

The Feltmaker



The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers Autumn 2007 Master: Geoffrey Vero Issue No. 31

Tribute to Our Master, Derek Bonham 12th July 1943 – 3rd Sept. 2007

These are words written and spoken by Immediate Past Master Commander John Curteis at the Court Meeting on 5th October 2007.

“Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court:

It is with much regret that I find myself presiding at our Court Meeting today, following the recent death of our Master, Derek. I am sure that there must be many Court members better qualified than myself to pay tribute to Derek’s life and work.

I first met Derek in the ante-room of the Royal Green Jackets Mess in 1991 as we waited to be called to interview by the then Master and Wardens of our Company. After initial introductions we soon found that we were both accountants and had worked in the same firm, Ernst & Young or one of its predecessors. However, Ernst & Young were the auditors to Hanson Trust and I soon realised that the man I was talking to was the same Derek Bonham who was the driving force behind that group of companies with which I had had some minor involvement.



Derek’s business career has been fully documented in the various obituaries that appeared in the national newspapers. It was indeed a remarkable career. After the break-up of Hanson into four constituent parts, he became chairman of two – Eastern Group and Imperial Tobacco. In subsequent years, he added Cadbury Schweppes, Marconi and GlaxoSmithKline to his portfolio of chairmanships or directorships.

But Derek’s intense business life did not prevent him from participating as fully as he could in the affairs of our Company. He was elected to the Court in 1995 and I know that the Court was delighted when his other commitments allowed him to come forward as Senior Assistant

and subsequently as Fourth Warden.

It was whilst Derek Bedford was our Master that the full extent of his illness became known and he took the remarkably brave step of asking whether his year as Master could be brought forward by one year, as this was something that he was determined to achieve in his lifetime.

As Upper Warden, he was a great supporter to me during my Master’s year and, as we all know, during his time as our Master he served our Company admirably, missing only one meeting and very few other functions, whilst often being in a state of considerable pain.

I last saw Derek at our Charity Trustees meeting in July, when his contributions to our discussions were, as always, sharp, clear and concise. I am sure that at this time, almost twelve months to the day that he was elected Master our thoughts are with his widow, Dicky, and his family”.

Master: Geoffrey Vero

Wardens: Nicholas Heal, Susan Wood, John Ray, Eda Rose-Lawson

Immediate Past Master: Derek Bonham (Deceased) **Clerk:** Jollyon Coombs

Editorial/IT Committee: Rowland Brown, Judy George, Chris Horsburgh, Edward Hutton, John Ray, Eda Rose-Lawson, Peter Shirley and Eric Shawyer

Registered at Stationers Hall

Geoffrey Vero, FCA

Geoffrey Vero was born in 1947. His father Denis Vero and his elder brother Charles Vero were both Feltmakers and ran the Felt-hat manufacturing business of Vero & Everritt Ltd of Atherstone, Warwickshire, which was established in 1853. Geoffrey was educated at Mill Hill School (1960-65) and qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1970 having served Articles with what is now Ernst & Young in Birmingham.

He joined Savills in 1971 as Financial Controller, and in 1976 became Finance Director and Deputy MD of Diners Club UK. In 1985 he joined Lazards as a

Director in their Private Equity/ Development Capital team, and subsequently built up Causeway Capital, which became ABN AMRO Capital. Since 2002 he has run The Vero Consultancy, and is currently a non-executive director of Numis Corporation plc, Close Brothers Development VCT plc and Crown Place VCT plc and Chairman of EPIC Reconstruction plc.

He is actively involved as a member of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, having recently served four years on The Rules of Golf Committee and is currently on the Championship Committee. He is a past Captain

of Sunningdale Golf Club. His other sporting interests include cricket, rugby and tennis.

Geoffrey is currently President of The Old Millhillians Club in their Bicentenary year as well as being Vice-Chairman of the Court of Governors of Mill Hill School Foundation. He is President of the Surrey Heath Constituency Conservative Association (and Chobham CA). He is a member of the Carlton Club and the MCC.

Geoffrey is married to Frankie and they have three children - Leanora (28), Alexander (26) and Julian (24).

