



The Master's Themes - Fellowship, Charity and The Maintenance of Standards in our 400th Anniversary Year

"The eyes of his friends are the best mirror a man can have". May I say I shall always feel privileged and be very glad to have the advice that all of you can give me both individually and on the Court.

I am aware of how fleeting is the year of one's mastership and how quickly themes are whisked away on winds of time and are gone like a will of wisp.

I should like, in the year to come for us to lay stress on the three fundamental objectives which inspired our foundation: "Fellowship, Charity and The Maintenance of Standards - and as riders to those, let us add "family" and "having fun".

I very much hope that over the coming year we will show a generosity of spirit in all our dealings with each other, in our support of each other, in furtherance of the fellowship of the Livery and - looking outward - in our hospitality and in our bounty.

I can tell you one thing I have found out already: "the chap who is in the Chair has to spend more time on his feet than anyone else! it is the hinge that squeaks that gets the grease". "Omnia videre, in ultra dissumalare, pauca corrigere"

It is in the nature of the corporate governance of our Company that the Master makes all the wrong and unpopular decisions and everyone else makes the others! And of course that *is* right. The system is designed to ensure that a Master's obsessions can only lightly shift - if at all - the direction in which the Company's life is rolling forward. And the Company and the Court are consensual places where the best results are produced with contributions from everyone.

I would like to suggest that in this our 400th year we should revisit and strengthen the objectives which gave us our foundation. Fellowship, Charitable giving and The Maintenance of Standards - of quality and of fair dealing.

Then there is our charity. The Lord Mayor and the Corporation constantly stress that if we don't justify - and give life - to our fellowship with outward looking generosity it will wither on the bough - or be brought to an end by statute as was threatened in the 19th century. In this field of endeavour we have to do more if it is the last thing we do - or it will be the last thing we do!

There are many members of the Company - and their wives and partners - who work immensely hard on our activities and projects - sports, investment and the events for the 400th - and, of course, the History. It is impossible to mention them all, but I am sure everyone would like me to mention John Bowler and his wife Gillian. They have (and they are not the authors) produced something like 130,000 words for the History, researched innumerable nooks and crannies and given up holidays and family time to do it. It will be a marvellous production when it is published next year. "I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and most prosperous New Year in this our forthcoming 400th Anniversary year".



Patrick Burgess on his Installation at Haberdashers Hall

Wardens: Derek Bedford, John Curteis, Geoffrey Vero, Derek Bonham

Immediate Past Master: David Bentata

Clerk: Major Jollyon Coombs

Registered at Stationers Hall **Editors:** Geoffrey Vero & Derek Bonham

Reflections of the Masters' Year - David Bentata 2002 - 2003

Each Masters' Year is unique, compounded of a heady mix of the splendour of Livery and civic functions, the chemistry of the fellowship of the Wardens and Clerk, and of the fascinating personalities one has the privilege of meeting.

Allied with all of this is the sobering thought that, as Master, I was responsible for the Livery, comprising all the approximately 170 members, and for its reputation in the City and further afield.

I was conscious, nevertheless, of the support I could look to of those past the Chair as well as of the Wardens, Members of the Court and indeed of members of the wider Livery to all of whom I extend now my grateful thanks.

There were some wonderful highlights which Linda and I will always recall with pleasure, as we progressed through the year.

Each Livery Dinner was special, each different in character from the previous one. The Installation Dinner at Haberdashers Hall, the first in the new hall with the Feltmakers' Stained Glass Window; The Plow Monday Dinner, in the Armourers' and Brasiers Hall by candle-light in the presence of the Sheriffs; the Spring Livery Dinner, with my principal guest General Sir Geoffrey Howlett bringing a reflection of history and a judgement on the recent conflict in Iraq; and the splendour of the Ladies Banquet at the Mansion House, with the Lord Mayor and my cousin Lord Millett as principal guest.

The influence and presence of Linda's and my families at both this occasion and at my Service of Dedication and Thanksgiving at Bevis Marks Synagogue was a particular source of pleasure. However, it was the overall support of members of the Livery that contributed so much to making it such a happy year.

We had a lot of fun while supporting the serious side of the year such as charitable activities, most notably the Clerk's most successful walk in Jordan, and the civic and charitable activities of the Lord Mayor, as well as our sports programme. A highlight of this was my Masters' Bisley Day.

Finally, it is fitting as Patrick starts his year as Master, to pay tribute to those without whom my year would have been the poorer, Major Jollyon Coombs, our Learned Clerk, a stalwart organiser now coming into his own under his third Master; The Very Reverend Colin Semper, the Chaplain, never at a loss for the appropriate and inspiring Grace for all the occasions, appropriately tailored for the Company's first Jewish Master.

I should like to thank all the Members of the Court for electing me and for granting me the privilege of leading the Company in my year of office. I could not have done all of this without the active support and encouragement of Linda, my partner, who on so many occasions, accompanied me in representing our Company.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Liverymen

WE NEED YOUR INPUT

In future the Feltmaker will be produced under the editorship of Ken Fordham, supported by Rowland Brown, Robin Shirley and Eric Shawyer under the direction of the Editor in Chief who will be the Fourth Warden of the time.

This sub-group over the last three months has been meeting to determine how best to improve and innovate the Feltmaker to make it the communications newsletter for the 21st Century.

The key to making it more user friendly and interesting is the maximum input from all liverymen of interesting articles,

facts and events, so please bombard us with copy about: yourselves, events, changes in career, circumstances, births, deaths, marriages, grandchildren, interesting overseas travels, etc. We will also be running articles about new liverymen and ladies, and will be requesting different members of the Livery to write about interesting aspects of their career and how it relates to the work of the City and the Livery.

Yours expectantly

Geoffrey Vero.

New Appointment for Renter Warden

Renter Warden Commander John Curteis was, earlier this year, appointed Vice-Lord Lieutenant of his home county, South Glamorgan.

John, who has been a deputy Lieutenant for some 12 years, explained "it is a grand title and a great honour to be given this appointment. In effect, it means that I am the senior Deputy Lieutenant and the first to whom the Lord-Lieutenant will turn to carry out any duties which he is unable to do himself. These usually involve attendance at church services, parades and ceremonies and presentations of awards. Royal visits will nearly always be handled by the Lord Lieutenant".

