



The Feltmaker

The Newsletter of the
Worshipful Company of Feltmakers

Summer 2001

Master: Jonathon J.G. Rowley MSc FCA

Issue No. 24



The Master and Wardens prepare to receive Members of the Livery and their guests, at The Ladies Banquet, at the Mansion House.

The Ladies Banquet

The traffic on the way to The Mansion House for The Ladies Banquet on Friday 8 June 2001 seemed quite light for a fine June Friday evening, but the crowds of City workers slaking their thirst, or drowning their sorrows, outside the City pubs, were more numerous than ever. This was the day after the General Election, and the end of what had doubtless been a busy week.

The Mansion House looked, and was organised as splendidly as ever, so no change here either! We were to entertain The Lord Mayor Alderman Sir David Howard Bt, The Sheriffs and their Ladies, and some two hundred and forty members of the Livery and their Guests.

The Champagne Reception was accompanied by music from The Founder's String Quartet from the Royal Holloway University; and the gong for Dinner was sounded just after 7.30pm. The Master's Procession made their stately way to the Top Table, followed by the Fourth Warden's gallop to be in place at the foot of the second spur, in time for Grace by The Chaplain.

The Banquet was sumptuous, with Terrine of Salmon, followed by Roast Sirloin of Beef, and for sweet Peaches Poached in Champagne. The wines were well chosen, and we quaffed our own Port.

Cont'd over ...

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 Grace was sung, and The Loving Cup passed; and we settled down to a Musical Interlude by Linda Richardson - soprano, and Andrew Slater - bass-baritone, accompanied by Susie Allan at the piano.

The programme included arias from Figaro and Rigoletto, and "Bess, you is my woman now" by Gershwin. It all made for a splendid Ladies' Banquet. The Loyal Toast was proposed by The Master, to be followed by Assistant Geoffrey Vero who proposed The Lord Mayor, The Corporation of London and the Sheriffs in a well crafted and gracious speech.

The Reply by The Lord Mayor broke the shackles that had constrained political comment during the period of the General Election, and called for much more decisiveness by the Government, particularly with regard to transport in the City, and especially with regard to the Underground. His remarks were warmly received and so was his toast to The Feltmakers and The Master.

The Master responded by proposing The Guests, to which the Response was given by The Rt. Hon.. The Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot DL; who also felt the constraints of political purdah were lifted, and hoped there would be less threat of legislative interference in country life and pursuits! This too was well received, and concluded with the traditional toast to The Livery Companies - may they prosper root and branch, and flourish for ever.

The general consensus was a superb evening, and one not to be missed in our Livery's Calendar! Editor.

The Spring Livery Dinner, Monday 2nd April 2001

The Grocers' Hall, right next door to The Bank of England, is not one we visit frequently, but it stands out in your Editor's memory as the location of his installation to The Livery in 1987, and this was a welcome first return.

There were one hundred and seven Members of the Livery and their Guests present. Amongst the Principal Guests were the Masters of five Livery Companies:- The Mercers, The Salters, The Woolmen, The Gardeners, The Chartered Surveyors, and the Upper Bailiff of The Weavers, most of whom were accompanied by their Clerks.

The splendid Dinner (the Grocers have a well founded reputation for the excellence of their food), comprised Seafood Cocktail, Lamb Cutlets, and a Mango and Passion Fruit Mousse. The accompanying wines and port were equally superb.

After the Loyal Toast proposed by The Master, Assistant Patrick Laycock toasted the Guests. The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers and The Master was proposed by P.J.W. Evans Esq DL FRICS, to which the Master responded.

FIGHT FOR SIGHT - LIVERY CONCERT - SUNDAY 11th NOVEMBER 2001

The fifth annual Livery Concert will be held to coincide with the weekend of the Lord Mayor's Show. The Concert is for Liverymen, their families and friends, and will be held on the afternoon of Sunday the 11th November, following the Remembrance Service in the morning, and giving people time to have their lunch.

The event will start with a reception at 2pm, followed by the Concert at 2.30pm, in the Stationers' Hall, finishing at 5.15pm. The programme will include performances by an array of talented artists. and will conclude with an energetic brass quintet from the Guildhall School of Music.