The New Fourth Warden

Eda Rose-Lawson was born and educated in Wales. She studied Art at Goldsmiths' College, London, which led her into millinery, after some years of art teaching at Elmhurst Ballet School and at a number of further education establishments in the Surrey area. She is also a qualified teacher of English as a Foreign Language, although today, her activities are very much centred around fashion and, in particular, hats. Eda specialises in hand-made bespoke millinery, often embellished with her trademark beadwork, and she enjoys the challenge of perfectly complementing her clients chosen outfit, for which she often liaises with the couturier concerned. As a designer and milliner, Eda has raised much money for charity

when invited to put on "Eda Rose" hat shows and speak at various fund-raising events. On one occasion at a ladies luncheon



hat show at Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire her efforts raised £22,000 for the Racing Welfare Charities, however her most memorable assignment was the

request from Cunard to be guest lecturer for two weeks on the final leg of the QE2's world cruise in celebration of the Queen's Jubilee. Her luggage being augmented by a mere forty-five hats! All of which were professionally modelled in the grandest ballroom afloat on the last formal evening of the cruise.

Her husband, George, who has an exhibition business in the Midlands thinks he plays the "Dennis Thatcher" role to her on all Livery occasions. He has been a rowing enthusiast all his life, and it was at Henley when he was honorary press officer for the Regatta that they met. Eda shares his love of the river and rowing. Among her other interests are the Arts, Fashion, Theatre, Antiques and, of course the Feltmakers!

The Master's Message

My Theme for the Feltmakers year 2007/08 is "Scholarship, Service and Sport" or, in golfing terms, SSS – Standard Scratch Score. It will follow the thrust and interests of much of my work outside of my professional and commercial life.

An abiding interest of mine has been the pursuit of excellent academic achievement and the desire that children are brought up to the highest standards and ethos, and that they are given the best possible opportunities to excel at something, whether that be academic subjects, sport, music, drama etc. To that end I have been a Governor of a couple of schools and am currently Vice-Chairman of the Court of Governors of my alma mater – Mill Hill School. My friend, past Headmaster of Wellington College and poet, the South African Jonty Driver (who got locked up during the Apartheid period) was my Guest Speaker at the Installation Dinner in October 2007 at Haberdashers' Hall and spoke on the role of education in 2007.

I have always felt that as we get older we should be putting something back into society whether it is charitable work, counselling and mentoring, serving on public bodies or getting involved in local or national politics. Of course, the finest service anyone can provide to Queen and Country is that of the Armed Forces. My theme for the April Dinner at Skinners Hall is Service, and I have asked my old school friend, Major General John Holmes DSO, MC to be my guest speaker on that occasion. John

won his MC as a young 2nd Lieutenant in Northern Ireland two years out of school and then went on to be Senior C/O of the Special Forces and won his DSO for the 1999 Sierra Leone

as a few golfing friends of mine. Peter's theme will be the role of the Administrator in Sport and the Maintenance of Standards and Ethos.



Campaign. I will be inviting many of my service friends as personal guests that evening and all Livery Members are asked to bring along service friends as guests also.

I have always been passionate about sport and the role sport plays in the "complete" man, together with the opportunity it provides for exercise, companionship, learning how to win and lose, and the ethos which goes with good sportsmanship. Now is the time to give something back to "sport" and I have become somewhat involved with the administration of golf. My guest speaker at Plough Monday will be Peter Dawson who is Secretary of the Royal & Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews (R&A), CEO of R&A Ltd and considered to be No 2 in golf after Tiger Woods! In addition I will be inviting senior figures from the world of tennis, cricket, rugby and racing, as well

I hope that my guest speaker for the Ladies Banquet will be an amusing speaker from the field of politics or business, who will incorporate a little of all of the above, and also cover my interest and involvement in politics and business in a light hearted manner, whilst stressing the importance of financial services in the City of London to the well-being of the economy of the whole country and the high standards which pertain therein.

The main thrust for the year will be raising money for the St Clements Fund, and I have a challenge or two up my sleeve. Let's all have a great year together.

Scholarship Service Sport – SSS Standard Scratch Score (or pursuit of highest standards)

Geoffrey Vero

Feltnakers' Design Award

Judging the Feltnakers' Design Award is always a special occasion in the Livery calendar, and on the morning

Taking the £1,000 First Prize was a rather fun tiara-style head-piece by Alexandra Gold. Second prize of £500 was a very wearable little

see the results of so much hard work although this year the judges had some difficulty in agreeing on what was in, what was out, what was hot, and what not!



