



The Feltmaker

The Newsletter of the
Worshipful Company of Feltmakers

Spring 2001

Master: Jonathon J.G. Rowley MSc FCA

Issue No. 23



The Master presenting the Ceremonial Hat to The Lord Mayor Alderman David Howard, at the Mansion House, on the 14th of November 2000.

The tradition of the Feltmakers presenting the Ceremonial Hat to the incoming Lord Mayor, was instituted by Past Master Sir Hugh Wontner in 1968, and has continued since then. The decision was recorded in the minute of The Plough Monday Court Meeting of that year, on the 8th of January 1968.

'Past Master Mr Alderman Hugh Wontner suggested that in the same way as the Glovers' Company presented a pair of gloves to each Lord Mayor, and the Fanmakers a fan to the Lady Mayoress, the Company should make itself responsible for providing each Lord Mayor with his ceremonial hat. He felt the adoption of such a custom would provide the Company with a "little place in the sun". The suggestion was received with great enthusiasm and the Court asked Mr Wontner to approach the Lord Mayor with the proposal.' The rest as they say is history!

One interesting point raised at the last Court Meeting by Past Master Jack Wallworth, was the question whether the Master and Wardens had worn their Top Hats during the ceremony. The picture tells otherwise, but this custom was introduced by Jack during his Mastership, in 1989, with the permission of the Lord Mayor. The suggestion certainly found favour with two of the Wardens, so with another Hatter due to become Master next year, watch this space!

Wardens: William Horsman; David Bentata; Patrick Burgess; Derek Bedford.

Immediate Past Master: Commander Ian Wellesley-Harding RN.

Clerk: Lieutenant Colonel John Holroyd, Providence Cottage, Chute Cadley, Andover, Hampshire, SP11 9EB.

Registered at Stationers' Hall. Editor: Derek Bedford

THE NEW MASTER: Jonathan Rowley MSc FCA

Jonathan follows his father and grandfather as a Feltmaker Liveryman. His grandfather was a neighbour of the Christie-Miller family and it was through that connection that the Rowleys joined the Feltmakers. Born in Stoke-on-Trent, and with close family connections to the pottery industry, he was educated at Oundle School before joining the accountancy firm KPMG as a trainee in 1967. After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant in 1971 he spent a year at the University of Aston in Birmingham gaining a MSc in Industrial Administration.

He married Elizabeth (nee Smyth of Biggleswade, Bedfordshire) in 1975 and they have lived on the North Shropshire/Staffordshire border since 1977.

Their family have now "flown the nest", with Thomas - aged 23 - training as an accountant in London with Arthur Andersen, Andrew - aged 21 - in his last year at Newcastle-upon-Tyne reading a Combined Arts degree and Simon - aged 19 - in his first year at Bristol University studying English and Latin.

Jonathan has participated in two management buyouts - the first was a printing and packaging business with which he was involved until the mid 1990's; and the second is his current business, WhitChem Limited, which distributes chemicals to the paint, plastics and rubber industries.

Visits to the family holiday house in Rhosneigr, Anglesey are few and far between this year, but Jonathan has still found time to fit in the occasional day's shooting, fly fishing, sailing, visits to Twickenham - and the opera - as well as enthusiastically representing the Company as our Master.

The Installation Dinner. The Mercers' Hall on Friday 6th October 2000.

This followed upon the Meeting of Court at which our new Master Jonathan Rowley took the Oath of Office, and took over the "baton" from Commander Ian Wellesley-Harding. The Master is a third generation Feltmaker, so it was an appropriately memorable evening for families, including the Bedford family, with the induction of my younger son Jeremy to the Livery, whilst I took the Oath and donned the robes of Fourth Warden. Quite a night to remember for friends and family!

The Mercers' Hall provides a splendid setting, and the victuals and vintages were to our usual high standards. There were one hundred and fifteen of us, including guests, who sat down to an excellent dinner.

The principal guests included Alderman Sir Alexander Graham GBE DCL JP, and Lady Graham, the Master of the Farrier's Company; Miss Judith Mayhew, Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee of the Corporation of London; and the Commodore P. Tribe RN, Secretary to the Lord Mayor.