However, on 5th June 2003 The Queen, accompanied by The Duke of Edinburgh, and The Prince of Wales visited Cardiff to open the new session of the Welsh Assembly. The Prince of Wales arrived separately and, for part of the day, carried out a different programme of engagements from The



Queen and The Duke who were, of course, received and escorted by the Lord-Lieutenant. It therefore fell to John to meet The Prince of Wales on his arrival at Cardiff Heliport and accompany him throughout the day. John added "I think The Prince knew that this was my first royal visit. He treated me very kindly and everything went without a hitch".

The New Fourth Warden

Derek Bonham was born in 1943. Son of a north Buckinghamshire farmer, he was educated at Bedford School where he was an enthusiastic oarsman, rowing in the 1st VIII for two years.

He took up accountancy articles with a mid-sized West End practice. After qualifying he moved to Whinney Murray & Co. (now Ernst & Young LLP) in the Netherlands to round off his professional experience.

He returned to the UK after 15 months to join Staflex International Limited, a publicly listed textile manufacturer as a management accountant. He soon became chief financial accountant and then group planning accountant at a time of rapid and significant change in the company. Derek said "Although I was only there three and a half years it was a terrific experience for a young accountant and I got involved in many commercial aspects of the group."

He then joined Hanson Trust Limited (subsequently Hanson PLC) in 1971 as deputy financial controller when it was still a very small conglomerate, adding "I thought I would still have a little bit more fun before joining a blue chip but I stayed on because it was so exciting." He became an associate director in 1976, finance director in 1982, chief executive in 1992 and additionally deputy chairman in 1993. He spent much of his time travelling to and throughout the USA. Derek led the demerger of Hanson into various businesses, taking on the non-executive chairmanship of Imperial Tobacco in September 1996 and becoming



executive chairman of The Energy Group PLC on the final stage of the demerger in February 1997. The company was taken over by TXU Corporation of the USA and Derek subsequently joined their board as a non-executive director. He also served as a non-executive director at Glaxo Wellcome/ Smithkline from 1995/2001; deputy chairman of Newsquest plc 1997-1999; chairman of Cadbury Schweppes plc 2000-2003 and interim chairman of Marconi plc from September 2001 to December 2002, leading towards the company's successful restructuring.

Derek and his partner, Dicky, split their time between London and north Hampshire. He has two married daughters and five grandchildren. He is an enthusiastic skier and has a chalet in the Swiss mountains.

The Feltmakers Design Award 2003

This years First Prize was awarded to Kerri Symes from Northampton College at the annual banquet of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London held at the Mansion House on Friday 13th June. The standard of entries was considered to be exceptional. The judges were particularly impressed by the quality of the making and also the attention given to producing the Artwork and the general presentation of the Design process. The award to a student from Northampton marks a first for that college.

1st Prize: **Kerri Symes** £500 Northampton College

2nd Prize: **Vivienne Harris** £300 K&C College

3rd Prize: **Georgina Dow** £150 K&C College

Artwork & Presentation:

Tatiana Henderson Stewart £75 K&C College

Craftsmanship:

Shama Amar £75 Northampton College

Innovative use of Felt:

Yasmin Rizvi £75 London College of Fashion

Commercial Appeal:

Eloise Collete £75 K&C College

William Horsman - Chairman The Feltmakers Design Award



The Rt.Hon. The Lord Mayor Alderman - Gavin Arthur, Ms Kerri Symes, The Lady Mayoress - Miss Carole Blackshaw, The Master - The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers - Mr M D A Bentata.



Winning Designs on Display at the Mansion House Ladies' Banquet

Ceremony of Presentation of the Lord Mayor's Hat November 2003

The annual presentation took place on the afternoon of Tuesday 11th November (Remembrance Day) at 3pm following the Lord Mayors' Banquet at Guildhall the previous evening.

The Master was accompanied by the Upper Warden - Derek Bedford, Renter Warden - Cdm. John Curteis, Third Warden Geoffrey Vero, the new Fourth Warden - Derek Bonham, together with the Clerk - Major Jollyon Coombs. Immediately prior to the presentation the Master had most generously hosted a splendid lunch at his West End Club - Boodles, where he is Chairman elect.

On arrival at the Mansion House they were greeted by Colonel Billy King Harman, the City Marshall.

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Robert Finch together with Patricia his wife, the Lady Mayoress, who had come on from the ANZAC remembrance service at Hyde Park Corner, were introduced to the Master and Wardens prior to the Master

presenting formally the Lord Mayor with his Hat, which he had waved enthusiastically from the Coach at his show the previous Saturday.

The Master had much to discuss with the new Lord Mayor as they both have had extensive experience as practising Solicitors in the City and are also shooting men.

The Lady Mayoress was presented with a hat pin by the Master, and she graciously attached the pin to the gorgeous hat she was wearing for the occasion. She is a member of the Gardeners Company and her hat had been made by Katherine Franklin Adams, who is the daughter of Patrick Franklin Adams, a past Master of the Merchant Taylors Company.

Following the presentation, the Master and Wardens drank to the health of the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress and wished them a most successful and fruitful year.



The Master and Wardens with the Lord Mayor after presenting the Feltmaker Hat.

The Role of the Office of the Chief Commoner

An explanation is required as to the meaning of the title. In rural England a commoner is a person who has joint rights with others in the common lands of a Manor, and for centuries the Commonality of London enjoyed similar rights in the land in and around the City. The Chairman of the City Lands and Bridge House Committee presides as a trustee for the Citizens and should ensure that the common estate of the citizens is not wasted but preserved for the enjoyment of Commoners to come. Thus there is a certain aptness in attaching the title of Chief Commoner to the Chairman who is Chief Commoner in deed as well as name.

I personally see my role to be the "Leader of the House", to act as a focal point for members, particularly those who are new or relatively so, and to provide a link between the Members and the Mayoralty. In order to carry out the role, I believe that the Chief Commoner needs to bring to it experience of the City Corporation and the way in which it works, as well as an appreciation of it and what it does for the City and beyond. To carry out the role, any Chief Commoner can expect to devote most of his/her year to it, since it involves membership of a number of other Committees such as Policy and Resources, Public Relations, Standards and the Mayoralty Visits Advisory Committee. All these are central to the making of the Corporation's policies. The Chief Commoner is Chairman of the Hospitality Working Party and Deputy Chairman of any specially elected Ward Reception Committee for State occasions when banquets are given for visiting Royalty or Heads of State. Requests for the use of Guildhall also have to come through the Chief Commoner for approval.

As the senior representative of the Commoners the Chief accompanies the Lord Mayor on at least one overseas visit. The itineraries are not meant for the faint hearted as every hour is accounted for. I was privileged to accompany the Lord Mayor to Singapore, Brunei, Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, Hobart and Perth, all in eighteen days.

