



The Feltmaker

The Newsletter of the
Worshipful Company of Feltmakers

Spring 2003

Master: David Bentata

Issue No. 26

The Master's Themes - Tradition and Innovation

David Bentata was installed as Master of our Company on 4th October 2002 in the recently completed splendour of Haberdashers' Hall.

In his address to the Livery on that occasion, he stressed that his guiding themes for his year would be Tradition and Innovation. He expressed the hope that members of the Livery would continue to support our social and charitable activities and that these might be enhanced with new initiatives.

By way of innovation, he referred to the holding of a Common Hall meeting of the Livery, for the first time in its history. As the first Jewish Master of the Company, David mentioned that, instead of the carol service he would be holding a service of Dedication and Thanksgiving at Bevis Marks' Synagogue.

Both these events are written up in more detail later in this issue.

The occasion provided Liverymen with an opportunity to admire the new Feltmakers' Window, designed to compliment the Haberdashers' own window in their new hall. The Master and Clerk represented the Company at the official opening of Haberdashers' Hall by Her Majesty the Queen on 24th October 2002.



DAVID BENTATA - A Potted History

David was born on 21st July 1938 in Manchester to parents who were members of the Spanish and Portuguese Sephardi Jewish community. His father ran the family cotton business and his mother's family owned several local factories in the rainwear business.

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Wardens: Patrick Burgess; Derek Bedford; John Curteis; Geoffrey Vero.

Immediate Past Master: William Horsman.

Clerk: Major Jollyon Coombs, The Old Post House, Upton Grey, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG25 2RL Tel: 01256 862025

Registered at Stationers' Hall. Editors: John Curteis & Geoffrey Vero.

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After temporary evacuation during the war, the family returned home and David was Sent to Manchester High School for Girls, all the local boys schools having been bombed!

Subsequently he attended a Jewish preparatory school in Sussex and then Blundell's where he excelled in cross-country running and rifle shooting.

On leaving school he was called up for National Service, initially into the North Staffordshire Regiment and was later commissioned into the Intelligence Corps, being engaged mainly in counter-intelligence in North West Europe.

In October 1959, he went up to Christ Church, Oxford, to read Law and whilst there was awarded a Blue for shooting.

David joined The Middle Temple Inn of Court while at Oxford but, after graduation, instead of practising as a Chancery Barrister he returned to Manchester to run the family cotton business before merging it with other family business interests in London.

David then began a new career in merchant banking, initially as an investment analyst and founder of the international side of Hill Samuel and subsequently as a Director in Charterhouse Group.

In 1988 he established his own business, Bentata Associates, providing venture capital to the oil and high technology sector. David currently sits on the boards of a number of private and public companies, having resigned four Chairmanships in order to concentrate on his year as our Master.

David lives with his partner Linda who shares many of his interests. He has two talented children by an earlier marriage. In such spare time as he is allowed to enjoy, he remains active in rifle shooting and is a member of the Sherlock Holmes Society of London and of the Covent Garden Minuet Company.

The Master's Spring Message 2003

Dear Fellow Liverymen,

I took the opportunity of the Christmas festivities to forward to each of you seasonal greetings, with the splendid Livery Christmas card, and to write in greater detail to you to introduce my year.

I will, therefore, not dwell further on matters raised in my letter. Instead, I feel that I should focus the attention of the Livery upon our charitable activities. In this context, you may wish to know that the designated charity of the Lord Mayor this year is "Save the Children".

Secondly, as outlined by the Chairman of the Charity Committee, Past Master Brian Burgess, at the Common Hall, it has been decided to introduce a new initiative in order to stimulate an avenue for the charitable giving by members of the Livery by way of an annual donation to our own charity, the Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation.

I should like to emphasise to all members of our Livery the great importance of this aspect of our Livery activities. Recent Lord Mayors have underlined how fundamentally important is the development of the charitable support that

the Livery in general gives to worthy causes, particularly in the education of our young people today.