Following the completion of the judging, a delicious lunch was served in the small dining-room at Haberdashers' Hall which was greatly enjoyed by all including the Master, Mr Derek Bonham, the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Lesley Stuttard along with the two Sheriffs' wives, Mrs. Theresa Lewis and Mrs. Anne Reagan. Past Master Peter Grant, a trustee of the Feltnakers' Charitable Foundation, and our clerk, Major Jollyon Coombs completed the merry party.

of April 11th 2007 Past Master William Horsman, the organiser of the competition, presented this year's judges with a colourful and interesting display of thirty-seven creations for our inspection. The judging panel comprised

hat by Rebecca Weston. Both are students of Kensington and Chelsea. Third prize of £250 was awarded to Caroline Sinclair of Cardonald College, Glasgow for her very flattering face-framing creation of turquoise felt and red roses. I personally found this one most appealing. It was good to have an interesting entry from Valerie Corona of Belgium, to whom we awarded the £100 Prize for the best 'Artwork and Presentation'. It was a clever idea inspired by Liquorice Allsorts - perfect for the young at heart!



Liverymen Frederick Fox, Eda Rose-Lawson, Rachel Trevor-Morgan and Ian Wright who were joined by guests, Anouska Hoffman, the accessory buyer for the River Island fashion chain and Carole Denford, editor of The Hat magazine.

The design for best 'Commercial Appeal' was submitted by Kyung Ah Bin with a striking side-swept hat in the ever popular black and white. Deanna Buick took the award for 'Craftsmanship' with her peacock-inspired eye-catcher in black felt and diamante. Finally, the 'Innovative Use of Felt' award was won by Bianca Harrington for her delightful "sea-life" chapeau. All three students, who are at Kensington and Chelsea, received £100 each. It was encouraging to

Finally, the winner of the Feltnakers' Award for 2007, Miss Alexandra Gold, escorted by her proud tutor, milliner Noel Stewart, was presented with her £1,000 cheque at the Mansion House on June 8th on the occasion of the Ladies' Banquet.

Eda Rose-Lawson

Once again Kensington and Chelsea College was well represented being awarded no less than five of the seven prizes!



Spring Livery Dinner

Apothecaries' Hall 2nd April

Are there would – be Formula 1 Racing drivers secretly lurking in the ranks of the membership of the Feltmakers' Livery? What other special reason can there be for



notching up the second highest attendance at a Livery Dinner this decade, exceeded only by the attendance numbers in our special quatercentenary year? The opportunity to sit at the feet (or at the table) of the now legendary Chairman and Chief Executive of the MacLaren Formula 1 Racing Equipe – Mr Ron Dennis CBE - was clearly too good a chance to pass up. The customary numbers at this spring event were swelled by a pleasing number of the Company whom we see less frequently. Their journey was well worth the effort.

The Apothecaries' Hall oozes character and history. The pre-prandial drinks were taken in reception rooms where portraits of rotund Apothecaries' Masters of centuries past gazed down upon us, with no doubt benign approval at

the choice of the champagne. Extensive cases of Apothecary essentials in labelled jars in serried ranks in high wall cupboards imparted a gently silent pharmaceutical warning against over indulgence.

The chaplain launched us into our meal with one of his memorable, striking graces, composed, so he told us, as he travelled in on the train. Rhyming couplets achieved a new dimension, but the company clearly appreciated the creativity of the composition. Apothecaries evidently do not dawdle over their food. We were expeditiously served the well-chosen menu, which connoisseurs of British foods will note was rounded off with Jam Roly Poly, and almost before we had drawn breath we were into the speeches. Peter Simeons got us smartly off the grid, with a well-rounded welcome to our guests. He spotted a link of transport that could be conjured out of the background of the principal guests and he skilfully developed this theme, neatly giving a build-up to our Principal Guest of the evening - Ron Dennis.

Those who rise from the shop floor to become head of multi-million-pound companies or enterprises very often have a special fascination in the story they have to tell. Our principal guest was to be no exception. He told us it was going to be a 'ramble', however it was anything but, and even the non Formula 1 addicts were enthralled by his astutely unpacked story. Here was an aspect of British ingenuity and entrepreneurship of which we could all be proud. It was fascinating to take on board that the recently acclaimed young British driver Lewis Hamilton who was on the victor's podium in Melbourne in March coming third in his inaugural Grand Prix was Maclaren/Ron Dennis nurtured.

All too soon the evening was drawing to a close but not before we had a welcome update from Commander Richard Moss Captain of HMS Lancaster on recent and forthcoming activity of our 'own'ship. The Master, Derek Bonham, then sent us cheerily on our way with a timely stirrup cup.

Rowland Brown



A Stroll or Splosh through Southwark

A guided historical walk of Dickensian London

A party of 23 Liverymen and guests congregated at The Ship, at the north end of Borough High Street. Thus sustained and armed with umbrellas (foreboding weather



loomed) we set foot into Dickensian times with our knowledgeable guide Stephen Humphrey.