Fight for Sight is a national charity dedicated to raising funds for the prevention of blindness, and treatment of eye disease. They need to raise £1 million each year to fund its commitment to crucial research. Invitations/Tickets can be obtained from Clive Stone, Trustee Fight for Sight, Institute of Ophthalmology, Bath Street, London. EC1V 9EL: tel 0207 608 4000.

United Guilds Service 2001

Amid the usual pageantry of the City (previously described on these pages) the glint of maces and candlesticks, the flicker of flames, the scintillation of furs and colours, the whole Livery of the City assembled for their United Service at St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday, 30 March.

Our Master took part in the procession (something which happens only once every eight years or so) and everyone from our own Company who was present took a stentorian part in the singing.

The preacher was the Lord Bishop of Portsmouth. His sermon was based on the First Letter to the Corinthians, chapter 4, verses 1 - 5. Transparency, he said, once described a slide in a projector. Now it was a virtue. Yet its practice could be opacity in disguise. How did this apply to each of us? It was true we could not escape who we were, or what we thought. And even if we were to strive for complete openness, sometimes the time might be wrong for frankness: may be our ideas were not ready, or may be we just could not find the words. In our age, candour and confidentiality co-exist. How were we to understand this paradox? It sprung from the fact that all (even liverymen) are still serving an apprenticeship in the art and skill of truth - and judgement. And so St. Paul sees us not as dominant in creation but as "stewards", a word which entails service, risk, and answerability. In this condition we must not judge ourselves; in any case we could attain no final answers: important things were never absolute. But we could not shirk our responsibilities: life was more than competent management, it was to challenge, to enlighten. We were at our best searchers for the truth, at our worst, dissemblers of it. We must shape ourselves as faithful stewards: we would be judged by the perfect One who sees through us.

More trumpets, more singing, more pageantry (something else which no doubt was originally intended to clarify roles and positions but now produces a wonderful confusion of embellishment) and, to the thunder of the organ, a myriad of gowns went milling down the steps of St. Paul's into the less than transparent air of a London Spring.

The Feltmakers' Golf Day

It is one of the chief merits of golf that non-success at the game induces a certain amount of decent humility, which keeps a man from pluming himself on any petty triumphs he may achieve in other walks of life ... sudden success at golf is like the sudden acquisition of wealth. It is apt to unsettle and deteriorate the character. P.G. Wodehouse

16 Feltmakers and guests assembled at Wyke Green GC Isleworth on 9th May 2001. After a Ploughman's lunch we teed off from 2.00 pm. The weather was kind and the course in excellent condition being exceedingly well prepared. The only criticism was a fair amount of noise as we encountered an area where the Piccadilly Line, Central Railway, M4 and Heathrow flight path joined forces to drown our cries of woe as another errant drive went on its way.

We were spurred on at the short 7th where Nick Heal was stationed and not only measured the distance for the 'nearest the pin prize' but so kindly presented us with a glass of bubbly. This correspondent when checking his card noticed that he had managed two successive pars on the 8th and 9th and then went downhill - the 'high' was obviously short lived! However we were all well sustained and everyone said how much they enjoyed the round although the enjoyment may have related to a certain extent to the quality of one's golf.

In the evening we were joined by the Master and 11 other Feltmakers' and guests. The Master had donated some magnificent pieces of glass as prizes which he presented to the following winners:-

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Best Gentleman: Gerry Higginson | | | |
| Second Best | Robin Catlin | Best Lady | Catherine Farr |
| Best front 9 | Nick Mellstrom | Best back 9 | Daphne Higginson |
| Longest Drive | David Setchell | Nearest the pin | Andrew Criddle |

Finally, some may tear up their card, others throw clubs into the lake but not Peter Grant who was awarded the Master's special prize for extraordinary courage.

In his speech the Master paid tribute to Geoffrey Farr who had initiated Golf Day in 1994 during his year as Master and had subsequently organised every event since then. His remarks were greeted with acclaim. Gerry Higginson has kindly agreed to take on the job from Geoffrey and will organise Golf Day 2002. We do hope that Gerry will be supported by a good turnout so please put the date in your diary when announced.

Tony Skrimshire, July 2001

HAT BURNING IN CHEAPSIDE!

Some of the more robust elements of the Feltmakers' early history.

Extracts reprinted from The Hatter and Umbrella Trade Circular dated the first November 1873; by courtesy of Past Master John Bowler MC.

