucky to be supported by such an able team of Wardens, which also includes Peter Simeons, Jeremy Brassington and The Common Serjeant His Honour Judge Nicholas Hilliard QC.

Two of our new Liverymen, namely Commander Steve Moorhouse and Alderman William Russell, illustrate two of our most valued affiliations. Commander Moorhouse joins as an honorary

liveryman having been a former Captain of our affiliated frigate HMS Lancaster. A slightly different affiliation is exemplified by Alderman William Russell, who is also a Haberdasher. You may know that the Feltmakers came into existence as an incorporated body separate from the Haberdashers in 1604. We can be pretty sure that William Russell is the first recorded individual to have been both a Haberdasher and a Feltmaker since the end of the seventeenth century and probably the first such person who is also an Alderman.

It is tremendous news that Alan Yarrow is the Lord Mayor Elect, as Gilly Yarrow, one of our Court Assistants, will therefore be the Lady Mayoress. In celebration of this, we are entering a float in the Lord Mayor's Show. I am very grateful to Simon Wood, Bill Horsman, Bill Gammell and Simon Millar, for their immense contribution to the float. I would also like to thank Senior Assistant Nigel Macdonald, as chairman of Lock & Co, the hatters of St James's, for their support and generous sponsorship. Gilly, it is wonderful that you are here this evening and, on behalf of all of us, I would like to wish you and Alan a most successful and happy year at Mansion House.

I think it is time that we Feltmakers acknowledged the great work which Jollyon our Clerk has done to raise money for charity. In the last 10 years



he has walked across Jordan, Iceland and Southern Spain and rowed down the River Thames from the source to Tower Bridge. In June this year, in a boat of his own making, he rowed the Great Glen. He was kept company throughout by Simon Bartley who walked the Great Glen Way. This epic journey has to date raised in excess of £24,000. Jollyon, we commend you on your achievement!

My aim as Master, and here I quote from the installation speech of John Curteis, a late and very lamented Past Master, is to "continue the good efforts of my predecessors to maintain our recruiting drive, support our charitable activities and, with the help of our Livery Society, encourage wider participation by our members in our events. If, in a year's time, the Company is as strong as it is today or, better still, with some value added, then I shall be content".

I would like to thank my father-in-law Past Master Peter Grant who was my brave sponsor all those years ago. I believe I am now the second Master Feltmaker he has recruited. Is this a record, I wonder? Thank you.

Master: Edward Hutton

Wardens: Peter Simeons, Jeremy Brassington, Nicholas Hilliard & William Gammell

Immediate Past Master: Simon Bartley **Clerk:** Jollyon Coombs Registered at Stationers Hall

Edward Hutton

Master Feltmaker

Edward Hutton has been a Feltmaker for over twenty four years. He was introduced to the Company by his father-in-law, Past Master Peter Grant, in 1990 and was elected to the Court of Assistants in 2003.

Born in Bangkok, he spent his early life in Hong Kong before coming to the UK at the age of eight. He was educated at Downside School, Somerset and then at Oriel College, Oxford, from which he graduated in 1974 with an honours degree in Modern Languages (French and Spanish). During his time at Oxford, he also served as President of the Oxford University French Club. Since qualifying as a chartered accountant at Price Waterhouse in the late 1970's he has spent his entire

business life as an investment banker in the City of London, mainly in equity capital markets at HSBC. Since leaving HSBC in 2002 he has principally been involved as a nominated advisor to companies quoted on AIM, the London Stock Exchange's market for smaller growing companies. The range of work over the last thirty six years or so has covered UK and foreign government privatisations at one end of the scale to smaller company takeovers and flotations at the other. The range of clients has been geographically diverse and, in addition to working in the UK, his work has taken him to Eastern Europe, Australasia, North America and sub-Saharan Africa.

Sports in which he currently par-

ticipates include golf and tennis. For several years, as a keen swimmer, he organised the Feltmakers' participation in the Inter Livery Swimathon (sadly no longer an annual event) raising funds for the Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation as well as the then Lord Mayor's Charitable Appeal.

His main hobby is woodworking. Other interests include opera, foreign travel and visiting art galleries.

Home is near Winchester, Hampshire. Edward is married to Cathy (who runs her own homeopathy practice) and they have three children (Emma, Peter and Andrew). During his year in office, Edward is looking forward to celebrating his 30th wedding anniversary, if time permits.