Our first stop was at the site of the detested King's Bench Debtor's prison where Southwark had once bordered with Surrey. One of a number in the area, they were profit-making establishments and inmates were obliged to pay their Marshall or 'chum' friend for the pleasure of being there. A release fee was also charged and prisoners unable to do so remained imprisoned indefinitely or until the fee had been paid. This set the scene for our next stop, Marshalsea Prison, sited adjacent to the church of St George on Borough High Street. All that remains now is part of the prison wall but it was inspiring to imagine that the prison had played a significant part in Dickens' life. His father John was incarcerated there with his wife

and young family for a debt of £40. Charles Dickens aged 12 was obliged to work in a 'blacking' factory (making boot polish) in order to keep the family and pay for his father's prison expenses.

This experience greatly influenced his writing. One example is the character of Mr. Micawber in David Copperfield, who was sent to Marshalsea Prison, is said to have been based on his father.

And so into St George's Church, rebuilt in 1746 on a site of an earlier model dating from the 12th century. An elegant building, the galleried interior aptly decorated with many Livery Company Arms. It was a popular place in its day for 'irregular' marriages, which had to be clandestine for various reasons. General Monck (founder of the Coldstream Guards) was married there. He was largely responsible for the restoration of the Monarchy (Charles 11) in 1660 and of interest to the Feltmakers because of the existence of a Delftware charger in the Victoria & Albert Museum which bears the Feltmakers' crest centered above a

crudely painted portrait of the great General. Why did he feel the need to be married secretly.....? - 29 May 1660 celebrated the Restoration and was known as Oak Apple Day. It was therefore appropriate that the Royal Oak was so conveniently placed near the church. On our way to that lively and welcoming hostelry, the heavens opened, down came the rain with tremendous force and up went the umbrellas.

Not far from the pub lies Trinity Square. Designed by Walter Bedford, built between 1824 -32 and the majority still owned by the Corporation of Trinity House. A lovely square of great proportions with a central church, renamed the Henry Wood Hall and now practice home for the London Symphony and Philharmonic Orchestras. A statue of King Alfred, founder of the Navy stands outside. The rain continued, but we stoically continued on to the old Surrey County Goal, Horsemonger Lane where Dickens had been part of a huge crowd of 100,000 witnessing the public hanging in 1849 of Frederick and Maria Manning. It brought out the crowds: man and wife hanged side by side on the goal roof for the murder (for money) of her erstwhile lover. Executed by William Calcroft, a long serving hangman renowned for his 'short drops', whereby most of his victims were strangled to death. On that note, supper at the George Inn beckoned as the rain continued relentlessly. My thanks to all who braved the elements and, again, to Stephen Humphrey for a most informative and interesting evening.

Jane Way

Ladies' Banquet 8th June

The grandeur of the Mansion House never ceases to impress and amaze - the sweeping staircase adorned by the magnificent paintings and the majestic Gallery. The splendour of the Egyptian room, with its columns, stained

waiting diners. Immediately prior to Grace our chaplain, The Very Reverend Colin Semper, invited us all to pause for a moment to remember our friend, Past Master Brian Burgess.

Dinner was the usual fine standard

represent the Lord Mayor this year. He made a particularly enlightening and amusing speech. Thanking our Livery for his hat, he went on to punctuate his speech with a display of the various forms of hat waving, which he executed with considerable expertise and one year's worth of practice. It was clear to us all how much he enjoyed having his hat and how much it meant to him. He added that in fact it is all the more important as it is the act of hat changing that confers the Authority from outgoing to incoming Lord Mayor.

The Master duly made a humorous response and invited Lady Brewer to present the Feltmakers' Design Award 2007 to Ms Alexandra Gold, attended by her tutor Mr Noel Stewart both from Kensington and Chelsea College.



glass windows and ornate gilded ceiling set against the backdrop of the Mace and Sword of the historic office of Lord Mayor of the City of London reminds us Feltmakers and our guests of our privilege in dining there annually.

As is now customary, the winning hats from the Feltmakers' Design Award competition were on display, and several of the female guests welcomed the opportunity to 'try them on' and an air of fun and a little frivolity brought smiles to many. This somewhat impromptu theatrical further demonstrates how we Feltmakers like to enjoy ourselves and in style!

The Master and his procession were accompanied by the Brass Quintet from the Honourable Artillery Company and the traditional slow hand clap by the

one expects from the Mansion House team, the quintet playing from the balcony accompanying us from time to time with a blend of light music which included a fine rendition of the Post Horn Gallop. This, as one would have expected, raised loud applause from an enthusiastic audience. Following dinner, we sang Grace from the 'Laudi Spirituali' AD 1545, followed by the Loving Cup and the ensuing leg stretch as all diners rose, drank and then sat back down in this colourful and historic ceremony that continues to stand the test of a millennium.