The Company of Felt Hat Makers, who recently celebrated their anniversary at Pewterers' Hall were anciently united with the Haberdashers, but a separation being obtained by the former; they were by letters patent of James I, in the year 1604 incorporated by the name of 'The Master, Wardens and Commonality of the Feltmakers of London.'

'The Livery is governed by a master, four wardens, and twenty five assistants. The ancient name being Hurers and Cappers; and in 1311 there was an examination of false Hats in the Guildhall, at the request of Hatters and dealers in the City. After diligent scrutiny it was found there were forty grey and white hats and fifteen black hats, which were of a mixture of wool and flocks, and they were accordingly burnt in the street of Chepe.'

By articles entered into in 1374 it was provided that 'no one shall make or sell any manner of Hats within the franchise of the City, if he be not free of it' on pain of forfeiting their stock. There were at the same time regulations drawn for apprenticeships of seven years, as well as provision for hat searches, and against the making by workmen of Hats that were 'not befitting - to the deceit of the common people.' Fines as well as forfeiture could be imposed for breach of the regulations.

It was also provided by Richard Whityngtone, Mayor and the Alderman, 'that a Cappe or Hure, or anything pertaining to scouring must be done in the houses of the artisans, and not in the waters of the Thames, and other exposed places, amid horrible tempests, frosts and snows, to the very great scandal of the good folks of the trade, and of the City.'

In 1391 'false Cappes' were again ordered to be burnt in Chepe, 'being both false and deceitfully made', but these it seems were being sold not only by Cappe makers, but by Haberdashers too, whose names are given, and fines and forfeiture followed.

Perhaps these events, as well as the unreasonable control of supplies of fur, contributed to our breakaway from the Haberdashers. What is clear is that our predecessors were more than a little protectionist of their rights to trade, quality conscious, against imports, but well ahead of the times in employee welfare!

It is proposed that the definitive History of the Feltmakers will be published in time for the 400th in 2004; so there will be an opportunity to study our history in much greater detail then. Meantime please treat this as an appetiser. Editor.

Correspondence Corner

From Past Master John Elliott

Dear Derek,

I was interested to read the piece in your last issue about the Banner. Since 1964 the banner has not been used, and I suspect that it may have been stored away, long before that date. I see from the old History of the Company (page 150) it is stated "At the opening of the Albert Hall in 1871, the Company was represented by a Mr Powell, when the Banner of the Company was exhibited". Again on the same page when mention is made of the Lord Mayor's Day in 1872 it is stated:- "The Master, Wardens and Court of Assistants were requested to attend in their carriages on Lord Mayor's Day, in honour of Mr Alderman White. The carriages of the Master and Wardens to be provided at the expense of the Company".

"It was resolved that a banner bearing the Arms of the Company be provided at the expense of the Company, to be carried in the procession on Lord Mayor's Day, and that the Master and Clerk order it".

I imagine this must be the Banner mentioned in the article.

With best wishes, Yours sincerely, John Elliot.

(The Textile Conservation Centre's first estimate of between 1830-70 was not far out - Editor).

From the Third Warden Patrick Burgess

Dear Derek,

So far as participation in Lord Mayor's Shows is concerned, I think there was a participation when Sir Hugh Wontner was Lord Mayor.

I also have garnered in by me at the point when I got hold of the old embroidered Banner, two rather crude felt banners, which I would guess came from something like a Lord Mayor's Show Float, and looked to me as though they are from the 1950s or 1960s - and probably worthless, and certainly of no artistic merit.

Yours sincerely, Patrick Burgess.

From Mrs Deputy Joyce Nash OBE

Dear Derek,

There is little update re the Franchise Bill. It did not go through in the last Parliament, and it will depend just how much urgent business comes up at the beginning of the new Parliament, as to when we will be slotted in. I also understand that the first of the Aldermanic six yearly re-elections will take place in the not too distant future. The other interesting news is that the number of Common Councilmen has come down from 125 to 110 due solely to natural wastage. The size of the Court was one of the criticisms of the Franchise Bill opponents. The Aldermen will remain at 25 for the time being.

My thanks and congratulations on the last issue.

Yours sincerely, Joyce Nash.