Last year, total charitable donations in support of such causes by the one hundred and three Livery Companies of the City of London totalled some £31m. It is essential that the Feltmakers' Company stands up to be counted. Please do not imagine that, because we are a smaller and perhaps less wealthy Livery Company than some of our peers, your donation does not count. It does. In future issues of this Magazine, I hope that we shall be able to bring you further reports of the good use to which your donations, through the Company's charitable funds, are being put.

Please, therefore, respond positively to our own initiative and sign a direct debit for a gift-aided donation of £100 per annum to our own Charitable Foundation. Direct debit forms for donations may be obtained from the Clerk, Major Jollyon Coombs.

In closing, I would like to wish every member of our Livery a very happy, healthy and prosperous year.

David Bentata

Geoffrey Vero - Welcome, Fourth Warden

Geoffrey Vero was born in 1947 into the felt hat manufacturing family who own and manage Vero and Everitt Ltd of Atherstone, Warwickshire, which was founded in 1852.

He was educated at Mill Hill School, London, where in his final year he was Head Boy.

Following the acquisition of Diners by Citibank in the mid 1980s, he joined the venture capital arm of Lazard Brothers and, in 1987, he joined Causeway Capital Ltd where he helped build up their private equity business.

Following the sale of Causeway to ABN AMRO in 1996, Geoffrey continued to manage a number of investment



Rather than taking up a university place, he went straight into Accountancy with Whinney Murray & Co (now Ernst & Young) in Birmingham and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1970.

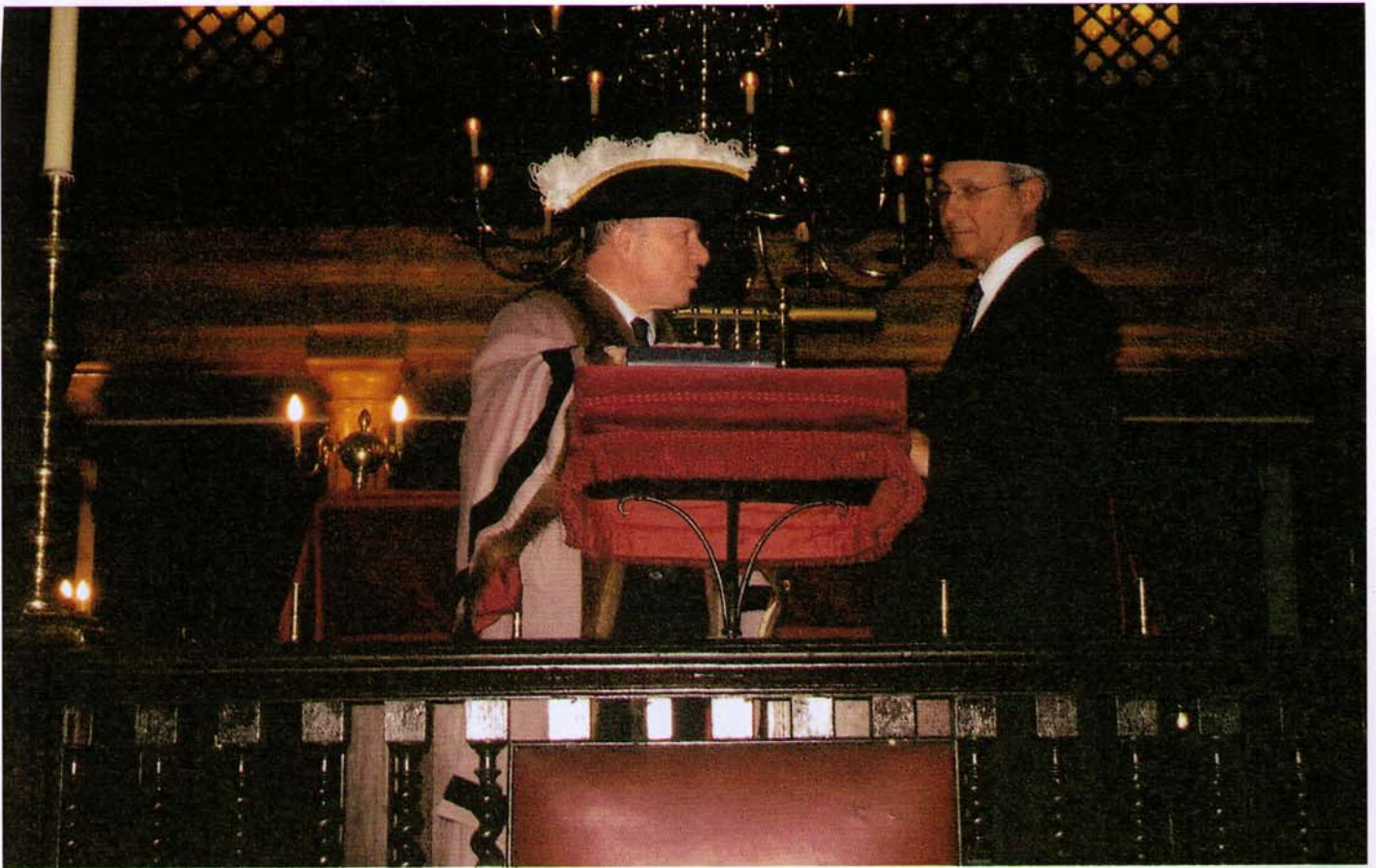
Deciding to enter commerce in London rather than the family business, in 1971 he joined Alfred Savill, Curtis and Henson (now FPD Savills) as Chief Accountant and Deputy Director of Finance and Administration.