The Upper Warden, Geoffrey Vero, spoke wittily and effectively when proposing the Civic Toast. The former Lord Mayor Sir David Brewer, who was absent for our Ladies' Banquet last year, was pleased to have the opportunity to

Responding on behalf of the guests, Sir John Sunderland delivered an interesting speech emphasising the business and commerce aspects of the City and Livery Companies, whilst also touching on his insurance background.

Here's to next year.

Simon Wilkinson

Editor's Note

Congratulations to Assistant Simon Wilkinson on his appointment as Deputy Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire

The Old Bailey Visit

The Old Bailey was first built in 1673 as a medieval courthouse but was destroyed in the Great Fire of London in 1666 and rebuilt in 1673. It is located roughly 200 yards northwest of St Pauls Cathedral and on Tuesday 9th



October 2007, 14 of us entered the iron gates, passed through security and were escorted to Court No. 1 to await our guide, who was to show us over this magnificent building.

And arrive he did! Resplendent in his black uniform, white frilled shirt cuffs and the most superb fan shaped lace bib, starched to within an inch of its life, was the Secondary, the man in charge of the whole of the Old Bailey, Charles Henty.

The Old Bailey is named after the street in which it is located. The courthouse itself was rebuilt several times between 1674 and 1873, but the basic design has remained the same. Originally it was open to the elements in the hope that the supply of fresh air would help to reduce the risk of prisoners suffering 'gaol fever' (typhus) and from infecting others within the court. It was eventually enclosed in the mid 1700's and shortly after an outbreak of typhus ensued, causing the death of 60 people, including the Lord Mayor of London and two judges. The Lord

Mayor of London is always allowed to sit in Court 1, his seat is to the left of the Judge.

The Secondary showed us some of the courtrooms (there are 19 in total) and they are all quite small, with separate rooms for journalists if needed. Any court room artist is never allowed to sketch in court, this must be done outside, and originally spectators were charged a fee for entry, although this ceased in 1860. Court No. 1 where we sat appeared surprisingly small 'in the flesh', but very little had changed over time. It has, of course, seen many famous and infamous people in its time, and I would imagine could tell some stories!

From here we moved to the entrance foyer, with its marvellous array of marble, statues and wonderful murals, and of course The Dome which supports the world famous Statue of Justice. The statue weighs some 27 tons, is 12 feet high and 8 feet wide – she really is breathtaking. This part of the building was completely destroyed during the Blitz and the City of London paid for it to be rebuilt, as it was originally, and at this point they added a mural of the Blitz as a reminder. If you look high up opposite the entrance there is a small shaft of glass embedded in the wall – a constant reminder of the car bomb that went off outside the building during the IRA troubles, killing two people.

Next we were escorted by the Secondary to the cell area. The whole building is a rabbit warren of small rooms, long corridors and tiled passageways. Each holding cell is quite compact as prisoners are only held here whilst they wait

to be called to court and needless to say each cell door only has one handle...on the outside!

In the next corridor were the interview rooms where prisoners sit with their lawyer or barrister to discuss their case, and from here we moved to the arrival bay where the prisoners first enter the building. On one wall is a huge notice board detailing the prisoners names, their arrival time, the prison they've come from, which court their case is to be heard in and the time they are to be returned to their respective 'accommodation' if relevant as no prisoners are kept here overnight, after all, it's not The Ritz you know!

Nowadays the majority of cases heard here are murder, rape and terrorism and, with the time we live in as such, each court is full most days.

We retraced our steps back through the warren and the Secondary took us outside into what can only be described as a white tiled narrowing passageway with ever decreasing archways. Many many years ago this was the last walk for convicted prisoners ending at the hanging sheds. The archways narrowed in width and height to prevent the prisoner turning round and escaping.

For us this was the end of our tour and we found ourselves back at the security area where we collected our coats, cameras and bags and gathered for a photo or two. We all thanked Charles Henty for his fascinating and most enjoyable tour and hoped that we would only ever visit The Old Bailey in this capacity again!

Jackie Minnighan

Installation Dinner

The Installation Dinner was held on Friday 5th October at Haberdashers' Hall immediately following the Court

The Master, in a thoughtful and entertaining speech, explained the significance for him and his family of his election as Master, being the

working with the Haberdashers in developing the contribution made by the City academies.