Livery Accounts at 31st December 2000

The Accounts for 2000 have been audited and approved by Court. In summary they show the following:-

| | 2000 | 1999 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| General Fund | 219,412 | 186,062 |
| Unrealised Investment Appreciation | 108,097 | 142,877 |
| Life Quaterage Fund | <u>17,533</u> | <u>18,198</u> |
| Net Assets at Market Value | <u>345,042</u> | <u>347,137</u> |
| Income & Expenditure Account | | |
| Income | 28,181 | 26,571 |
| Expenditure | 25,550 | 22,804 |
| Taxation | <u>464</u> | <u>667</u> |
| Surplus for the Year after Taxation | <u>2,167</u> | <u>3,100</u> |
| Charitable Foundation (including A.E.Hemens Bequest Fund) | | |
| Income from Investments | 10,764 | 10,728 |
| Donations received | <u>10,000</u> | <u>10,000</u> |
| Total | <u>20,764</u> | <u>20,728</u> |
| Payments to Pensioner Hatters | 10,100 | 9,960 |
| Other Donations (inc Feltmaker Awards) | 7,850 | 9,922 |
| Donation to Stockport Hat Museum | | 6,000 |
| Administration Costs | <u>2,470</u> | <u>2,111</u> |
| Surplus/Deficit for Year | <u>344</u> | <u>(7,265)</u> |

Among the other donations in the year were:- £1,000 to the Lord Mayor's Appeal, £1,000 to Providence Row, £750 to the Master's Charities (Pepper Harrow Foundation and RNIB), and £3,500 spread over a number of other Charities, including The Shooting Star Trust, and Rainbow Trust (for a Hospice in Stockport).

Amongst the Receipts for the Foundation was a Bequest of £10,000 from the late Past Master Peter Winfield; which under the terms of the bequest is to be invested for 10 years, with income accumulated thereon, before any distribution shall be made. We are very grateful indeed to the Winfield Family for this very generous bequest.

City Livery Yacht Club Race

From Past Master Derek Hilton

This year's Rally to Cowes took place over the weekend commencing Friday 18th May until Sunday 20th May.

It followed the usual pattern where members of various Liveries and their crews foregathered in Cowes for a barbecue meal at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club. The following morning we assembled for a briefing and instructions in connection with the Yacht Race, which has been carefully put together by those concerned in order that the various boats of different sailing capabilities have some chance of arriving at the finishing line at approximately the same time - in the same way as handicapping for race horses!

Whilst there are well over a hundred people involved either a sailors or crew, some Liverymen come over to Cowes for the weekend just to join in the fun and don't really go to sea at all.

Unfortunately Captain Peter Cobb, Robin Chaventre and daughter Susan were all unable to join me on this occasion, but I did have the help of a younger pair of hands i.e. my son Richard who was over from South Africa, a charming young lady Doctor, and an experienced sailor who lives locally to me. He was so impressed with the various people he met that I am shortly to bring him to a Livery function as I think he would make a very good member of our Livery.

Cont'd over..

When we arrived at the start line which was approximately midday on the Saturday we lined up waiting for the appropriate signal to be flown from the Royal London Yacht Club, who have a fine building and clubhouse at Cowes in addition to the one better known by many at Hyde Park Corner in London.

The number of entries this year was larger than the previous year and in all there were something approaching 30 boats of varying sizes and types setting off on this fun race, where it was obvious from the start that except for the pot hunters it was not to be taken seriously. We quickly learned that whilst we had 55 minutes during the race when we could use our engine, the most favourable time would be to use the engine against the tide and looking around we were not alone in interpreting the rules in this way.

In the evening we had a very enjoyable Dinner at the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club, and it was there that I had a second opportunity of a chat with Baroness Boothroyd who is better known as Betty Boothroyd. She intimated that she would like me to go over and sit with her for a few moments after the meal and speeches, when we chatted briefly about Livery matters and I expressed the hope on behalf of us all that now she was "retired" we might see a little more of her at Livery functions. She told me that she was writing her autobiography under contract and was finding this much more difficult than she had envisaged. This was taking all of her time and in fact the draft was to be with her publishers by the end of August so that the book could come on sale in time for Christmas, in the hope that it would be on a best-sellers list. Betty Boothroyd undoubtedly enjoyed the whole occasion but she was not a competitor and had been brought over to Cowes on a rather magnificent power boat that belonged to a friend who was a Livery member.

Needless to say, we did not win one of the coveted prizes but did improve upon our position of last year, finishing 6th overall.