In 1976 he joined the international credit / charge card business of The Diners Club Ltd as Financial Controller and shortly thereafter became Financial Director and then Deputy Managing Director.

portfolios and, in July 2002, he established his own business, The Vero Consultancy which provides corporate and financial advisory services to medium-sized UK companies and directors.

Geoffrey is married to Frankie and has three children. His main outside interests are golf and other sports, history, travelling and politics. He is a Court Governor of the Mill Hill School Foundation, a member of the Rules of Golf Committee of The Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, and Vice-Captain of Sunningdale Golf Club.

The Master's Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving at Bevis Marks Synagogue - Thursday 19th December 2002



A large congregation of Liverymen, friends and family of the Master gathered in the candle-lit atmosphere of Bevis Marks Spanish & Portuguese Synagogue, the oldest in Britain, to celebrate a unique occasion; the election of the first Master of the Company of the Jewish faith.

The Master, accompanied by the Wardens, all in full robes and wearing their traditional hats, followed the Beadle of the Synagogue, accompanied in turn by the Clerk and the Chaplain, in solemn procession to their seats to the chant of the ceremonial opening hymn of welcome.

The reading from Psalm 15 was read by our Chaplain, the Very Reverend Colin Semper, and the reading from Deuteronomy by The Master.

A strong choir sang the 121st Psalm in Hebrew. There were prayers for the Royal Family and, after a prayer for the City of London and the Company, The Master read a

special Act of Dedication and Thanksgiving. There then followed an Address by the Minister, the Reverend Halfon Benarroch, reflecting the close ties of the Livery Companies of the City of London with the Synagogue over its 300 year history and the particular ties between the Synagogue, the Minister, The Master and his family.

The Service concluded with the singing of Adon Olam, the traditional closing hymn.

Afterwards the congregation was invited to stay for a buffet supper in the Synagogue Hall.

The Master particularly appreciated the substantial support and presence at the Service of Members of the Livery. The Master of the Mercers' Company, Wing Commander Dudgeon, who had attended The Master's Installation Dinner as a guest of the Livery, also attended as The Master's guest, having expressed a particular wish to do so.

The Feltmakers' Window



The Feltmakers were originally part of the Haberdashers' Company, but commercial and other pressures led to the Feltmakers becoming a separate guild by Charter of James I in 1604. In recognition of that association the Feltmakers' Company generously contributed this window to the new Haberdashers' Hall in 2002.