Before the main part of his address, the Master had paid a moving tribute to his immediate predecessor, Derek Bonham whom our Chaplain, Colin Semper, had also remembered in Grace. Quiet and unassuming, yet a man of great eminence in his chosen field of finance and commerce, he had been determined to serve the Company in his year as Master to the fullest extent possible despite his illness. In a seemingly unplanned intervention at the end of the Master's address, the Master Haberdasher rose to his feet to say how immensely gentlemanly Derek had been during a meeting he had had with him with regard to their charitable donations. He hoped that their lunch would become an annual event between the Masters of our two Companies.

A truly worthwhile legacy of Derek's Mastership.

Edward Hutton



Meeting at which Geoffrey Vero was installed as our Master.

Assistant Simon Wilkinson welcomed all the guests including the Master's principal guest, Jonty Driver, four visiting Masters from the Haberdashers, Tallow Chandlers, Woolmen and Watermen and Lightermen and the Upper Bailiff of the Weavers.

In proposing the toast of the Master and the Company, Jonty Driver, a former Headmaster of Berkhamstead School and Wellington College, and now an acclaimed novelist and poet, emphasised a theme which was later developed by the Master in his response, namely the crucial role played by education in people's lives. Great teachers change lives, he said and, in his experience, education is the more successful if government takes a back seat.

first Vero in eight generations to reach that position. Clearly proud that decades before he himself had actually made a hat, he took us through the many complex processes involved. He went on to say that the themes of Scholarship, Service and Sport were to be his focus during his year as Master and that he looked forward to



The Master presenting the Lord Mayor's Hat

Past Master Brian Burgess

These are words written and spoken by Susan Wood, Third Warden, at the Court Meeting on 2nd July 2007.

“At our Plough Monday Court Meeting in January 2000 Past Master Brian Burgess delivered an eloquent address to mark the death of my father. It never occurred to me that I would be asked to try and return the compliment for Brian just 7 and a half years later.

Brian died unexpectedly at home on 22nd May, just 5 days after celebrating his 58th birthday in China. His funeral at the Church of the Sacred Heart in Wimbledon on 31st May was certainly the largest I have ever attended. The church was packed with all the important elements of Brian's life: family, godchildren, priests (I counted 18 at the altar, including our own dear Chaplain), legal colleagues and clients, the many charities with which Brian was involved and, of course, Feltmakers. Not just members of this Court, but many recently recruited Liverymen too, all responding to Brian's ability to connect with people.

There were many wonderful things said about Brian that day, but what stuck clearest in my mind was the claim "that Brian did not have acquaintances, he only had friends." How lucky we all are to have had that friendship and connection with Brian through our Livery Company, to which he devoted so much time and energy.

Brian was admitted to the Livery in October 1970. Following in Patrick and Michael's footsteps, he was the third of his generation to be admitted, which was itself the



third generation of Burgesses to grace our Company. On his application form, Brian cited that longer family connection, through his father, David, and his grandfather, Ernest. But what really stands out from his form was his reply to the question: Have you ever been adjudicated bankrupt? NEVER, in large capital letters, was Brian's robust response.

At the time he joined us Brian was an articled clerk. He went on to have a distinguished career as a solicitor, later founding his own firm, Beauvoisin & Burgess, latterly based in Weybridge. 15 years ago, Brian was one of the 4 founders of Lexlink, an international network of law firms. Its 15th Annual Conference in Beijing was the trip Brian had just returned from.

Within the Livery Brian progressed very quickly. He was elected Master in October 1992 at the age of 43, narrowly missing Past Master Keens' record as our youngest Master in recent times. Brian had a distinguished year as Master and his most lasting legacy

to the Feltmakers was his reorganisation during that year of the Charity Trustees into an active and effective Committee. It was typical of Brian that he led from the front and he served as a Charity Trustee from 1997, and as Chairman from 2000. Our St Clements' Initiative could equally aptly be called the Burgess Initiative. This annual toll on Liverymen, compulsory for new entrants and voluntary for the rest of us, now produces almost as much annual revenue to our Foundation as our investment income. In many ways Brian was the conscience of our Company: constantly reminding us that charitable giving was one of our main purposes, without which we risked becoming just another dining club. But he always made charitable activities such fun and none more memorable than the wonderful reception at Downing Street in Past Master Bedford's year. That was entirely Brian's inspiration. We all had a splendid evening and we raised enough money to buy a high tech wheelchair for a student at Southwark Academy.

And Brian always went the extra mile. Quite literally in July 2005 when he flew out to Gibraltar to present a bottle of champagne to our gallant Clerk and Liveryman Jane Way on completion of their Trafalgar Trek, which had raised over £15,000 for our charitable funds.