Every Chief Commoner brings his or her own expertise to the role and the year in office is full-time voluntary job – but



Chief Commoner Joyce Nash - Member of our Court

one of enormous responsibility, bringing with it a great sense of pride.

The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers' is very honoured that Joyce Nash who is an Honourary Member of our Court should be appointed Chief Commoner in 2003 - a first for the Company.

New Liveryman

David Erwin is a Partner of Cushman & Wakefield Healey & Baker, one of the leading firms of Chartered Surveyors. Born in Belfast in 1965, he moved to England in 1983, originally to Reading University and then to work in London. He lives in Oxfordshire with his wife, Liz and their two children, Olivia (7) and Charlie (5). He is a keen follower of most sports, a regular golfer and owner/breeder of (slow) thoroughbred racehorses



Ladies Banquet Friday 13th June 2003

Another year, another grand occasion held on this apparently unpropitious day in the magnificent Egyptian Room at the Mansion House where 180 of The Livery and their guests enjoyed dinner in the company of the Lord Mayor, Alderman Gavyn Arthur. Also in attendance were Sheriff Brewer, Sheriff Clark and Lt. Col. Richard Martin. The Masters personal guests were The Rt Hon. Lord Millet PC and Their Honours Judge Bernard Lever and Michael Myam, amongst many others.

Steven Leslie QC proposed an amusing and eloquent toast to the guests, which was further enhanced by the splendid

music from the students of The Guildhall School of Music in The Prometheus String Quartet. The evening had a judicial undertone, the Lord Mayor himself being an eminent barrister. The Master arranged further light entertainment from 'The After Eights', who sang from Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Trial by Jury'.

Lord Millet provided an interesting resume of The Master in both his business and person life. The Master himself thanked all the ladies attending the banquet and in particular, his personal guests, Lord and Lady Millet, coupled with the Lord and Lady Mayoress.

Common Hall Meeting November 2003

Forty five members of the Livery converged on the Cavalry and Guards Club on Tuesday 4th November and were given the opportunity of engaging in a highly interactive agenda.

The meeting got off to a cracking start with Feltmaker Major Simon Wilkinson giving the Livery a Powerpoint presentation overview of the Humanitarian Operation of the British Forces in Iraq, in which Simon played a crucial role in the interface between the military and civil authorities, particularly in the period from the start of operations there to September. His well-illustrated talk brought out particularly the theme that, in the British sector at least, the civilian population were well pleased to see the Coalition Forces, and recognised the value to their way of life that liberation brought, redressing more than somewhat the picture created by some sections of the media that the Coalition Forces were generally unwelcome. It was exhilarating to take on board the awareness that one of our Company had played such a key role, recognised too by the Lord Mayor, to whom Simon also reported.

Following Brian Burgess' update on progress with the Feltmaker Charitable Fund, the interactive part of the programme came into full play. Those present were divided into six discussion groups, each looking at three critical questions: the Ladies Banquet and how to secure better attendance, recruitment to the Livery generally, and how to enhance the charitable fund-raising profile of the Company.

Lively and creative discussion ensued, and in the report-back session the full flavour of this came out. On the first topic (the Banquet), there was more analysis of the problems than solutions. Recurring themes were cost and sensitively about the dress code. Among suggestions floated were more 'name' speakers, and a different charge for under 30's.

The creative thinking going on in the groups displayed itself in answers to the second topic (recruitment). Forging links with a wider circle related to our traditional trade - i.e. the world of fashion, accessories or millinery - was matched by the suggestion that we should sponsor something at Ascot (hat connection). Publicising to all members the procedure for recruiting, and inviting Award Winners to join the Company, were other suggestions among many.

Getting the operations supported by the Charitable Fund into fuller focus was seen as important in enhancing the fund's image. Our Livery initiative with the new Southwark Academy offers an outstanding example of how this could be developed, it was suggested. As to fund-raising for the Fund, the Clerk's sponsored walk in Jordan was a classic example of the potential for generating funds from beyond the circle of Liverymen themselves (£13,000 raised).

The final part of the meeting, as members sipped their pre-prandial drink, was a slide presentation on Jollyon's Jordan venture, the very contemplation of which was an appetising taster for the excellent dinner that followed.

Accounts to 31st December 2002

Below are summarised the Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the year to 31st December 2002. The Income Account shows a small surplus of £1,000 before tax and it should be noted that there were considerable donations from Liverymen to help meet the costs incurred or accrued in the year for the Feltmaker History Book, the new Bibles, the repairs to the Banner, and the Lord Mayor's Hat Fund. Normal income/expenditure was of the order of £29,000. The Balance Sheet reflects the reduction in value of Investments in the year due to the considerable continued bear market impact of Stock Exchange equity values worldwide in 2002. Since March 2003 the Company's equity portfolio has shown a recovery in line with the Market improvement. Cash balances as at 31st December 2002 were high in anticipation of expenditure on the Feltmaker History Book and 2004 celebration expenses.

The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers of London Summary of Audited Accounts for year ended 31st December 2002

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2002

	2002		2001	
	£000's	£000's	£000's	£000's
Fixed Assets				
Freehold Land & Buildings		18		18
Gowns, Hats, Plates and Loving Cup		9		9
Investments - at Market Value		<u>187</u>		<u>240</u>
		214		267
Current Assets				
Stock and Debtors	7		6	
Cash at Bank	<u>50</u>		<u>22</u>	
	57		28	
Current Liabilities				
Provision for History	10		-	
Other	<u>10</u>		<u>4</u>	
	20		4	
Net Current Assets		<u>37</u>		<u>24</u>
Net Assets		<u>251</u>		<u>291</u>
Represented by:				
General Fund		235		272
Life Quarterage Fund		<u>16</u>		<u>19</u>
		<u>251</u>		<u>291</u>

Income & Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31st December 2002

	2002	2001
	£000's	£000's
Income		
Quarterage	18	16
Rent	3	3
Donations	29	5
Interest & Investment Income	7	7
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	58	32
Expenditure		
Donation to Haberdasher's Hall	-	10
Cost Provision for Feltmaker History	15	-
Expenditure relative to Donations	13	-
Net cost of functions	2	5
Hire of Halls	4	3
General administration costs	22	21
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	57	40
Net Surplus (Deficit) before tax	1	(8)

The Feltmakers' Seal

The Feltmakers' Seal had been kept by Clerks in lofts, garages and other storage places and had not been seen for many years. Little was known about it. It is ivory - handled with a good silver, oval seal and a pleasant feel. It reads "The Feltmakers Seale of London". It contains a design similar to the present Arms with the exception that it shows a Left hand not a Right hand. It was decided to investigate the Seal, to try to determine how old it was and give it a proper and secure keeping place.