The window primarily illustrates historical processes involved in the work of the Feltmakers. At the bottom in purple, a figure can be seen trimming a hat with scissors. Above him to the left a figure is holding a bow. He is 'bowing' fur by plucking the bow string with a peg in his left hand. To the middle right of the design in yellow, another figure can be seen brushing a 'cone-shaped hood' made of fur felt. A pair of arms above him are shaping a hat. The predominantly red background of the design, evokes the red and white mantling of the Feltmakers' Coat of Arms.



Amidst these everyday working processes for the Feltmaker, a hatted figure in blue, central to the composition of the window, can be seen rising up with arms outstretched as in the Coat of Arms, in holding up the symbolic hat. This figure could be imagined in a variety of ways; as a Feltmaker from the past supporting the Company, or even as a mythological Patron Saint. Cutting across the upper part of the window a plough shape is suggested, referring to the importance of Plough Monday for the Livery.

At the top of the design old London Bridge is indicated and so is the millennium wheel. At the foot of the design the Feltmakers' motto '*Decoration and Protection*' is partially shown, just as much a visual feature as it is an identifying aid.

The window was designed and made by Mr. Peter Sutton, member of the British Society of Master Glass Painters, in 2002.



Top left - The Feltmakers' window, **Top right** - The Haberdashers' window, **Above** - The Committee Room in the new Haberdashers' Hall showing the Feltmakers window on left and the Haberdashers window on right.

Cricket 2002

Single Wicket Competition

The Single Wicket Competition was held on 30th May 2002 at Knotty Green Cricket Club, near Beaconsfield.

This year there were 14 players and a scorer, with 21 attendees in total. The weather was dry and conditions were good, at an attractive cricket ground.

All players contributed to an excellent sporting atmosphere.

Match v Coleshill Cricket Club

On 30th June 2002 the Feltmakers were delighted to have many supporters, including the Master and the Clerk, and were represented by 11 players against Coleshill Cricket Club, near Amersham. The weather was good and Coleshill had a strong side with several 1st XV players.

The Feltmakers bowled and fielded commendably, limiting Coleshill to 216 runs for six wickets.



Highlights included wickets for Past Master Geoffrey Farr, Jeremy Bedford and Alex Flower, whilst Simon Curtis produced a good batting performance.

The final results were:

- 1st: Simon Curtis & David Atkinson (guest)
- 2nd: Geoffrey Farr & Rob McLeod (guest)

Prizes and champagne were presented by the Master to the winners. Everyone enjoyed an excellent two course buffet supper and bar in the Club pavilion.

Our thanks go to Past Master Derek Hilton who arranged the availability of the ground.

Facing this total, the Feltmakers started slowly. But confidence developed and the Feltmakers came close to reaching the home side's total, with 202 runs for four wickets, drawing the match.

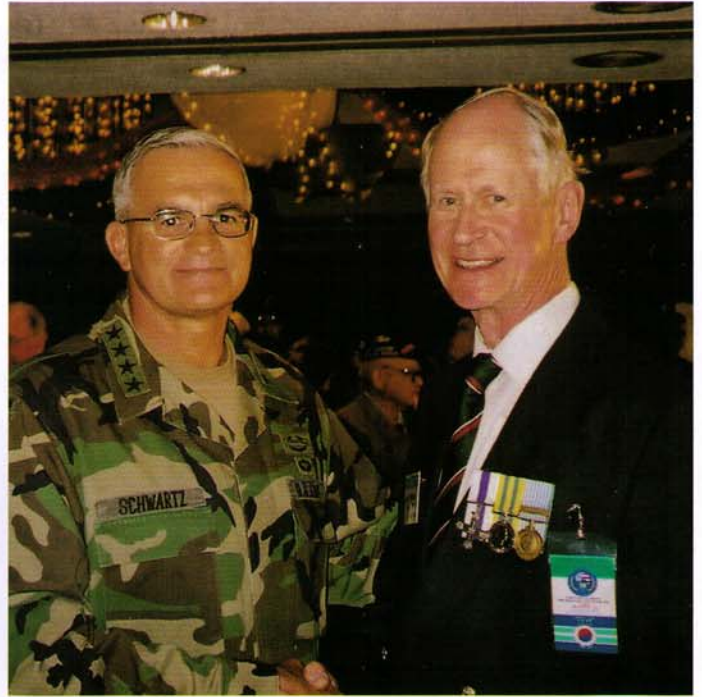
Our thanks go to Peter Simeons who organised both events with the help of Simon Curtis.