The Installation Dinner

Liverymen and their guests assembled at Haberdashers' Hall on a warm 3rd October for our Installation Dinner. Each year this event follows the Court meeting at which our new Master has been installed. This year we were delighted to have Edward Hutton become Master and also to see a new 4th Warden, Bill Gammell.

Haberdashers' Hall is of course as near to a home that the Feltmakers have, so it was good to have our dinner in these familiar splendid surroundings. It goes without saying that the meal and accompanying wines were excellent and, after the loyal toasts had been proposed by the Master, Senior Assistant Nigel Macdonald enthusiastically proposed the toast to the guests. The Master's principal guest on this evening was the previous Lord Mayor, Alderman Sir David Wootton.

Sir David was very complimentary to the Feltmakers' Livery in proposing

the toast to the Company and diners enjoyed his witty speech. The new Master responded and in his speech praised his predecessor, Past Master Simon Bartley. He also praised our Clerk, Jollyon Coombs, who had raised a considerable sum for charity in the

summer when he rowed Scotland's Great Glen.

The Master took wine with the new Liverymen and we were all invited to join him for a stirrup cup after the port had had its final passing round the tables.

Peter Shirley



William D Gammell

Our New Fourth Warden

After leaving school in 1962 I commenced working at our family property business in North London dealing mainly with estate agency and property management matters. After approximately 2 years I moved on to start working for Henry Butcher & Co, a City firm specialising in the letting and disposal of industrial premises and the auction sale of industrial plant and machinery. I remained there for some 2½ years dealing with the letting and sale of industrial property in the Commercial Department. Upon leaving Henry Butcher & Co., I took some 18 months out to travel and to pursue other interests. Returning and keen to set up my own practice I went back to our family firm where I set up a department specialising in the industrial

property market. This led me eventually to undertake new development and refurbishment projects, acting



as a principal, in both the industrial and wider commercial sectors of the property market operating and dealing mainly in the general M25 area around London. This I did until 1997 and since then I have mainly concentrated on the running of our own family property interests.

My outside interests include shooting and skiing, skiing being a great family activity and relaxation.

I have three children, a daughter Philippa and two sons Edward and Charlie. Philippa is a qualified acupuncturist and massage therapist, whilst Ned works in the technology industry in New York. Our youngest son Charlie is a linguist specialising in the Middle East area as well as being an historian, his speciality being in that part of the world.

WELCOME

We welcome the following new Liverymen to our Company:

Mr Terry Harragan
Mr Nick Lee
Mr Gareth Cole
Mr Tim Lambert
Mrs Kay Meldrum
Commander Steve Moorhouse RN
Mrs Lily Goodwin
Alderman William Russell
Mr James Cushing
Miss Emma Whitaker
Professor Harry Duckworth

ANNIVERSARIES

In 2014 our congratulations go to:

Past Master John Leslie Bowler, MC
who has been a Liveryman for 55 years
and on the Court for 44 years



OBITUARIES

It is with deep sadness that we record the deaths of the following Liverymen during the past year:

Mr Charles Rupert Clay OBE
Mr John Walsh Gibson
Mr Richard Hodgson
Mr Tony Skrimshire
Past Master Jack Wallworth



Past Master Charles Simeons, MA, DL

Obituary

Charles Rupert Clay OBE 1913 - 2014

The 101 year old died peacefully, leaving behind his daughter Mary Anne Aldred and son-in-law Alaric, to whom he became a surrogate father on the death of his own father.

After moving to the UK at the age of 12 and adjusting to a new culture, Mr Clay worked for Charles Clay and Son in Luton and was trained up to take over the family's textile business, which made hat trimmings.

He joined the Beds and Herts Reserve (TA) and, as war approached, enlisted to represent the country. His unit was trained for the Dunkirk landings but just a few days after landing at Arromanches, on his first night patrol, he was hit by a sniper's bullet and invalided home.

Although the bullet remained in his groin, he regained fitness and started

at Battle School. He then became a physical exercise instructor and did what all the young men had to do -



shooting practice and rifle drill.

In 1942 he married Judy Cole, his long-time friend from school, in Gorleston, Hertfordshire, but sadly she passed away in 1987.