Ms. Terry Bloxham at the Victoria and Albert Museum searched the archives for anything to do with the Feltmakers and found that the V&A exhibited the Beadle's Staff and the Seal in their 'Livery Treasures Exhibition' in 1926. The interesting point is that the loan receipts said "Seal with Ivory Handle, 17th Century".

Having left the Seal with Tim Flannery of the Department of Medieval and Modern Europe at the British Museum, a letter was received 3 weeks later saying "Thank you for depositing your wonderful Seal with us for opinion". It had apparently been shown to three experts who felt it was closest in design to three in the Tonnochy collection with the following three seals dating, 1760-1801, 18th C. and 17th C. late.

Two more seals were produced, one of which was also close in design to the Feltmakers' and was dated 17th Century.

John Bowler and his wife visited John Cherry on March 28th, 2003. He had previously been Keeper of Medieval and Modern Europe at the British Museum. He studied the Seal and made the suggestion that, whilst the Feltmakers' Company could buy a seal whenever they wished, it was more likely to have been linked with one of the following particular dates:

1604: Letters Patent from James I

1650: Freedom of the City

1667: Charles II Charter

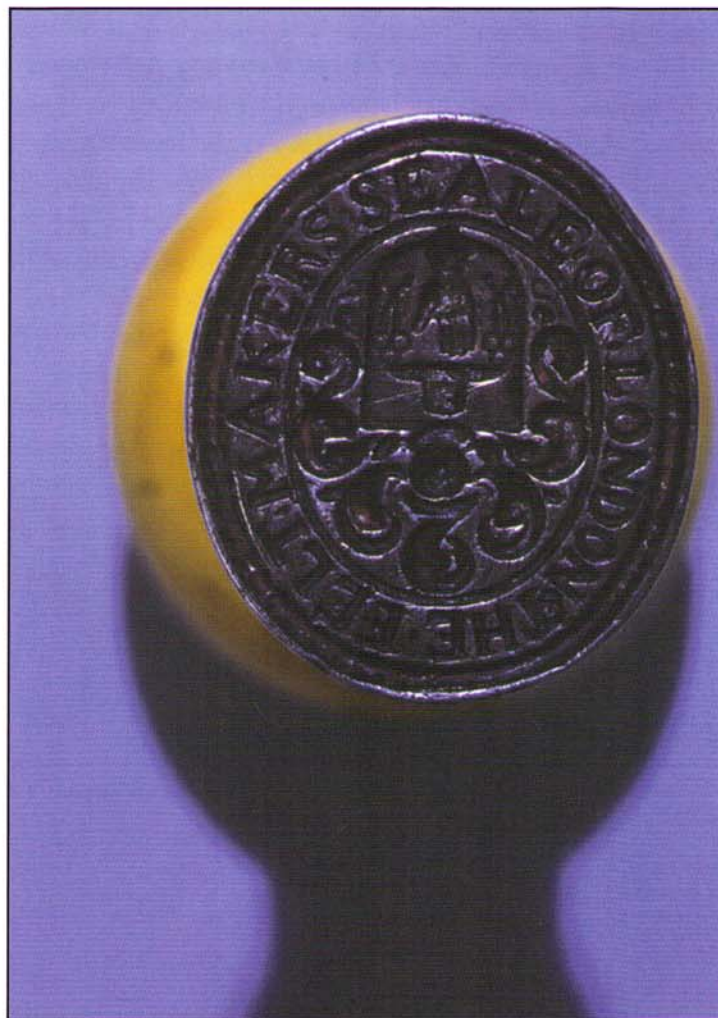
1669: Granted Ordinances

1733: Grant of Livery.

Past Master Brian Burgess has generously offered to supply, in conjunction with Liveryman Gerald Bodmer of Launers (holders of the Royal Warrant for leather goods), a suitable box for the Seal. It will be dignified, provide adequate security and be available to go on display as required.

Some interesting facts regarding the Seal:

- The spelling of the word 'Seal' is 'Seale'.
- The seal was probably commissioned from a London Silversmith or Steel Engraver who, as it was a private commission, would have been unlikely to have marked it.
- The Feltmakers Arms were not registered until 1946 so there is no heraldic description.



Politicians at War

Charles Simeons gets a honourable mention in a new book, compiled by Henry Buxton and published by Pen & Sword Books, which contains contributions by 57 post war Members of Parliament recalling their wartime experiences. Included are Lord Callaghan, Sir Edward Heath, Denis Healey, Roy Jenkins and others. There is a contribution from Past Master Charles Simeons, who was Member of Parliament for Luton 1970 to 1974.

He was still at school at the outbreak of war and then went up to Cambridge awaiting call up, which was to the 123 OCTU at Catterick, where he spent six months. Upon being commissioned he was posted to the 52nd Field Regiment Royal Artillery at Holt, Norfolk, where quite by coincidence he now lives. Almost immediately the Regiment sailed for Egypt, after which they joined the 8th Indian Division, training in Iraq and Syria. In September 1943 they landed in

Italy, where the Division took part in many river assault crossings before taking part in the third and successful battle for Cassino, overlooked by the famous monastery.

He has, since, on a number of occasions, met the colonel commanding the German paras who opposed the Division. Then on via Rome and Florence to the river Senio, where the final major assault took place and Ali Hyder, an Indian sepoy, gained the V.C. Being in a late release group, he returned to England before spending a year at HQRA East African Command, in Nairobi, and finally Northern Command Headquarters 52nd Field and 8th Indian Officers Association. More recently, together with Past Master the late Peter Winfield, who also served in the Royal Artillery after the war, he was involved in fund raising for the conversion of the Grade One buildings at Woolwich Arsenal into a centre for the Archives and Gun Museum.

News from HMS Lancaster

On July 10, 2003 the Sun tabloid featured a rather amusing article about a parrot onboard HMS Lancaster. "...Proud Sunny was made a Leading Seaman in recognition of three unblemished years of service on HMS Lancaster. She was presented with a citation in the captain's cabin as the frigate sailed out of Portsmouth Harbour."