Reunion in Korea

In April 2002, Past Master John Bowler M.C. led a party of 108 British Korean War Veterans and wives on an official re-visit to Seoul, South Korea. There were 6 parades, 7 wreath layings, a number of moving outdoor services, speeches, etc. during the party's 8 day stay. John and his wife remained a further week to "unwind", visit the palaces and the National Museum, go on the river and experience the splendid Underground, the markets and other tourist attractions.

It so happened that the Lord Mayor of London, Alderman Michael Oliver, was also in Seoul at the same time, carrying out Mayoral duties with a rapid three countries tour – South Korea, Vietnam and Thailand. In his party were the Sword Bearer, Brigadier Connor, and Sheriff David Mauleverer and their ladies. Past Master Bowler had learnt of the Mayoral trip from Sheriff Mauleverer, having met him at the Master's Dinner on Plow Monday. With the help of the Sword Bearer and the British Embassy, a meeting was arranged between the Veterans and the Mayoral party at Panmunjom (where the cease-fire was agreed and the Peace Talks continue even 49 years on). The Lord Mayor photographed 3 Gloucester Ex-prisoners of War on Freedom Bridge – the bridge at Panmunjom over which the prisoners returned – and later sent them prints. He had made 7 speeches in two days.

The photographs show John Bowler meeting with the United States Supreme Commander, Marine General Schwartz, during a most interesting Veterans' Day



organised by the American Forces consisting of briefings, an outstanding parade (including the Veterans), a splendid luncheon, speeches and an intriguing full-dress display of the latest weaponry. The General then made special arrangements for the British party to be taken to their old battlefields which lay in the Demilitarised Zone.

(Above) John Bowler with Marine General Schwartz.

(Below) John Bowler being greeted. In the line-up are (left to right): The American Secretary of State for Veterans' Affairs, the Honourable Principi, General Schwartz, The British Ambassador Mr Humfrey, and (half of) the Canadian Ambassador.



News from HMS Lancaster



The Master, Bill Horsman, with The Clerk and Liverymen on board HMS Lancaster, on the occasion of Her Majesty The Queen's Golden Jubilee Review of the Armed Forces

Commander Ben Key, who was in command of HMS Lancaster until December 2002, has moved on to a “desk job” at the Ministry of Defence in London – a necessary if usually unwelcome step in a naval officer’s career. The Master wrote to him on behalf of the Feltmakers to wish him well in his new post and to pass on to the Ship’s Company our best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

His successor is Commander Paul Chivers OBE, to whom The Master has also written with good wishes and expressing the hope that he and one of his senior officers might be able to attend our Spring Livery Dinner.

Commander Key, in his letter to The Master, said that no less than 60 of his crew were providing temporary fire cover for fire stations in Hampshire, Surrey and Sussex and that had resulted in a delay in starting on their deployment to the South Atlantic. However, this delay had enabled Ben to seize the initiative in inviting a number of Liverymen, other than members of the Court, to spend a day on board the ship.

Ceremony of Presentation of the Lord Mayor's Hat

The presentation took place on the afternoon of Tuesday 12th November 2002. The timing was switched to the afternoon as the Lord Mayor, Alderman Gavyn Arthur, was hosting a luncheon at Guildhall for the President of Mexico.

In the unavoidable absence of the Upper Warden, the Renter Warden and the Third Warden, the Master invited Immediate Past Master Bill Horsman, Past Master His Honour Keith Devlin and the Fourth Warden, Geoffrey Vero and the Clerk to lunch with him at his Club, the City of London Club, following which they walked over to the Mansion House where they were met by Colonel Billy King Harman, the City Marshal, as the Lord Mayor was slightly delayed.