There were a further six visiting Masters, including those of the Grocers, the Tallow Chandlers, the Watermen and Lightermen, the Makers of Playing Cards, the Solicitors, and the Water Conservators.

The Master in traditional fashion proposed The Company, Assistant David Parker proposed the health of The Guests, to which the Alderman Sir Alexander Graham replied.

DNB

The Master's Plough Monday Dinner

The annual dinner to celebrate Plough Monday, and to entertain The Sheriffs of The City of London, was given by The Master on Monday the 8th January, at The Armourers' Hall. The Chaplain's prayer "God speed the plough" marks for most of us the return to work after a long Christmas and Hogmanay break. Some colleagues did however confess to having done a good job in catching up in the dog days between the two festivals!

Some seventy five of us sat down to an excellent "shooting man's" dinner, starting off with smoked duck breast followed by double boned quail, and finishing with apple apricot and almond cobbler. An excellent feast, accompanied by choice wines, our own port, (from the stock laid down for us by the Clerk John Holroyd); and in the splendid surroundings of the Armourers' Hall. The motto around the frieze of the Hall reads "Make all sure", and "We are one", both of which are appropriate texts for any Livery occasion.

The Civic Toast and The Sheriffs of the City of London, was proposed by Past Master Captain Peter Cobb OBE RN, and the Response was by Mr Alderman and Sheriff Richard Agutter, who told us of some of the Lord Mayor's objectives for his year in office. These include emphasising that The City is the market place of the world, which he will promote by a heavy schedule of overseas travel. He is also keen to establish growth, including the spread of the Livery Movement; and as a Past Master of The Gardeners' Company, the Flowers in the City campaign.

The Master proposed the Health of his Guests, and alluded to his own sporting background with a couple of well chosen anecdotes. He stressed the importance of charm, compassion, consideration for others, and integrity in a world of change. The Response proposing the Health of Company and The Master, was made by Mr J.S. Evans FRICS.

We partook of the traditional stirrup cup, and dispersed into the chilly night air, remarking what a wonderful evening it had been.

DNB

The Livery Society Dinner at the Royal Green Jackets London Mess

The Livery Society met, under the Chairmanship of Assistant Richard Farmer on the evening of the 13th November 2000, for what has now become its annual dinner, at the very attractive and historic Mess of the Royal Green Jackets in Davies Street, London W1. There were some 32 members of the Livery attending, including the Master, the Upper Warden, the Third Warden and our learned Clerk. It was a most convivial occasion.

After the Loyal Toast was proposed by Assistant Anthony Phillips, the Chairman Richard Farmer gave a brief account of the Society's activities over the past year. He mentioned that recent involvement in corporate merger activity had provided him with some new expressions, some of which were relevant to the Society.

First there was "scalability", or how much you could get out of the existing assets. It seemed to Richard that this was very applicable, as the Society was founded to help members of the Livery get more out of that membership, and he was sure there was more potential, to do that in the future. Next there was the question of "synergies", the Livery Society aimed to arrange its programme to help members of the Company, and particularly new members, to involve themselves in the annual round of events, and especially on occasions when they could involve their partners. He hoped they could continue to enjoy some slightly less expensive events, and feel they were being made welcome by the older members of the Livery.

The Society's "business programme" was still flourishing, and there would be a theatre visit in the Spring. Over the last year the sporting programme had gone well, with the help of a number of enthusiastic supporters. The Livery had carried off the Plate at the Inter Livery Tennis Tournament 2000, having won outright for the last two years. We were glad to give another Livery Company a turn, to avoid the inelegance of constantly winning our own event! Anthony Phillips had masterminded the tournament, with Adrian Salmon, and the Society was very grateful to them for doing this, and doing it so well. The cricketing and golf activities had also been a great success and accounts of these have already appeared elsewhere.