Commander Paul Chivers, OBE, told her: "It gives me great pleasure to promote you – in spite of you trying to peck me all the time." Cmdr. Chivers, 41, handed over Sunny's official Certificate of Advancement – and two anchor badges, the signs of her new rank. She is the Navy's only

mascot and has been given the official service number RN Parrot No 1. Sunny lives in the wardroom, where officers dine and drink, and has picked up a salty vocabulary.

Lt. Murray, 25 – Sunny's divisional officer – said: "The sea miles she has completed are the equivalent of going three times around the world."

The latest news we have of HMS Lancaster is of a visit to Ghana in September. Hopefully Sunny's language was acceptable.

To keep up with all the latest news visit www.royal-navy.mod.uk.

Livery Notice Board

Congratulations

All Feltmakers will be delighted to note that Peter Simeons and Jeremy Brassington were appointed to the Court at the October Court Meeting. In addition Major Simon Wilkinson, who was out in Iraq earlier in the year, has been appointed as the Junior Steward.

Also Nicholas Hilliard has been appointed a Master of the Bench of the Middle Temple where we will be holding our 400th Anniversary Celebration on Friday 10th September 2004. Liverymen who attended the dinner at Painters' and Stainers' Hall earlier in the year will remember with great amusement the start of Nicholas's Toast immediately after he had successfully lead the prosecution of the "Coughing Major" in the notorious "Who wants to be a Millionaire" trial. Congratulation Nicholas!!

400th Anniversary Celebrations

The Company will formally be celebrating its 400th Anniversary on the afternoon of Friday 10th September 2004 at the lovely, Middle Temple Hall where Shakespeare's play - Twelfth Night - was first staged. More details to follow.

Other Major Events for the Diary in 2004

1 April	Livery Dinner - Fishmongers Hall
12 May	Masters Golf Day - Camberley Heath Golf Club
19 May	Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shooting - Holland & Holland
4 June	Single Wicket Cricket Match at Knotty Green
11 June	Ladies Banquet at Mansion House
26 June	Cricket Match at Amersham
15 July	Inter-Livery Tennis at Queens
1 Oct	Installation Dinner at Haberdashers Hall

Humanitarian Operation in Iraq - 2003 - Liveryman Major Simon Wilkinson

The Humanitarian Operations Centre HOC in Kuwait has been a real first. It was established by the Government of Kuwait, who have funded and supported it very enthusiastically under the guidance of General Ali Mu'Min. The HOC was created with a complimentary blend of specialist Coalition experts from UK, USA and Kuwait, working together to provide Humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq.

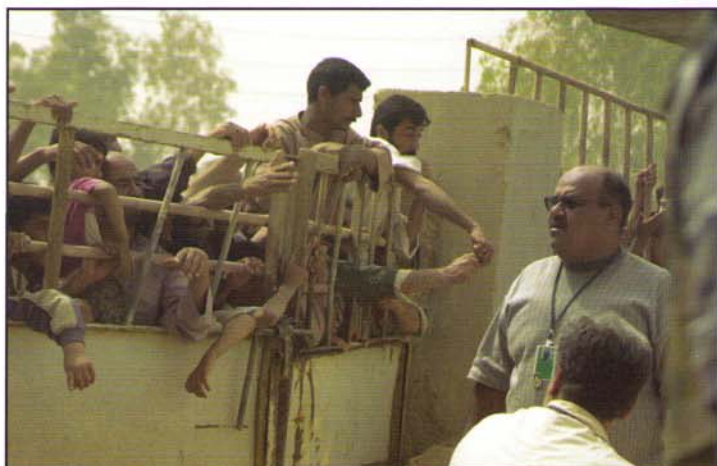
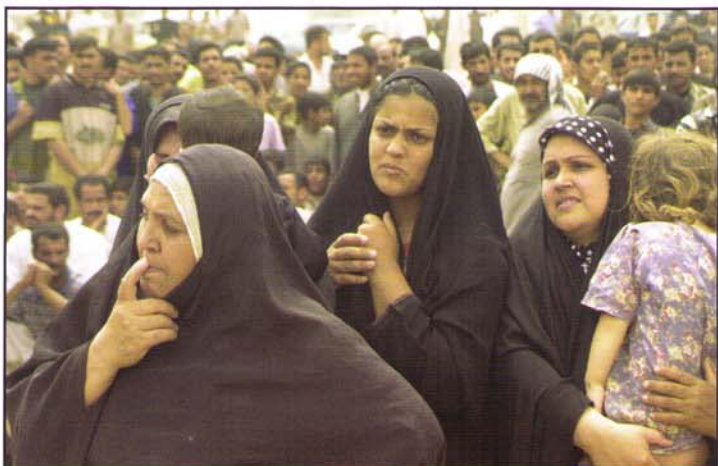
Most importantly, the HOC has been the focus for the International Community that has provided help to those in need. This has come from the United Nations and its various organisations, International Organisations like the ICRC, Non Government Organisations (NGO's) and Private Voluntary Organisations. (PVO's), as well as over 33 Nation States from around the Globe taking on their International responsibilities.

The fifty or so staff provide a central point of contact and, with the Government of Kuwait, staff a one-stop shop for the customers it serves. If you want a visa, travel advice, security information, or policy advice on a wide range of matters, the HOC staff know where to get it. Like the tentacle

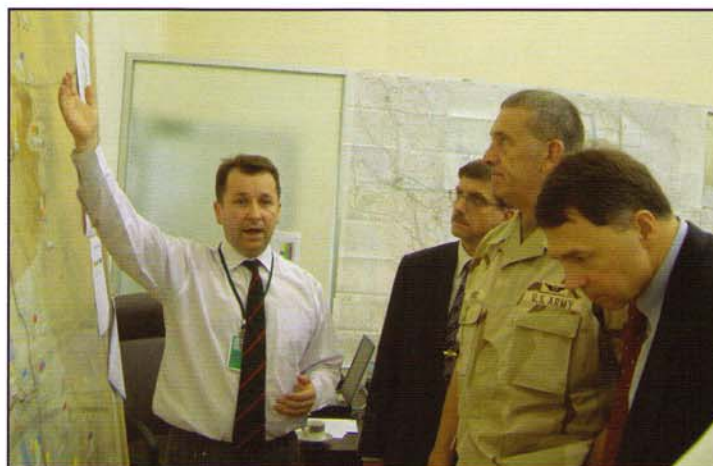
of an octopus, the reach of the HOC is immense, - all sorts of people from across the world talk to and visit the HOC.