Rupert was an active participant in whatever community he was living in, whether it was on the rugby field or the hockey pitch, or in voluntary community work. He did a huge amount of work for the new National Savings scheme, giving talks in factories, and offices, to boards of directors. His work was very successful, for which he was awarded the OBE on 1st January 1959.

What everyone said about Rupert was that he was a true gentleman.

Taken from a eulogy provided by Alaric Aldred.

Rupert was elected on to the Livery in 1959

Feltmakers' White Table Event

On the evening of 20th January 2014, the Feltmakers' Masonic Lodge invited members of the Feltmakers' Livery to its new home, the historic Charter-



house on the north edge of Charterhouse Square in Smithfield. Soon after our arrival we were given a short history of Charterhouse by its cur-

rent Master, Brigadier Charlie Hobson OBE (RM). The oldest part dates from 1371 when a Carthusian monastery was founded on this site. During the

tour we viewed the Chapel with its ornate tomb of Thomas Sutton, whose fortune on his death in 1611 endowed a hospital for pensioners, together with the school. The guests noted some

interesting procedures during dinner, such as the gavel banging near the Worshipful Master of the Lodge at the top table being echoed one after the

other by each of the two Lodge members seated at the ends of the arms of the u-shaped dining table. A 'White Table' evening is so-called, as the tables are covered by white tablecloths only when guests, including ladies, are invited to dine.

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge, Worshipful Brother Derek Woods, proposed toasts to the Queen and the Craft, to the Most Worshipful The Grand Master His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, and then to the guests, to which Simon Bartley, Master of the Feltmakers responded.

A fascinating evening, not only as it provided the guests with a glimpse of the life of the Lodge and a taste of its excellent hospitality, but also an appreciation of their wonderful new home, The Charterhouse.

Peter Shirley

The Lord Mayor's Show



For the first time since our 400th anniversary 10 years' ago the Feltmakers

stocks, capes and traditional tricorn hats dressed with white ostrich feathers, which had been specially commissioned for the occasion, we were closely inspected by Past Master John Bowler before leaving to join up with members of The Royal Bal-

from HMS Collingwood. As our float approached Mansion House, we were enthusiastically greeted by the new Lord Mayor, Alan Yarrow, who was wearing the traditional tricorn hat presented to him by the Feltmakers, and the Lady Mayoress, Gilly Yarrow, an Assistant in our Company. After ceremoniously doffing our hats we continued on our way, drinking in the warm, lively atmosphere of the crowds and cheered on by our friends and families in the grandstand. What



entered a float in the Lord Mayor's Show. On 8th November it was, therefore, with eager anticipation that 33 Liverymen gathered at Haberdashers' Hall to prepare to walk alongside 3 rare and beautiful vintage cars dating from the early 1900s, which formed the core of our float. After donning our neck

let School (one of the Lord Mayor's Appeal charities). The students were wearing bespoke period hats designed by millinery students at the Kensington and Chelsea



College and costumes from one of their own ballets, La Destinée. Escorting us in the parade was a contingent of RN officers representing HMS Lancaster and cadets

a feeling of pride, honour and privilege we all experienced at being part of this long-standing tradition - and Feltmakers!

We salute the Master and his team of organisers, including Bill Horsman, Bill Gammell, Simon Wood and Simon Millar for a highly successful and memorable event.

Elaine Howard

The Master's Plough Monday Dinner



The Feltmakers celebrate Plough Monday each year with a dinner hosted by the Master. On 6th January Tal-low Chandlers' Hall was the venue and Master Simon Bartley had invited the members of the Court, as well as personal guests, including The Right Honourable The Baroness Boothroyd and Captain of HMS Lancaster, Com-

mander Peter Laughton MBE, RN.

Every year the two Sheriffs are invited to this event. The Aldermanic Sheriff Sir Paul Judge was unavailable but happily Sheriff Adrian Waddingham CBE was able to attend.

Grace was spoken by our Chaplain, Colin Semper, who set the

tone for the evening by reading the lines of the traditional Plough Monday song and exhorting all present to join in with a spirited chorus of 'God speed the plough'.

After the loyal toasts, proposed by the Master, the toast to the Lord Mayor, the Corporation of London and the Sher-

iffs was proposed by Assistant Sarah McLeod. Sarah told us that Adrian is a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries whose present Master, Charles Cowling, and Clerk were also guests. Adrian responded with a speech which included a number of amusing anecdotes from his career as an actuary.