Finally Richard raised the question of succession. New Committee Members had been announced, and a number of other members of the Company gave considerable support on the organisational side. He would like to mention Paul Spector, and Geoffrey Farr, the Society's founder in this regard. We learnt however that there are still one or two vacancies on the Committee, which he would like to see filled. He would also like to hear from any member of the Livery with ideas as to how the Society could further its original aims. Nick Heal, an original member of the Committee would be hoping to stand down shortly, and as Chairman Richard wished to thank Nick and his wife Ruth, for all their immense contribution in supporting the Society over the years. Richard ended by thanking the staff at the Mess, who had provided us with such an enjoyable occasion.

In his reply, the Master thanked Richard Farmer and the Committee for so ably fostering the aims which the Society had espoused at its foundation. He particularly wanted to mention the "Swimathon", since it was the only fund-raising event of the year, with half of the amount raised going to our own charitable funds, and half to the Lord Mayor's appeal for that year. He mentioned the City occasions in which all Liverymen could take part, and hoped that besides attending our own Livery dinners to enjoy the camaraderie of our own Company, members would become involved in the City pageantry. The main events like the Shrieval Elections, the United Guilds Service, and the Lord Mayor's Show were noted in the list circulated by the Clerk from time to time.

The Master particularly hoped that members would attend the Ladies Banquet at the Mansion House in June. This is a privilege which was not enjoyed by all Livery Companies, and which we might be in danger of losing if it was thought by the Lord Mayor and his staff that we were not interested in giving it sufficient support. He also hoped members of the Livery would enjoy making the effort to climb into their white tie and tails for the occasion. It was an important matter of courtesy to the Lord Mayor, who came dressed in his full finery, that we took the trouble to reciprocate. He was sure when we did it was noticed, and that when we did not it was particularly noticed.

In closing the Master referred to the words he and his predecessors used when greeting new Liverymen at their admission ceremony, that they would find like minded friends in the Feltmakers. It seemed to him that those words said everything that needed to be said about what was good on being a member of the Company, and encapsulated exactly that the Livery Society was there to foster.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS DEPUTY JOYCE NASH OBE, FELTMAKER AND DEPUTY OF THE ALDERSGATE WARD.

Joyce is a regular attender at our Livery functions, and I along with many other Feltmakers, have wondered over the years what the role of Deputy involved. At last as Editor of our Newsletter, I have the opportunity to find out, as Joyce kindly responded to my questions.

Q *How does one become a Deputy?*

A Deputy is appointed by the Alderman of the Ward, at the Annual Ward Mote. I was first appointed in 1988, having been elected a Common Councilman in 1983.

Q *What are the duties and function of the Office?*

The Deputy is really the Senior Ward Member, who keeps the Alderman informed of happenings in the ward, and the conduct of the members. He/she deputises for the Alderman at ward events - but not in the Court of Alderman. The Deputy also organises the Ward Surgeries, although not all wards have these.

Q *We as Liverymen are empowered to vote in some elections, but I wonder how many do?*

Yes, Liverymen vote for the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor only. The City Corporation has ward elections every year in December, but in reality, only some four wards face regular contested elections. My own ward of Aldersgate is one of these, being a mainly residential ward. Some wards which are business/financial wards have had no contest in over thirty years! The electors are those on the electoral register for the ward, and some may of course be Liverymen.

Q *Are the political parties involved in these elections?*

All candidates stand as independants, although it has been known for political candidates to put themselves forward. This has happened twice in Aldersgate, with Labour Party candidates, who were unsuccessful.

Q *What about the Aldermen, Joyce - are they elected?*

The Aldermen have been elected "for life" ie until they retire from the Magistrates' Bench, upon reaching seventy years of age. This is now going to change, with Aldermen having to stand for re-election every six years.

Q *This is part of The City's Franchise Bill I believe?*

Yes that is correct, but at the moment The Bill is stuck in a queue of Private Members' Bills, which will give votes to Businesses, according to the rateable values of their properties. At present only Partnerships are entitled to vote.

Q *Will these changes affect the balance of the elections against the interest of the Residential voters?*

Yes, and in order to "protect" the Residential wards, there will be some adjustment to the boundaries of those four wards, so that they are not "swamped" by the business votes. One of the obstacles to the progress of the Franchise Bill is the position of the 7000 City residents, and their "protection" is part of the requirement.