From Commander B J Key Royal Navy

Mr J J G Rowley, Master, The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers

19 June 2001

Dear Master

Thank you for your letter regarding my appointment in command of HMS LANCASTER. I know that Richard Buckland had a particular regard for the Livery and that he thoroughly enjoyed the functions he attended; I very much look forward to maintaining an active liaison.

As you know, LANCASTER deployed to the Arabian Gulf in January and we are now coming to the end of our time here. To be honest, this is a good time to be leaving as the temperatures are now in the 40's! We return to the UK late July for a few weeks leave. LANCASTER will then visit London from 10 to 14 September for a major defence exhibition and I would hope to be able to offer the opportunity for some of the Livymen to visit the ship while we are in the capital. I cannot give specific dates at this stage but, as soon as, I shall ask my Executive Officer (Lieutenant Commander Paul Tebbet, who relieves Steve Layland on our return) to contact you with the details. I know that 3 Livymen visited the Ship last September for Staff College Sea Days and, as LANCASTER is taking part in this year's Sea Days, I would like to extend a similar invitation for 15 October. Again, Paul Tebbet will provide the details should anyone wish to join us.

I very much look forward to meeting you in due course, perhaps in London.

Yours sincerely, Ben Key

Commander B J Key Royal Navy - Commanding Officer HMS Lancaster

Commander Ben Key was educated at Bromsgrove School in Worcestershire and joined the Royal Navy in 1984 as a university cadet, gaining a degree in Physics from London University.

After Fleet training, he served for 2 years in the frigate HMS CHARYBDIS before transferring to the Fleet Air Arm qualifying as an Observer in the Lynx helicopter. After short flying appointments in a number of ships, he spent 18 months as the Flight Commander of the frigate HMS BATTLEAXE.

Ben Key returned to the General Service in 1996 to undertake the Principal Warfare Officer's course, specialising in Above Water Warfare. From 1997 to 1999 he was appointed to frigate HMS SOMERSET, deploying to four of the five oceans in the world and acting as escort to the French aircraft carrier FOCH during the Kosovo crisis in 1999.

He assumed command of the minehunter HMS SANDOWN in July 1999, initially returning to the Adriatic as part of Operation ALLIED HARVEST, clearing jettisoned ordnance from the seabed. From August 2000 until April 2001 he commanded the frigate HMS IRON DUKE, during which the ship conducted a 6 month deployment in the southern Atlantic, concentrating her efforts off Sierra Leone and the West Coast of Africa but also undertaking visits around South America. He took command of the frigate HMS LANCASTER in May 2001.

Ben Key and his wife Elly live in rural Dorset with their two young sons. Family life revolves around outdoor activity and maintaining their elderly cottage. When time permits, his other interests include the discovery of undervalued wine, the delights of friends around the dinner table, and village politics.

THE MASTER'S LIVERY ACTIVITIES 2000/2001

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 19th January 2001 | Lunch at The Old Bailey with the Lay Sheriff and the Judges |
| Wednesday 31st January 2001 | Glovers' Company Presentation Court Lunch at Saddlers' Hall |
| Tuesday 6th February 2001 | Luton Lunch at Barnfield College |
| Monday 12th February 2001 | Visit to Treolar College:- (with Rt Hon The Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, the Aldermanic Sheriff, 10 Masters + wives) |
| Thursday 15th February 2001 | Thanksgiving Service for the Past Master Wardill at Kimpton Parish Church |
| Friday 23rd February 2001 | Lunch with the Past Masters at The Army & Navy Club |
| Thursday 1st March 2001 | Salters' Master & Clerks Luncheon |
| Monday 5th March 2001 | Buffet Lunch at Drapers' Hall - presentation of a proposal by General Sir Jeremy MacKenzie, GCB OBE re mace for the Royal Hospital Chelsea |
| Thursday 8th March 2001 | Investment Committee Meeting followed by Life Members' Lunch at the East India Club |
| Friday 9th March 2001 | Plasterers' Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's followed by a reception at Plasterers' Hall |
| Thursday 15th March 2001 | Master & Wardens Meeting followed by lunch at the RGJ London Club |
| Tuesday 20th March 2001 | Tallow Chandlers' Master & Clerks Luncheon |
| Monday 26th March 2001 | Chartered Surveyors' Company Dinner at Apothecaries' Hall |
| Thursday 29th March 2001 | Lord Mayor's Dinner for Masters and their Ladies at The Mansion House |
| Friday 30th March 2001 | United Guilds Service at St Paul's followed by lunch at The Savoy Hotel |
| Monday 2nd April 2001 | Spring Court Meeting and Livery Dinner at Grocers' Hall |