The Master then proposed the toast to the guests including The Lightmongers' Master, William Wright, and Clerk. The response was scheduled to be given by Baroness Wall but sadly she was unable to be with us.

After being invited to join the Master for a stirrup cup we all set off home to prepare our ploughs for another demanding year.

Peter Shirley

The Spring Livery Dinner

It is not clear to what extent the Apothecaries were involved in supplying the Feltmakers with mercury for the treatment of furs to make felt. However, what is certain is that they provided us with an excellent venue for our dinner on 7th April. The word 'Apothecary' is derived from 'apotheca', meaning a place where wine, spices and herbs were stored and we were indeed treated to fine wine and delicately spiced and herbed food.

The Great Hall has oak panelling dating from 1671 and a large carved Apothecaries' crest stands at the south end behind the Master's chair and high table. There are three fine candelabra. The central one, and the grandest, was presented to the Society by Sir Benjamin Rawling, who was Sheriff of London and Master in 1736.

The Master's principal guest was the Dean of St Paul's (and Feltmaker), The

Very Reverend David Ison. The other main guests were: the Master Glover, Alderman Alison Gowman; the Master Framework Knitter, Stephen Woolfe; the Master Gunmaker, Simon Grant-Rennick, the Master Solicitor, David McIntosh and Professor Harry Duckworth.

After the loyal toasts, Assistant Simon Millar proposed the toast to all our guests. He likened the Dean to the starter, the four visiting Masters to the main course and the Company Clerks and other guests to coffee and chocolates, saying that they were all "stimulating and sweet".

The Dean then stood to speak and announced that it was now time for a 'mental digestive'. During his speech he quoted from a song by Supertramp. "When I was young it seemed that life was so wonderful, a miracle; it was

beautiful, magical". He stated that it is his vision at St Paul's to help others in life to find wonder, vision and hope for the future.

After thanking both Simon and the Dean the Master told us that that the



Livery is in good health and good heart; our finances are in good shape and the spirit and conversation in the Court are healthy too. The Feltmakers' Lodge was thanked for its generous contribution to the Feltmaker charities.

Andrew Pritchard-Keens

The Luton Lunch

The Feltmakers' annual Luton Lunch took place in our customary venue, the Pavilion in Luton, on 6th February. The event celebrates Luton and surrounding Bedfordshire as the centre of the British hat industry. Our attendance of 41 was the best for some years. We sat down to a delicious meal prepared by our regular caterer. A highlight this year was the attendance of several Luton hatters as the guests of Liveryman John Horn and we hope that, after experiencing our celebrated hospitality, one or more could be persuaded to join our Livery. After lunch Veronica Main, curator of clothing and textiles at Luton Museum, updated us on her research on the seventeenth century hat that she had demonstrated to us last year. The age

of the hat, now established as being made of hemp, is confirmed, as is its historical importance. Further scrutiny of the silk component will follow. Our guest speaker was Helen Nellis, HM Lord Lieutenant for Bedfordshire. Sporting a magnificent Luton-made hat, Helen told us of the position and role of the Lord Lieutenant in the County. We were particularly pleased to welcome her as, since her taking up her appointment nearly 2 years ago, she has promoted our local hatting industry and regards her Luton hats as part of her uniform. We could not ask for a better ambassador. The Master closed the formal proceedings in his inimitable witty fashion, thanking the organisers and catering staff.



Again, a successful and convivial event.

David Siegler

The Livery Lunch

This year's Livery Lunch was held on (a very warm) 16th July at the Cavalry and Guards' Club in Piccadilly. As on



previous occasions, this is a wonderful opportunity to meet not only our fellow liverymen, including Honorary Liverymen and Freemen, but also spouses and partners and it was good to see a number of these present. Following a delightful reception, and after grace by our Chaplain, Colin Semper, we settled down to an excellent lunch of smoked trout parfait, lamb and Eton mess, as usual accompanied by well-chosen wines.