The HOC operations staff have burnt the midnight oil coordinating complex logistic solutions to get food and water to those in urgent need, a need that has been identified by troops on the ground, then analysed and assessed by HOC staff and dealt with in the most effective and efficient way. Over 700 missions including 150 Humanitarian Aid flights and 51 Humanitarian Ships have been coordinated, many thousands of trucks and tens of thousands of people have brought relief to many millions of people all in a war-torn and dangerous environment.

There has been no humanitarian disaster, no crisis with the prospect of a massive tragedy, due to the rapid advance of Coalition Forces, the information campaign and effective targeting of the HOC, and subsequent delivery of resource. Help has been diverse, from feeding Hungry children, to feeding the animals at Baghdad Zoo, restoring the electricity and water supply to major cities, organising emergency air evacuations, as well as many other events that are gone but not forgotten and will last for life for those involved.



These pictures show the tragedies of war and the need for Humanitarian Operations



Major Simon Wilkinson briefing Coalition partners

Feltmaker Inter-Livery Tennis Tournament - September 2003

As we drove into central London towards Queens Tennis Club under a blue sky, the Club telephoned us to suggest that since the weather forecast was so good, why didn't we stage the tournament on the outside courts for a change. Other than the odd comment about not having one's clay court tennis shoes, the assembled company of teams representing 13 Livery Companies were delighted to be able to play outside. Unfortunately the Curriers and the Chartered Accountants were unable to muster a side this year due to injuries. However, we were able to welcome back the Shipwrights, and the Horners made their first appearance at the tournament.

The winners of the main competition for the Feltmakers' Trophy for a third year running were the Tallow Chandlers' brother and sister pairing of Alexandra and Christopher Kurkjian. They were presented with the trophy by the Master, together with two tickets for the finals of the Stella Artois tournament in 2004. Their opponents in the final were the Feltmakers' team of Pearl Brassington and Jonathan Collett.

Nick Fraser and Suzanne Came of the Leathersellers, who had a gruelling match against the Carpenters, won the Plate Competition.

Anthony Phillips and his wife Carolyn, freed from their organisational responsibilities of previous years, also played for the Feltmakers.

A dinner was held in the resplendent Presidents Room overlooking what must be one of the most charming and expensive pieces of real estate in central London. The 52 players and some twenty-three guests and fellow



Feltmakers attended the dinner. The day was enjoyed by all and strong interest was expressed in returning the following year.

Next year we are having a special celebration to mark the Quater-centenary and will be playing the tournament outside once more, with the Finals of the Main Competition and the Plate being held on grass. The tournament has also been moved, for 2004 only, to 15th July, immediately following the Stella Artois tournament. All Feltmakers are welcome to come and watch the Tournament, provide a helping hand or just to dine post-Tournament. We hope to see you there.

Walk for Charity to the 'Rose Red City Half as Old as Time'

We arrived in Amman (capital of Jordan) at 0230hrs on Sunday 5th October, straight to bed in a 3 star (going on 1 star) hotel, only to be woken by the first call to prayer at 0500. Dawn came up shortly afterwards and the 'walkers' set off for their first port of call at about 0730.

This day went past at great speed, firstly with a visit to Madaba to look at the church of St. George, followed by Mount Nebo, where God showed Moses the Promised Land. At 1100 the walk officially started.

With a certain apprehension and nervous filling of water bottles, we set off for the Dead Sea at a great rate of knots, downhill over very stony ground.



Major Jollyon Coombs - our clerk - taking a well earned rest!!

Walk for Charity continued...

We went far too fast and ended up exhausted by the Dead Sea at 1530, having covered about 15 miles; a quick swim, or float, and then on to a bus south (not without a pint of cold beer beforehand!).

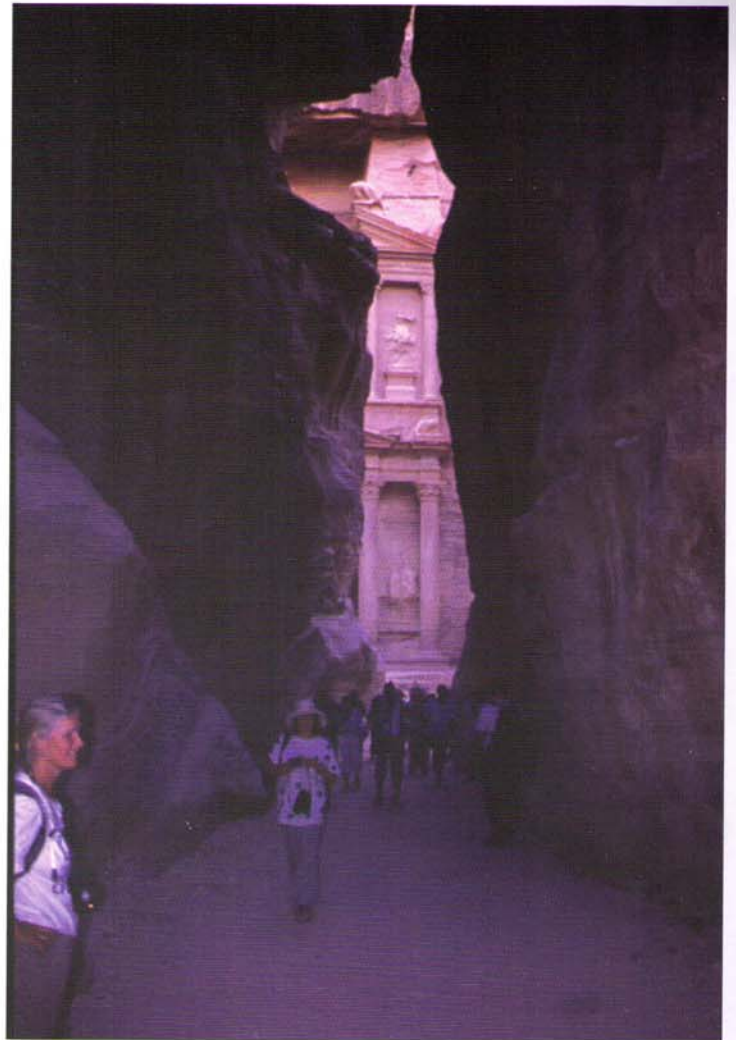
We followed the Jordan Valley/Wadi Araba south for about one and half hours and then transferred into 4x4 vehicles, arriving at our first camp in time for supper at 1830. The food cooked by Ibrahim, our cook, was outstanding throughout the trip. The most memorable thing about the desert at night is the lack of light pollution and consequently, the incredible night sky.