In due course, they were joined by the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress (Carole Blackshaw), as well as the Lord Mayor's weekend guests and good friends of the family of the Master, His Honour Judge Bernard Lever and his wife Anne, for a very relaxed and enjoyable presentation.

The occasion was made all the more enjoyable because of the friendship subsisting between the Lord Mayor and Judge Bernard Lever, whose family friendship with the Master's family spans three generations. The Lord Mayor and the Master, as undergraduates reading Law at Christ Church, Oxford, were both taught by the same Law Tutor, Professor Edward Burn, a guest at the Master's Plow Monday Dinner.

The Lady Mayoress was presented with a hatpin by the Master and it was particularly appropriate that Past Master His Honour Keith Devlin was present as his had been the original initiative in creating this as the Lady Mayoress' gift.

Past Master His Honour Keith Devlin and the Lord Mayor had also met as Judge and Barrister.

Following the presentation, the Master, Past Masters and Wardens and the Clerk drank the health of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress.



The Master, David Bentata, presenting the Feltmaker Hat to the Lord Mayor, Alderman Gavyn Arthur

THE MASTER'S LIVELY ACTIVITIES

2002

4th October	Court Meeting & Installation Dinner	Haberdashers' Hall
8th October	Dinner with Plaisterers' Company, with The Clerk	Clothworkers' Hall
10th October	St Paul's Ethics Lecture	St Paul's Cathedral
18th October	Past Masters' Lunch	Army & Navy Club
24th October	Official Opening of Haberdashers' Hall by HM The Queen, with The Clerk	Haberdashers' Hall
4th November	Royal British Legion Remembrance Service	St Paul's Cathedral
12th November	Presentation of the Lord Mayor's Hat	Mansion House
14th November	Lord Mayor's address to Masters and Clerks	Mansion House
18th November	Common Hall Meeting & Livery Society Dinner	Cavalry & Guards Club
19th November	Dinner with Solicitors' Company, with The Clerk	Drapers' Hall
26th November	Reception for Recipients of Awards Lord Mayor's 800th Anniversary Awards Trust	Mansion House
3rd December	Dinner with Weavers' Company, with The Clerk	Vintners' Hall
5th December	Dinner with Makers of Playing Cards, with Linda	Mansion House
12th December	Master and Wardens Meeting and Lunch	56 Davies St & Bucks Club
19th December	Service of Dedication & Thanksgiving	Bevis Marks Synagogue

2003

13th January	Court Meeting & Master's Plough Monday Dinner	Armourers' Hall
14th January	Dinner with Tobacco Pipemakers and Tobacco Blenders, with The Clerk	Painter-Stainers' Hall
22nd January	Memorial Service for Sir Roger Cork Bowyer Lunch Butchers' Hall	St Paul's Cathedral
23rd January	Court Dinner of Actuaries' Company, with The Clerk	Haberdashers' Hall
27th January	Divine Service, St Michael's Cornhill Myddleton Lunch with Water Conservators' Company	Tallow Chandlers' Hall
10th February	Visit to Treloar Trust School, with Linda Livery Society Dinner.	Upper Froyle, Alton, Hampshire 56 Davies Street
5th March	HM The Queen's Reception for Lord Mayor's Appeal	St James's Palace
6th March	Lunch & Trustees Meeting	Bucks Club
7th March	Lifers' Lunch	East India Club
18th March	Master and Wardens Meeting Court Luncheon in honour of Chief Commoner Mrs Joyce Nash MBE, CGC	56 Davies St
27th March	Lord Mayor's Dinner for Masters, Prime Wardens & Upper Bailiff, with Linda	Mansion House
28th March	United Guilds' Service, with Linda Sir Hugh Wontner Memorial Lunch	St Paul's Cathedral Savoy Hotel
1st April	Visit to Breakthrough Breast Cancer (with Linda)	Research Centre, Fulham Road
4th April	Lunch with the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs and Judges	Old Bailey
7th April	Court Meeting & Spring Livery Dinner	Painters' Hall