Dates for your diary and forthcoming events

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday 19th September 2001 | Inter Livery Tennis Tournament at The Queen's Club. |
| Monday 1st October 2001 | Election of Lord Mayor at The Guildhall. |
| Friday 5th October 2001 | Installation Dinner at The Mercers' Hall. |

Elections onto the Livery.

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Monday 2 July 2001 | Lt-Col C.J. Holroyd |
|--------------------|---------------------|

Deceased Members of the Livery:

Mr A.E. Cook

Past Master P.J. Wardill. The following eulogy on Past Master Peter Wardill, was given by Past Master Peter Keens, at the Court Meeting on the 2nd of April 2001.

Past Master Peter Jackson Wardill

Peter Wardill died peacefully in his sleep on 21st January 2001 at Mount Vernon Hospital having been hospitalised following a routine visit. He bore his long illness with fortitude and courage and fully expected to attend a Hunt Ball within the next few days for which he had obtained his tickets.

Peter was a well known and respected dentist in Luton, Bedfordshire, following his father and uncle in the family practice. He served during the war as a 'Toothie', a Surgeon Commander in the Royal Navy and in later years was elected president of the British Dental Association.

He had a love of gardening and a vast knowledge of roses which gave him great pleasure. He also much enjoyed the countryside and was a Joint Master of the South Herts Beagles.

Masonry was a very great part and interest in his life and he took high office and was honoured for his work.

Peter was appointed High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1975 and in 1985 was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of that county.

On retiring from practice he devoted much time to his role as President of the Bedfordshire Branch of the Red Cross.

He was a superb and generous host and thoroughly enjoyed a good party with a fine choice of wines from his cellar. He will be missed by all who knew him.

A Tribute to the retiring Clerk

Lt-Col C.J. Holroyd - Clerk to the Company 1990 - 2001

“John Holroyd has been a loyal, trustworthy, and hard working Clerk to the Feltmakers for many years. He is widely respected, and has many friends throughout the City.”

These were the words of Past Master Captain Peter Cobb OBE RN, when proposing that John be made a Liveryman of the Feltmakers, in recognition of his service as, and before his retirement from the Clerkship later this Autumn. “There is no doubt”, Peter continued “that he will become a valuable addition to the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers”.

John was born in 1933, and attended Marlborough College, and The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, choosing to make his career in the Army. He was commissioned into The Royal Green Jackets; and reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, holding a number of commands, including The Green Jackets Territorial Battalion in London.

His interests and sporting activities, in his younger days included Hunting and Polo. During his time as Clerk, the Livery has benefitted particularly from his interest and extensive knowledge of wine; and his membership of the Royal Green Jackets Club, where Master and Wardens meetings have been followed by excellent luncheons.

John is married to Amanda, and they have three children. They have lived at Chute Cadley since 1971, and John ran his wine importing and marketing business from there, after his retirement from the Army. His advice and help in the selection of wines for Livery functions has been invaluable, and he was instrumental in laying down our stock of Port, that will last us for several more years.

John has done a great deal to put the Company's management organisation and administration onto a sound ongoing basis; and due tribute will be paid later in the year when he hands over the Clerkship.

He was formally admitted to the Livery at the Court Meeting on the 2nd July. Meantime the whole Livery extends its thanks to John, and wishes him and Amanda a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Clerk Designate

The Court has approved the appointment of Major Jollyon Coombs to assume the post and duties of Clerk, with effect from the 5th October 2001.

The Feltmaker Award 2001

The winner of this year's Feltmaker Award for the Design of a Lady's hat manufactured in Felt, was Miss Kate Humphries, from the Kensington and Chelsea College, who was presented with her prize at The Ladies Banquet, at The Mansion House, on Friday the 8th of June.

The prize winning entries were on show during the Reception, and the comments of the ladies in particular were appropriately complimentary. Our thanks once again to the Upper Warden, Bill Horsman for organising the Competition. We shall hope to show pictures of the winning entry in a later edition.