Day Two started at a gentler and rather 'stiff' pace. Very stony ground with gentle undulations and occasional dives into and out of wadis became the steady norm. Shade was a rare commodity as was judging of time and distance. The upshot of this little exercise was 22 miles in temperatures rising to 41 centigrade, one person sent to hospital with dysentery and 16 extremely exhausted walkers. Frankly it was a B...y awful day. However, this is where my story started and we had covered more than half the distance required in five days. From here on it all seemed more than a doddle!

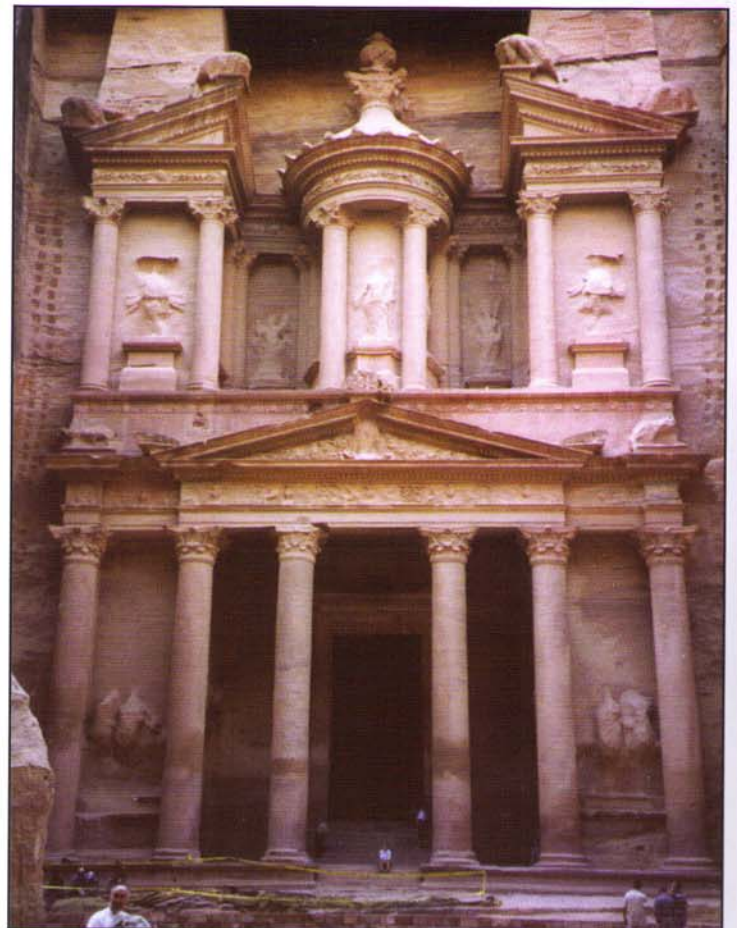
Day Three was an incredible climb of 3000 feet over 16 miles, with ever changing scenery at each turn in the track; at last we didn't have to worry about twisting our ankles on the untracked stony ground of the two previous days. Exhausted, but mightily pleased, we arrived at Wadi Al Qumaer. The temperature had now relaxed down to a bearable 35C in the day, and at 0500 hrs, I recorded the lowest temperature of the trip at 18C. With no dew, I slept under the stars in the 'booming' silence, very occasionally broken by the bark of a fox or jackal.

Day Four was easy at a mere 15 miles of gentle up and down on tracks and the first piece of tarmac 'Aahhh'. On arrival at our destination, Baidah, a wonderfully dishevelled bus came and scooped us up to Wadi Musa and a Turkish bath, oh Heaven of Heavens. Following on we ate a wonderful Arab supper washed down with whisky, wine etc; frankly the wolves, scorpions and camel spiders could have done what they liked that night; actually, we saw very few of them. The last day was a delight. We entered Petra through the little known and, indeed, little used, back door to comparative civilisation at last, and after the last 12 - 15 miles we set our eyes on the incredible City of Petra. Built by the Nabateans between the 1st Cent. BC and 2nd Cent. AD, it had, at its height, housed about 25,000 people; the Romans and Byzantines continued the building process on into the 8th Cent. AD, at which point the City's free standing buildings were almost totally destroyed by an earthquake. The walk had all been worth the effort. The 'effort' of 16 people had consumed 600 litres of water in the five days! and raised, with Gift Aid, about £13,000 towards Treloar's and Save the Children Fund.

"Well done Jollyon - a fantastic achievement"



The Gorge Entrance to Petra



The Treasury House in Petra

Feltmaker Cricket 2003

SINGLE WICKET COMPETITION

The Single Wicket Competition was held on Wednesday 4th June at Knotty Green Cricket Club, near Beaconsfield. This year there were 12 players, an umpire and a scorer, with 22 attendees in total. The weather was dry and conditions were good, at this most attractive village cricket ground.

All cricketers contributed to an excellent sporting atmosphere. Highlights included wickets for the Past Master Geoffrey Farr, Simon Curtis, Alex Flower and Peter Simeons. Nick Heal managed for the first time ever not to lose his wicket.

The final results were:

1st: Geoffrey Farr and Jeremy Dodd (Guest)

2nd: Alex Flower and Rob McLeod (Guest)

Everyone enjoyed an excellent two-course buffet supper in the Club pavilion and bar afterwards, where the prizes were presented by the Master.

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

FAMILY DAY AT LITTLE MISSENDEN CRICKET CLUB - LAST BALL VICTORY!!

On Saturday 30th June, the Feltmakers organised a Family Cricket Day at Little Missenden in Buckinghamshire, which included a 25 over match against the Chiltern 100's C.C. We were delighted to have many supporters including the Master and Linda. The weather was sunny and warm, the location was perfect for the occasion, with a steady supply of chilled drinks available to refresh the spectators during the afternoon. The Chiltern 100's batted first and achieved a creditable 143 runs for the loss of 9 wickets in their 25 overs, with Simon Curtis picking up crucial wickets. The Feltmakers' reply led to a thrilling climax with victory being achieved by the Feltmakers off the last ball of their 25 overs to reach 146 runs for the loss of 7 wickets. Peter Simeons and Jeremy Dodd (Geoffrey Farr's son in law) both scored in excess of 40 runs not out. We were also very grateful to John Winfield for his umpiring skills. Afterwards, Simon Bartley and Nick Heal prepared an excellent BBQ for all attendees, which concluded a most successful and enjoyable day. Peter Simeons, with Simon Curtis' help, organised both events.



The team and the Master before the match against Chiltern 100's at Little Missenden C.C on Saturday 30th June 2003.