Q *Are there any other problems with the impending legislation?*

Yes again, the size of The Court of Common Council is also of concern; and its is gradually being reduced. We have gone from 125 to 115 this year. The aim is to bring it down to 100 Common Councilmen, plus the 25 Aldermen. Ultimately, the target of 75 Common Councilmen and 25 Aldermen is under discussion. My ward last year reduced from six members to five, while some smaller wards have gone from four members to three.

Q *Do Common Councilmen and Aldermen receive any pay or allowances?*

No, they receive no Councillor's Fee for attending Committee meetings, as is the case in other Local Authorities, so their service is voluntary. Members vote according to their conscience as to what is right for their electorate; and no "caucus" meetings take place prior to Committees, as happens elsewhere!

Q *You obviously feel strongly about this, Joyce!*

Yes, having previously been an Independent Member of a "Political" Council, long may The City Corporation's Policy survive!

Q *We all say Amen to that Joyce; but what about any other interests and activities in which you are involved?*

Well in the last few weeks I have been visiting all the Departments in The Corporation to meet the Staff - wearing my hat as Chairman of the Establishment Committee. I have also made a five day visitation to Northern Ireland as Deputy Governor of The Honourable, The Irish Society. Three such visitations are made each year.

Joyce thank you very much for agreeing to this interview, which I am sure Feltmakers will find very interesting. As the article was prepared in the late Autumn of last year, I do hope you will keep us up to date with any further developments on the Franchise Bill's progress.

DNB

A postscript update from Joyce tells us that the Franchise Bill is still stuck in a queue of Private Members' Bills, as at February 2001.

PROVIDENCE ROW

On the Eastern fringe of the richest square mile in Europe is an example of some of the worst deprivation, if not in Europe then in England. Based in Crispin Street, 200m from the City boundary, is the oldest Homelessness Charity in London, and one supported for more than 5 years by the Company - Providence Row.

Providence Row Night Refuge and Home was started in 1850 by a young Catholic Priest horrified by the poverty that he encountered in the City and on its fringes. He persuaded an order of Irish Nuns - the Sisters of Mercy - to leave Dublin and to work with him in raising funds to build and run the purpose built hostel in Crispin Street that opened in 1860. It has been there for the homeless of the City and the East End ever since.

Despite this hostel, and others opened since, the problem of homelessness has not left us. Indeed in addition to poverty, the primary cause of homelessness in the last century, mental health and substance abuse (drugs as well as alcohol) have added to the problems that Providence Row is still trying to alleviate today.

The Government, the Health Service and many other Statutory Bodies do a massive amount to help move individuals off the street towards, and to, finding new homes, and the care and assistance that they need to pick up their lives. However their programmes do not fit everyone. There is still a need for Voluntary Organisations and Charities such as Providence Row to work with those that fall through the net of Statutory providers or who are so alienated from any form of authority that they would run and hide from any "programme" developed to help them. These, the most troubled, are those that Providence Row seeks to help.

Providence Row of course works with the Statutory Bodies, but it also goes out on to the streets to offer support to those that won't come in. It runs a day-centre where the homeless can come for a bed, a bowl of soup, a pair of shoes or gloves, a visit with a chiropodist or doctor, counseling about benefits or housing or just a chair where they can sit without fear of harassment or violence or just of being "told what to do". It is a place where they can be themselves and where they can find refuge.

They, both knowingly and unknowingly, thank the Livery for the support that they have given.

If anyone would like any further information on Providence Row they can obtain it by contacting Simon Bartley on 020 7696 9090.

Editor's note - Simon Bartley, who is Chairman of the Providence Row Night Refuge and Home, has been a Liveryman since 1987, and served as a Steward to the Court for two years until January 2001.

INTER-LIVERY CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Every year, in the spring, the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners organises the Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shooting Competition. At other times in the year the Feltmakers are invited to enter a team to shoot in a couple of Livery and City related Clay Pigeon events.

Simon Bartley is putting together a list of participants willing to be approached to shoot for the Livery when such invitations are received. Willing Volunteers who have not as yet approached Simon, and who would be interested in such a day of "light competition" and "fellowship", should contact him. Expertise is not a requirement (nor is owning your own gun!)