History in the making - an update

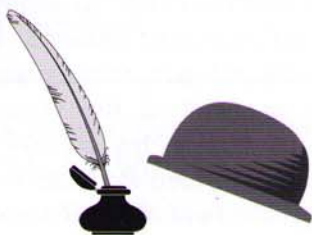
Much information has come to light for the book 'The Feltmakers' History'. This includes various old felt hats including a workman's hat of 1580 and a Cromwell's hat – a fur felt. Nash was Court Hatter to William III, Wagners to George I, II and III and, of course, Freddie Fox to our present Queen. As well as the 9 Knights on the Court in 1927, we had 4 Sheriffs in the 1920s and 4 Chancellors of the Exchequer in Victorian times. Deep involvement with the formation and running of the Research Association was one of the highlights of the 20th Century together with our two Lord Mayors and the sporting activities of the Feltmaker Society. Our gaps in the 17th and 18th Centuries are slowly being filled.

It is essential we have a good History for our Quatercentenary. We also wish to limit the burden of the cost falling on our general funds in view of the considerable extra costs that will be incurred. For this reason Past Master Bill Horsman asked the Livery in his year of office to support the History through donations. The response of the Livery has been marvellous. More than 50 Liverymen have contributed more than £15,000 and we are most grateful to them for their generosity. It appears that the cost could be £20,000 for the History we all want. If you have not contributed, would you please give it serious thought. If we can raise the extra £5,000 it will make all the difference. A donation of any size would be appreciated.

In the meanwhile our grateful thanks go to all those who have so far sent donations. They are:

M Winfield, J Christie-Miller, D Holborow, G Speed, G Farr, J Elliott, G O Vero, D Hilton, P Grant, P Laycock, D Bentata, N Heal, S Wood, K Devlin, J Rowley, J Wallworth, P Keens, M Harper, I Hutchinson, N Edwards, D Davies, B Treby, J Brassington, N Hilliard, E Wood, S C Wood, A Skrimshire, T Purslow, E Winfield, R Cracknell, D Watling, I Wellesley-Harding, C Simeons, B Minninghan, E Shawyer, J Ray, J Palamara, J Curteis, E Rose-Lawson, A Phillips, D Bonham, B D S Burgess, G Wontner, W Horsman, P Cobb, S Bartley, N Mellstrom, D PH Burgess, S Leslie, P I Wright, D Bedford, J Bowler, R Farmer and B George.

John Bowler



Feltmaker puts on a Charity Millinery Show in the city

In true "Feltmaker" fashion, Court Assistant Eda Rose Lawson of Eda Rose Millinery, will be showing a large collection of her couture millinery at a fund raising charity show in the City on Thursday 1st May 2003. The show will be in the form of a ladies luncheon at Drapers Hall, and is in support of the Spinal Injuries Association. 200 ladies will attend the luncheon which will be followed by a talk on millinery by Eda after which she will parade 40 of her hats around the tables on professional models.

Eda has developed something of a reputation for these luncheons; a similar one held at Woburn Abbey recently raised almost £20,000 in support of the Racing Welfare Charities.

Whilst the luncheons are essentially of interest to ladies, gentlemen are also invited. Tickets are £60 each and, if anyone is interested, they should contact Eda direct.

Last year Cunard invited Eda as guest lecturer on board the Queen Elizabeth 2 and also to put on an Eda Rose Millinery Ascot hat show for the finale of their Jubilee World Cruise.

Flying to Cape Town together with a collection of 35 model hats was quite a challenge; however the reward of two blissful weeks on board and the overwhelming congratulations she received made it a very memorable assignment indeed!

Livery notice board

Congratulations

All Feltmakers will be delighted by the news that Mrs Deputy Joyce Nash OBE has been elected Chief Commoner in the Corporation of the City of London. She is the first Feltmaker to hold this high office. She will in future be addressed as Chief Commoner Mrs Joyce Nash. Congratulations, Joyce!