It was not just the Feltmakers' charity that benefited from Brian's talents and energy. At various times he was Chairman of the Ethics Committee at the London Clinic, a Governor of two schools and actively involved with several

Past Master Brian Burgess

Catholic charities. The Handicapped Childrens' Pilgrimage Trust was especially close to his heart. Brian got terrific fulfilment from all his charitable work and, in the case of the Handicapped Childrens' Pilgrimage Trust, he also met the most wonderful wife Elizabeth in Lourdes and they were married in 1979. They have 2 sons and 2

daughters, of whom Brian was immensely proud.

In October 2004 Brian and Elizabeth celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with Mass and a lunch party for family and friends. Patrick proposed the toast: *ad multos annos...* and you know it is a Patrick Burgess toast when it is in Latin. It is a great sadness

that Brian only enjoyed 3 of those many years we wished him. We know the gap he leaves in our ranks. We think of the far greater loss to Elizabeth, his children, his brothers and sisters. Our heartfelt sympathy to them and our grateful thanks for all that Brian was to all of us."

Livery Society Report

The annual Livery Society Dinner was held in the Clive Room at the East India Club. We had an excellent turnout with 32 Livery Society members, with the Master, Chaplain and Clerk as our guests. The Dinner is an ideal time to meet with our fellow Liverymen and discuss matters of topical interest. Past Master Brian Burgess gave the Society an interesting insight into the workings of the Charitable Fund.

Jane Way organised another successful guided walk around Southwark in June.

In early October, Brian

Minnighan organised a visit for 14 members and guests of the Livery Society to the Old Bailey which was hosted by the Under Sheriff of Southwark, Charles Henty.

The Livery Society is a forum for the newer Livery members to meet with fellow Liverymen, to become acquainted with the aims and objectives of the Livery and to do so in convivial surroundings. Members of the Livery Society also organise a number of the sporting events during the year - Brian Minnighan, the Livery Clay Shoot; Neil Edwards, the Master's Golf Day; Peter Simeons, the Family Day cricket and Single Wicket Competition and Jeremy

Brassington, the Inter Livery Tennis Tournament at Queens Club.

We welcome participation in all the Livery Society events and if members of the Livery have any suggestions they would like us to consider or would like to become more actively involved, please do not hesitate to contact Jeremy Brassington at brasscom@globanet.co.uk or 01483 773378.

We will be holding the next Livery Society dinner at the East India Club on Thursday 28th February 2008.

Jeremy Brassington

The Charitable Foundation

Income for the year 2006, excluding profits arising from the sale of investments, was considerably down on the previous year at £27,745. This was as a result of less fund-raising activity and a reduction in the donation from the Haberdashers Company towards Pensioner Hatters. The

Trustees are grateful for their donation. Grants made during the year amounted to £25,837, again considerably down on last year. After administration and other costs, there was a loss for the year, excluding capital gains, of £1,358.

In the year the Foundation

concentrated much of its efforts in supporting aspects of "Hatting", in particular 80 Pensioner Hatters, the Feltmakers Award and millinery students at Kensington and Chelsea College.

Chairman of Trustees

What Do The Wardens Do?

In The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers we have four Wardens: Upper Warden, Renter Warden, Third Warden and Fourth Warden. We are

year to discuss Company business and interview candidates to join the Livery. Decisions taken at this committee are then brought to the next Court meeting for

Committee; Fourth Warden - Editorial/ IT Committee
Most of these committees have existed for many years but it was under Past Master Curteis' leadership that the role of the Wardens in relation to each committee was formalised. This facilitates communication between the committees and the Court and, equally importantly, it gives each Warden an insight into the management of different aspects of the Company before he or she is elected Master.



From left to right John Ray, Eda Rose-Lawson, The Master, Susan Wood, Nick Heal

elected by the Court in October each year and rotate in succession through these four offices. At the Installation and Spring dinners and at the Ladies' Banquet we stand beside the Master to greet Liverymen and their guests. As you shake our hands you may well wonder what we actually do....

Our primary role is to support the Master by serving on the Master and Wardens' Committee. In modern business terms, this is the Company's central management committee. It meets four times a

consideration.

In addition to serving on the Master and Wardens' Committee, each Warden sits on at least one of the Company's sub-committees during his or her year of office. We divide those responsibilities as follows:

Upper Warden - The Livery Society; Renter Warden - The Renter Warden's Committee (finance and investment); Third Warden - The Historical Committee and The Millinery

Finally, in addition to these responsibilities, it is the Wardens' great privilege to accompany the Master to Mansion House in November each year to present the incoming Lord Mayor with his black-plumed tricorne: a gift from The Worshipful Company of Feltmakers. At the same time the Master presents a Feltmaker hatpin to the Lady Mayoress. This ceremony, private and informal, affords an excellent opportunity for the Master and Wardens to meet the new residents of Mansion House.