The Livery Lunch is a somewhat less formal occasion than our various dinners and a very good opportunity for those who may find attending an evening event difficult for one reason or another. Whilst there were, therefore, no formal speeches, we were very privileged indeed to have an illustrated talk from Maggie Burgess on the subject of Promise Nepal, a charitable venture she helped establish, which provides a wide range of assistance to those suffering from leprosy in that country and which was one of the four charities supported by our Master, Simon Bartley, and our Clerk, Jollyon Coombs, in their Great Glen Challenge. Maggie spoke simply and movingly about the effects of leprosy in Nepal, which has the third highest incidence of the disease. Far from being a disease of the past, it is not only still

prevalent but fear of it leads to the ostracism and even the incarceration of its victims. Leprosy, however, is one of the least contagious diseases and, whilst the long-term effects of untreated leprosy can be very severe indeed, it is curable with drug therapy. The difficulties encountered by Promise Nepal are manifold. Victims may (not surprisingly) be reluctant to admit to the disease or to seek treatment; funding is scarce, misinformation and fear abound and knowledge about how to treat the disease itself and leprosy patients is poor. On a positive note, however, Promise Nepal has achieved some remarkable results in terms of providing medical facilities (including a specialist hospital), support and rehabilitation for victims, and extending knowledge of the disease. Maggie gave us heartening details of some individual cases where lives have, literally, been transformed. We thank Maggie for giving us a most important and informative talk.

Judy George

Inter Livery Bridge Competition

It was on a rainy Monday in March that my wife Judy and I, together with Elaine Howard and Peter Cobb, made our way to the magnificent Drapers' Hall where the annual Inter Livery Bridge Competition was to be held. As this was the first time that the Feltmakers had been represented in this pairs competition, we felt we were making history. None of us had ever before played bridge in such wonderful surroundings. We were told that Drapers' Hall has been used as a stand in for Buckingham Palace for films and it is very easy to believe. The rooms are so beautifully decorated and appointed and of such magnificent proportions that they are quite awe-inspiring. As newcomers to the event, we were made to feel very welcome by the Master Playing Cards Maker, Anthony Carter, and other fellow players. There were 59 pairs in total and play was split into four sections playing in two rooms. Elaine and Peter were in one room and

Judy and I in the other, so we wished each other good luck and took our seats. We played 12 boards before dinner but play was leisurely with plenty of time to chat between boards. There was a wide variety of ability and experience in the pairs we played but all shared a great delight in the occasion. Dinner was served in the Livery Hall under a glorious pre-Raphaelite ceiling painted by Herbert Draper. Our dinner table wondered whether this was a coincidence or whether his name had helped him to earn the commission. With interesting conversation and delicious food the

break passed a bit too quickly and all too soon it was back to the tables. In the second half we played against a different set of players but, as before, it felt much more like an evening of social bridge than a cut-throat competition.

Again we played steadily with some 'gifts' from opponents and some misunderstandings of our own but



it was with great pleasure that we read the results list and found ourselves placed 14th and Elaine and Peter at 17. Not at all bad for a first attempt but leaving room for improvement next year!

Joe Petran

Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation

During the year ended 31st March 2014 the Foundation enjoyed another successful year. Our investment portfolio continues to be closely monitored and again increased in value. Income for the year amounted to £55,000. In May 2013, our Master, Mr Anthony Phillips, held a most successful fundraising event at Ascot Racecourse, raising in excess of £51,000 for his chosen charities. Our Foundation benefitted by some £17,000 from this event. The Trustees are most grateful for a generous donation received from a Past Master of the Company. These funds will be added to our investment portfolio to enhance income in future years. The Trustees also thank the Feltmakers' Lodge for its support. Income from the St Clements initiative increased during the year. The Trustees thank all existing

contributors for their support but would encourage other Liverymen to support our Charity by joining the scheme. During the year the Foundation made grants of some £42,000. Recipients included the Design Award winners, the Lord Mayor's Appeal, support for trainee milliners, and the Armed Forces and cadet organisations. A grant was also made for the first time in support of a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral. This will be for an initial period of 6 years. The Foundation continued to support Pensioner Hatters with grants at Christmas and by a contribution to the annual Atherstone Pensioners Lunch. The Trustees again record their appreciation of the continuing support given by the Haberdashers' Company in part funding these grants. The Foundation will continue to support its

regular beneficiaries during the current year 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 my predecessor as Chairman, Past Master Commander John Curteis, who sadly died in September 2013. John had been appointed a Trustee in July 2007 and had become Chairman of Trustees in April 2009. He had successfully led the Foundation during his time as Chairman and his quiet leadership, guidance and advice will be sorely missed. I would also like to thank all my fellow Trustees who served during the year for their help and advice.