Forthcoming Events – 2003

Wednesday 7th May - Golf Day & Dinner - Harpenden Golf Club, Hertfordshire

Wednesday 21st May - Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot - Holland & Holland

Wednesday 4th June - Single Wicket Cricket Tournament - Beaconsfield / Knotty Green

Friday 6th June - The Master's Bisley Day (see below)

Friday 13th June - Ladies' Banquet - Mansion House

Saturday 28th June - Livery Cricket Match - Amersham

Monday 7th July - Court Meeting and Dinner - Barber Surgeons' Hall.

Friday 3rd October - Court Meeting and Installation Dinner - Haberdashers' Hall

Contacts for sporting events are:

Golf - Gerry Higginson - 01242 602827

Shooting - Brian Minnighan - 01582 507181

Cricket - Peter Simeons - 01494 764888

The Master's Bisley Day

The Master is organising a Livery Day on the ranges at Bisley on Friday 6th June. A detailed letter is being sent out separately, but the programme is likely to be as follows:

1130 Assemble at North London Rifle Club, Bisley
– talk by the Master

1215 Drinks and light lunch in the Club

1330 Shooting on the ranges, to include

- Black powder pistol
- Shotgun (two disciplines)
- Long range full bore rifle (1,000 yards)

1630 Tea & departure

The numbers will be limited to a maximum of 24 and visitors will be divided into teams for the shooting. The Master has capped the cost at £100 per person.

400th Anniversary

Under the leadership of the Upper Warden, Patrick Burgess, extensive planning of events to mark the 400th Anniversary of the Company in 2004 is moving forward with vigour. Further details will be published in due course but meanwhile an attractive commemorative tie has been manufactured for which orders are now being taken by the Clerk.

Elections to The Livery

David Erwin was elected to the Livery in April 2003. Originally from Northern Ireland, he attended Reading University and qualified as a Chartered Surveyor. He is a Partner at Healey & Baker, having joined some 15 years ago, and worked closely with Peter Winfield as well as Andrew Gulliford. He is a keen golfer.

His home address is: Saxonfield, Kingston Lisle, Nr Wantage, Oxfordshire. Tel: 01367 820717.

Michael Gorham, son of Liveryman Jim Gorham, was also elected to the Livery in April 2003. He was educated at Millfield, where he represented Great Britain in under-21 fencing, and the London School of Economics. He attended Insead where he obtained a French MBA and now works for PA Management Consulting. Michael has done a lot of fund-raising and is keen to get involved with the Livery on charitable matters.

His home address is: Studio K, 52 Florida Street, London E2 6AT. Tel: 020 7739 2718.

Common Hall

The first Common Hall in the history of the Company took place at the Cavalry & Guards Club on 18th November 2002 and was attended by 58 Liverymen. The idea behind the meeting was to bring Liverymen up to date with the Company's affairs and activities and to create a forum for input and discussion by the Livery. After an introduction by the Master, a series of short presentations were given covering the Company's finances, the Charitable Foundation, the Quatercentenary plans, the History, the Livery Society and The Feltmaker magazine. After questions and answers, those present attended a splendid dinner for which there was no formal seating plan, places being drawn out of a hat.

The meeting was generally considered a great success and it is planned to repeat it next November. Our thanks to Past Master Commander Ian Wellesley-Harding who, as Secretary of the Cavalry & Guards Club, had arranged the excellent facilities for the meeting and dinner.

The Feltmakers Society

The Society's Annual Dinner was held once again at the Royal Green Jackets Officers' Mess on 10th February 2003, being moved from its usual November date because of the timing of Common Hall. Assistant Nick Heal had stood down at the previous Committee meeting, having been Chairman for the past three years, and Assistant Simon Bartley presided at the Dinner as the new Chairman. The Master, in his address to the Society, thanked Nick for all his hard work and everything he had achieved during his term of office and wished Simon well on his appointment.