THE FELTMAKERS' 400th

The latest meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to plan for the 400th Anniversary of our Charter, (granted by King James 1st in 1604) took place on the 18th January, to refine the list of suggestions as to how we mark the event.

Amongst the ideas considered are a Thanksgiving Service, possibly combined with the Carol Service in December 2004. A visit by HMS Lancaster to the Pool of London, if this can be coordinated with the Royal Navy. A Reception for The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, and Masters of friendly Livery Companies.

A Thames Boat Trip with refreshments, fireworks, and music for the young at heart could involve families and friends; and a Float in the Lord Mayor's Show are possibilities. A Charitable Appeal amongst, and a memento gift (like a lapel pin) for all Members of the Company that year, are on the agenda.

The renovation of the Old Feltmakers' Banner is being investigated (see below); or the commissioning of a new Banner, if this is not feasible.

The Committee is being chaired by the Third Warden Patrick Burgess, who will be Master in July 2004, at the actual date of the Anniversary; and he would still be interested to receive further suggestions from Members of The Livery. Patrick notes that suggestions should permit the involvement of families, especially wives and young people. "We want to make the year memorable, jovial, worthy of the Company's dignity, and to establish something for the future". So please put your thinking "caps" on!

THE FELTMAKERS' BANNER

The old Banner recently surfaced from the Livery archive, in a very poor state of repair; and the Third Warden has delivered it to The Textile Conservation Centre, which is now part of Southampton University, based at Winchester College of Art.

The Banner is very old, and quite difficult to date. The College's first guess is mid 19th century, probably between 1830 and 1870. It is painted on silk, with a cotton backing, and this has caused some distress as the cotton has apparently shrunk, and the silk has sunk into folds. This is quite probably due to it being paraded in inclement weather. The painted surface has been repaired in two places with adhesive, probably during the last century; and keeping it rolled up in storage has not helped.

The Conservation Centre have let us have an estimate for renovation work, but this is still under consideration. One problem will be that even after renovation it will still not be feasible to carry it in procession, as it will have to be framed for protection. It could however be displayed and one option might be to keep it in Haberdashers' Hall, near the window we are donating. Another would be in the Museum of London, taking it out to mount behind the Master's Chair, on ceremonial occasions.

(Our thanks to Patrick Burgess for his work on this project: and does anyone in The Livery recall seeing The Banner used? Recollections to the Editor please.)

THE MASTER'S LIVERY ACTIVITIES 2000/2001

Tuesday 3rd October 2000	(As Upper Warden) Master and Clerks Dinner at Plaisterers Hall
Friday 6th October 2000	Installation Dinner at Mercers' Hall
Thursday 26th October 2000	City & Guilds Centenary Dinner at Guildhall
Monday 6th November 2000	St Paul's Garden of Remembrance
Saturday 11th November 2000	Lord Mayor's Show: part of the Reception Team of Aldermen and Masters to welcome the Lord Mayor back to The Mansion House, followed by lunch
Monday 13th November 2000	Livery Society Dinner at the Royal Green Jackets London Club
Tuesday 14th November 2000	Presentation of the Lord Mayor's Ceremonial Hat at The Mansion House followed by lunch with the Wardens and Clerk at Boodles
Tuesday 21st November 2000	Solicitors' Company Dinner at Fishmongers' Hall
Wednesday 22nd November 2000	Lord Mayor's talk to Masters at The Mansion House
Tuesday 5th December 2000	Weavers' Company Dinner at Vintners Hall
Thursday 14th December 2000	Master & Wardens Meeting followed by lunch at the offices of Gouldens
Tuesday 19th December 2000	Livery Carol Service at The Church of St Martin-within-Ludgate followed by refreshments at the offices of Gouldens
Monday 8th January 2001	Plough Monday Court Meeting and Dinner at the Armourers' Hall

Dates for your diary and forthcoming events

09-05-01	Master's Golf Day at Wyke Green Golf Club, Isleworth.
14-05-01	Swimathon at the RAC Club, Epsom.
06-06-01	Single Wicket Tournament at Beaconsfield/Knotty Green.
08-06-01	Ladies' Banquet at The Mansion House.
24-06-01	Livery Cricket Match at Amersham.
02-07-01	July Court Dinner at The Dyers' Hall.
19-09-01	Inter Livery Tennis Tournament at The Queens' Club.