Past Master John Ray
Chairman of Trustees

The Master's Charity Event

The Great Glen Challenge

Our Clerk, Jollyon Coombs, accompanied by the Master, Simon Bartley, successfully completed their challenging row and walk (respectively) from Fort William to Inverness on 21st June, raising more than £24,000 for the four

charities: Combat Stress, Providence Row, Promise Nepal and Pensioner Hatters. A full account of their achievement can be read using the following link:

<http://www.feltmakers.co.uk/the-great-glen-challenge-2014>

Our heartiest congratulations to you both on your valiant efforts!



Red Cross Christmas Market

All the fun of the Fair! Once again the Feltmakers participated by taking a stall at the biennial Christmas Fair at

Guildhall on 18th and 19th November 2013. Thanks to many donations and successful purchases and our cheerful, energetic team of helpers under the leadership of Past Master Susan Wood we raised around £3,000 for the Red Cross.
Elaine Howard



Feltnakers' Design Award 2014

Spring was in the air on the day when a bright and cheerful array of hats was displayed at Haberdashers' Hall to be judged for the annual Feltnakers' Design Award.

This year was an extremely special one, as we were honoured with the presence of the Lord Mayor herself, Alderman Mrs Fiona Woolf, as well as her husband, Nicholas Woolf. Also in attendance were two Sheriffs' wives, namely Lady Judge and Mrs. Angela Waddingham, and our Clerk, Major Jol-lyon Coombs.

Judging the competition were Hilary Alexander, freelance fashion journal-ist; Piers Atkinson, milliner; Carole Denford, editor of The Hat magazine; Past Master of the Feltnakers William Horsman, retired hat manufacturer; Edwina Ibbotson, milliner and lecturer; Past Master of the Feltnakers Eda Rose-Lawson, milliner; Rachel Trevor-Morgan, Liveryman of the Feltnakers and milliner and Ian Wright, Liveryman and hat manufacturer.

After some deliberation, ably assisted by the gorgeous Jasmine, who always models the hats so well, the results were: 1st Prize of £1,200 to Michael

Wood of Kensington and Chelsea Col-lege for his fairy-tale head-dress of felt flowers, berries and leaves supported by a profusion of wired twigs. Not for the shrinking violet!

2nd Prize of £600 to Emily Mabbut of Northampton College for a delightful little chocolate- box of a hat, perfectly scalloped and decorated with black veiling. Very chic!

3rd Prize of £450 to Aleksandra Kukula of Northampton College for her dainty little cream hat festooned with narrow loops and bows in lime green peter-sham ribbon. Appealing to all ages!

The £200 award for Craftsmanship to Sassa Ann van Wyk of the Fashion Institute of Vienna, who competently blocked a small fluted brimmed hat in grey, decorated with a suede bow. Very 1940's in miniature!

The £200 award for Commercial Ap-pearal to Grazia Anita Yasmin Lang of the Fashion Institute of Vienna for her pistachio felt cloche with punched decoration.

The £200 award for Artwork and Presentation to Sharon Mensah of Northampton College, who produced beautifully designed and presented

work in support of a red felt hat.

The £200 award for Innovative Use of Felt to Lewis Murphy of Northampton for a much favoured little gem of a black felt hat, skilfully incorporating leather and bead-work. Exquisite! This report would not be complete without mentioning the traditional lunch and the camaraderie around the dining table. Once again the chef and his team at Haberdashers' Hall tempted our taste-buds with a beautifully pre-sented meal, artistically garnished with colourful nasturtiums and pansies. In his address the Master, Simon Bartley, remembered our much missed judge and liveryman, the late Freddie Fox LVO. Indeed we all missed his presence and were the poorer by the absence of his amusing but always valid comments on the entries set before us.

Nicholas Woolf also spoke, expressing his thanks and congratulations to the organisers, Rachel Trevor-Morgan and Ian Wright.

Past Master Eda Rose-Lawson

All photos by Amber Grace Dixon



The Feltmakers' Summer Banquet



surviving felt hat. He had left it behind when visiting friends in Holland in about 1500. His friend, Gilbert Gillekins, wore it every year on the anniversary of More's death. Eventually, the hat found its way to Stonyhurst College in Lancashire where the Master was at school, although it needed Liveryman Richard Brumby to alert him to its existence! It was extremely kind of Stonyhurst to let us display the hat for the evening.