Golfing

The Feltmakers' Annual Golf Day was held at Harpenden Golf Club on 7th May. This was the first time for three years that Harpenden has been the venue and the extensive improvements to the course, the changing facilities and the clubhouse were the subject of favourable comment. The day started with a light lunch attended by 22 golfers plus helpers. Play was held in the afternoon in quite glorious summer-like conditions, displaying Bedfordshire at its very brightest and best. Moral support and essential sustenance in the form of champagne was provided at the Par 3 hole used for "Nearest the Pin".

The results of the Golf Day were:

<i>Best Gentleman's Score</i>	<i>Roland Wale (Guest of Geoffrey Farr)</i>
<i>Best Ladies' Score</i>	<i>Daphne Higginson</i>
<i>Best Front 9</i>	<i>Howard Kitchener (Guest of the Master)</i>
<i>Best Back 9</i>	<i>David James (Guest of Neil Edwards)</i>
<i>Nearest the Pin</i>	<i>Richard Nobbs</i>
<i>Longest Drive (Men)</i>	<i>Jeremy Brassington</i>
<i>Longest Drive (Ladies)</i>	<i>Daphne Higginson</i>
<i>Most improved golfer</i>	<i>Nick Heal (by popular acclaim)</i>

The day was rounded off with an excellent dinner in the clubhouse preceded by drinks on the terrace overlooking the course. Special thanks to the Master who joined us for dinner, provided the prizes and presented them to the winners. Next year we return to Camberely Heath Golf Club on Wednesday 12th May 2004.

Walton Heath May 2003

After a year resting, the Feltmakers were accepted for the 2003 Prince Arthur Cup at Walton Heath. This event is run most efficiently by the Livery Companies Golfing Society and some 54 Livery companies compete. The top 40 Companies or so qualify for the following year and the rest of the places are allocated to non-qualifiers from the previous year plus reserves from the bottom 14 or so. In the morning we played with the Basket Makers and the Glaziers. Jeremy Brassington & Geoffrey Farr had a disastrous start bogeying

the first 4 holes, but then a 60ft putt from Geoffrey put us on our way and at one time we had five successive pluses. Geoffrey Vero and Peter Cobb made up the other foursome. The New Course played very well. The overall Winners were the Curriers (for the 1st time) with a wonderful round of +1, followed by the Carmen with -2. The event is a great fellowship day. It's a privilege to play for the Company and we are determined to bring home the Cup in our Centenary Year.

Shooting

Bisley Shooting June 2003

Feltmakers and their families gathered at the National Rifle Association headquarters at Bisley on June 6 for an afternoon's shooting. Following a hearty lunch at the North London Rifle Club pavilion, we were divided into four teams named after various types of hats. The plan was that each team would rotate through four disciplines of target rifle, black powder revolver and two shotgun types: skeet and trap. The shotgun events were held on the new facilities constructed for the 2002 Commonwealth Games and provided excellent shelter. The target rifle shooting (7.62mm) was held on the 1,000 yard range in rather damp and windy conditions. As a result of the banning of most types of pistol shooting, the fourth discipline used muzzle

loaded revolvers of the type in service around 1850-70 in the "Wild West". Loading was directly into each of the six chambers with 24 grains of black powder from a powder horn, followed by a piece of wadding to stop 'flashing over' and a slightly over-sized round lead ball ram-rodged into the .45 calibre chamber, thus ensuring a tight fit. We returned to the Club House for afternoon tea, photographs and prizes. The ladies showed remarkable skill, outscoring most of their male colleagues. My nomination for shot of the day was the Clerk who managed to 'kill' two clays, coming from opposite directions, with one shot! All in all, an enjoyable and instructive day for everyone, irrespective of experience, and one that I hope will be repeated.



Geoffrey Vero won the Calcutta Cup (far right) at the R & A Autumn Meeting this year - one of the "Crown Jewels" of golf

Livery Diary and Activities

2003-2004

2003

17 Dec. (Wed.) 6.30pm Carol Service St. Sepulchre -Without-Newgate followed by supper at Jones Day Gouldens'

2004

12 January (Monday)	Court Meeting followed by the Master's Plow Monday Dinner	Armourers' Hall
09 February (Monday)	Livery Society Dinner	56 Davies Street, W1
4 March (Thursday)	Renter Wardens' Committee Meeting A.M. Trustees Meeting P.M.	56 Davies Street, W1 East India Club
05 March (Friday)	Life Members' Lunch	
11 March (Thursday)	Luton Reception, Lady Mayoress Hat judging, followed by lunch	Luton Museum
16 March (Tuesday)	Master & Wardens' Meeting, followed by lunch	56 Davies Street, W1 Boodles Club
25 March (Thursday)	Lord Mayor's Dinner for Masters, Prime Wardens & Upper Bailiffs	Mansion House
26 March (Friday)	United Guilds Service, followed by lunch	St. Paul's Cathedral Savoy Hotel
01 April (Thursday)	Court Meeting, Livery Dinner	Fishmongers' Hall
12 May (Wednesday)	The Master's Golf Day	Camberley Heath Golf Club
18 May (Tuesday)	Sons of the Clergy Service	St. Paul's Cathedral
19 May (Wednesday)	Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot	Holland & Holland
20 May (Thursday)	Inter-Livery Golf Competition	Walton Heath
27 May (Thursday)	Charity Committee Meeting	56 Davies Street, W1
04 June (Friday)	Single Wicket Cricket Tournament	Beaconsfield / Knotty Green
10 June (Thursday)	Master & Wardens' Meeting followed by lunch	56 Davies Street, W1
11 June (Friday)	Ladies' Banquet	Mansion House
22 June (Tuesday)	Election of Sheriffs	Guildhall
26 June (Saturday)	Livery Cricket Match	Amersham
04 July (Sunday)	Mad Hatters Tea Party	Atherstone, Warwickshire
05 July (Monday)	Court Meeting, July Court Dinner	Leathersellers Hall
15 July (Thursday)	Inter - Livery Tennis	Queens Club
09 September (Thursday)	Renter Wardens' Committee Meeting A.M. Trustees Meeting P.M.	56 Davies Street, W1
10 September (Friday)	400th Anniversary Reception	Middle Temple
15 September (Wednesday)	Master's Dinner for Wardens	Boodles Club
16 September (Thursday)	Master & Wardens' Meeting followed by lunch	56 Davies Street, W1
27 September (Monday)	Election of Lord Mayor	Guildhall
01 October (Friday)	Court Meeting, Installation of new Master & Warden, Installation Dinner	Haberdashers' Hall