Elections onto the Livery.

6th October 2000: Jeremy Bedford and Simon Edward Wilkinson TD.
8th January 2001: Brian Joseph Minnighan.

Deceased Members of the Livery:

Past Master C.W. James. A Memorial Service was held on the 17th January 2001, and a Tribute is printed below.
Liveryman P.H. Taylor TD FRICS.
Liveryman J.W. Dodds.
Freeman Lt-Col J.W.R. Blott OBE.

Past Master P.W. Wardill MRCS LRCP LDS RCS DL.

Past Master Clarence James: A Tribute

Past Master Harper paid tribute to the life and work of Past Master Clarence James who died at home on 23rd December. He would have been 93 in February. Clarence James was elected on the Livery in 1948 and was Master in 1957: he was the Company's most senior past master. He was one of the first Trustees of the Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation and was assiduous in his attendance at Court and in his concern for the good governance of the Company. He was proud of his membership of the masonic fraternity and was the senior past master of the Feltmakers' lodge of which he was treasurer for many years. In 1974 he was made a grand officer of the order in recognition of his work. In his business life, after a series of managerial appointments, he became a senior and highly regarded member of the general management of the Midland Bank.

He was a sincere and committed Christian and was active in the work of the United Reform Church. Until relatively recently he was much in demand as a lay preacher. The Livery, masonry, his church and many friends were much the poorer for his passing.

City Livery Yacht Club Race

From Past Master Derek Hilton

I am often asked by Members of the Livery about my sailing exploits with 'Bold Bendigo', which many of you will recall, is a motor sailer yacht of which I took delivery in 1995, during my year as Master.

I have been particularly asked to write something suitable for inclusion in 'The Feltmaker' and it occurs to me that a number of you will be interested to learn that I competed in a sail and power race at Cowes this year which was organised by the City Livery Yacht Club, of which I am a member.

Bearing in mind that it was an event organised by the City Livery Yacht Club, I thought it would be appropriate to include members of Livery who sail and my crew comprised Captain Peter Cobb, who followed me as Master of our Livery, and Robin Chaventre, Past Master of the Wax Chandlers Company, and my enthusiastic sailing daughter, Susan, was the fourth member of the crew.

It was a lovely sunny weekend and we left Chichester in good weather on Friday 12th May and met up with the other competitors at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club for a most enjoyable barbecue, assembling at 0900 hours the next morning for a dockside briefing before the 1000 start to the Race. The weather

was still bright and sunny, although there was quite a constant wind which gave the sea slightly choppy conditions and we set off to go twice around a figure of eight course. It was immediately apparent that, as a large lumbering motorsailer we would be unlikely to get a respectable placing, but by this time daughter Susie had been busy with the calculator and swiftly worked out that we should use the engine as much as possible, allowing for the theoretical time in which we had to complete the course. Peter Cobb, aided by Robin Chaventre, worked hard to maintain as much speed as possible when we were under sail, and I think it fair to say that we all enjoyed the challenges, and were not totally disgraced by being placed 12th out of an entry of 23 boats

The dinner on Saturday evening was at the Royal London Yacht Club at Cowes where the prize giving took place - but not for us - and we returned to Chichester early on the Sunday morning.

The photograph above shows 'Bold Bendigo' with Peter Cobb and his wife Jenny on the foredeck, and Derek Hilton at the helm.



News from HMS Lancaster

Commander Richard Buckland writes: "We deployed on the 22nd January and are now in much warmer climes as we make our passage to the Arabian Gulf. Unfortunately, I leave Lancaster in mid deployment and so will no longer be able to enjoy the close association of the Feltmakers and Lancaster, but I will look back on the affiliation with some fond memories. I am sure that my successor, Commander Ben Key, will find the same enjoyment, and I expect he will write to the Master in May, when he assumes command."