Feltmakers and their guests gathered at Mansion House on 6th June 2014 for the annual banquet. All were warmly welcomed in a speech by the Upper Warden, Edward Hutton. Since 1989, we have held a competition for students of fashion to design a hat which incorporates felt. Some of the winning entries were on show in the Salon. Guests at the Design Award event included the Lord Mayor's consort, Nicholas Woolf and the Sheriffs' ladies. Rachel Trevor Morgan whom the Master congratulated on her award

of the Royal warrant was one of the judges. The Master presented the Feltmakers' prize to Michael Wood. There is always some feature of every banquet which makes it unique. This year Michael Wood's hat was not the only one which attracted special attention. The Lord Mayor explained in her speech that her chain of office includes components from the chain which Sir Thomas More can be seen wearing in the portrait of him by Holbein. On 6th June 2014 the chain was brought together with More's only



The Lord Mayor was presented with a cheque for £4,000 for the Lord Mayor's appeal and in aid of her four chosen charities. Thus, in the course of one very enjoyable evening, we were able to incorporate elements of charity, history, fellowship and support for students of the "art or mystery" of feltmaking. A perfect Feltmaker occasion.

Nicholas Hilliard

All photos courtesy of Phil McCarthy Photography

A year as the Sheriff's Consort

My husband, Alan Yarrow, was elected as Aldermanic Sheriff in 2011. As a Sheriff you take on the most ancient office in the City of London and, not surprisingly, the path to the Shrievalty is steeped in tradition and ceremony but this is the 21st Century and Alan and I did bring a modern relevance to the role and hugely enjoyed our year as



both Sheriff and Consort.

Of course it is the Liveries that vote for the Sheriffs and, as many of you who have attended these elections know, they are held with great formality in Guildhall. What you may not know is that the 4 minute speech made in Great Hall by the prospective candidates is carefully timed - green light for

Go - red light if you run over 4 minutes. Woe betide you if you ramble on; you are cut short and unlikely to see a forest of raised hands or hear the cry of "ALL" when your name is called!

Luckily, Alan gained the approval of the Liveries and on 28th September the Admission of the Sheriffs took place. We arrived at Guildhall on foot

and left for the Sheriff's breakfast at Drapers Hall by chauffeur driven Rolls Royce. There could be no more vivid illustration that a new life, living in the Old Bailey, had begun! A change for us, an even bigger change for our dog, Nala, who took to life there just as well as we did. A footman to make sure you are wearing the right kit, a chauffeur to ferry you to events, a full

and varied schedule mapped out on the daily diary sheet, wonderful dinners with the Liveries in a variety of beautiful Halls, magnificent church services, particularly at St. Paul's - how could you not enjoy it! We were also blessed with the excellent support and companionship of Wendy Mead, the non-Aldermanic Sheriff, and her Consort, Robert

Tipping. For Alan, as the Aldermanic Sheriff, and for me, as his consort, this was also a chance to gain valuable experience and insight into the roles of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, should such an honour befall us in the future.....

The most familiar question that is asked, whether it be of Livery Masters, Sheriffs or Lord Mayors, is what was the highlight of your year? Obviously, for us, the Feltmakers' Banquet and our purchase of the winning entry in the hat competition was up there but I have to admit there were other highlights too! Meeting the Queen in a private room in the Mansion House, meeting the Paralympian athletes at a Reception held for them in Guildhall, these are incredible memories. But most memorable of all has to be participating in the River Pageant held in honour of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Sheriffs and their Consorts were driven by Rolls Royce to await embarkation at Chelsea Harbour. Somewhat incongruously, we were gathered with the other VIPs and guests in a bathroom and sanitary ware showroom! Sipping champagne and enjoying the jazz band that was playing, we took "selfies" of ourselves in full shrieval regalia, perched on our own porcelain "thrones"!! Then came the call to go down to the river. As we set foot on the gang plank and looked down the River Thames, alive with boats of all shapes, sizes and ages, including a glittering Gloriana in the distance, it suddenly hit me how hugely privileged we were to be there at a moment in history. When I saw the thousands and thousands of people lining the embankment and crowding onto the balconies of all the surrounding buildings, it quite literally took my breath away and I have never felt so proud to be British!

Gilly Yarrow

Gilly has even more onerous duties now as Lady Mayoress