Susan Wood

Accounts Summary

The Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2006 were approved by the Court on 2nd April 2007. The Company reported a deficit of £2,000 compared to a surplus of £3,000 in the prior year. This

deterioration was entirely due to higher costs as a result of HM Revenue and Customs deciding that our Clerk should be accounted for as an employee of the Company. Other expenditure increased just 1.4% and income

from quarterage and investments showed a satisfactory increase. Our investments rose in value by £44,000.

Renter Warden

Felt Today

The oldest textile fabric known to man is wool felt. Well over 3000 years ago wool felt was used as footwear and as other items of apparel. Centuries before man invented machines to spin fibres like cotton, wool and linen into yarns and then weave or knit them into fabrics, he discovered how to make wool felt. Wool has the unique characteristic of consolidating or “felting” itself into a fabric simply as a consequence of mechanical agitation in water. This consolidation process can be accelerated by heat and by detergents or fats. This characteristic is the consequence of wool fibres being covered by uni-directional scales, which cause the fibres to interlock under the influence of mechanical agitation. No other fibre has this characteristic so other fibres like cotton and linen could not be converted into fabrics until man learned how to spin yarns and weave or knit them into fabrics.

The Feltmakers motto “Decus et Tutamen” is generally translated as “Use and Ornament” but recognising the early uses of wool felt a better translation might be “Ornament and Armament”. Ornament for footwear and headgear and Armament for tunics worn by warriors to protect themselves from arrows and other penetrative weapons. Wool felt has various characteristics that make it suitable for apparel and technical uses. Wool felt is soft to handle and drapes well. It also insulates from heat, noise and vibration. It absorbs liquids and is resilient. Unfortunately, wool does not resist chemicals or high temperatures and relatively speaking is quite weak.

The 1930s saw a revolution in the Textile Industry when synthetic fibres like nylon and polyester were invented. These fibres had much higher strengths than wool and resisted chemicals and high temperatures, but the processes used to make felt from wool did not work with synthetic fibres so wool remained supreme as felt.

Unfortunately for wool, a machine called a needleloom was invented during the Industrial Revolution and this machine could mechanically interlock synthetic fibres to produce felt without the need for mechanical agitation in water. The needleloom effectively tolled the death knell for wool felt but felts made by this machine from synthetic fibres actually opened up more opportunities for felts because of their enhanced performance characteristics so that there is more felt made in the world today than ever before. Feltmakers have much to be proud of in history but we have even more to be proud of today.

China where felt was discovered. This year we will produce over 20 million square metres of felt and world production is well over 100 million square metres.

The first time I was introduced to our Past Master, the late Sir Hugh Wontner, he enquired what I did for a living. When I told him I was a feltmaker he turned rather pale, looked into my eyes and moved on. I think he thought we were all dead. If you are a purist and believe felt is not felt unless it is made from wool then surely the industry is nearly dead. But if you accept that felt can also be made from synthetic fibres then the industry is in good shape, already large and growing.

Felts made from high temperature resistant fibres like Teflon and Nomex are used to filter out dust particles in power generating plants, incinerators, aluminium refineries, steel mills, cement factories and a host of other industries to ensure clean air



I am proud to be both a Feltmaker and a feltmaker. My family company, founded in 1894, manufactures felt in various countries around the world including Europe, America and

meeting modern pollution control standards. Nearly every business machine like laser and inkjet printers contain felt to clean toner particles and absorb ink. Felt’s capillarity and volumetric liquid retention characteristics are unequalled.

Felt Today *continued*

Underneath the ceramic tiles of the underbelly of space shuttles are felts to absorb the high temperatures and impact forces of re-entry. Military combat jackets contain ballistic felts made from Kevlar fibres and firemen wear

flammable felts.

Felts are used to wrap around ironing machines in laundries and the whole papermaking industry world-wide relies upon very sophisticated felts up to 15 metres



protective clothing in which there are felts made from Nomex fibre which are flame and heat resistant. Aeroplanes and nearly all other forms of public transport contain fire blockers made from non-

wide and fabricated into endless belt form to produce paper from pulp. Perhaps the biggest single use for felt today is in artificial leather. These felts are made from polyester fibre and are used in

footwear, furniture, travel cases and anywhere natural leather is used.

The uses of felt made from synthetic fibre are myriad. However there are still a few uses of felt for which wool is still preferred over synthetic fibres such as felts used in pianos but they remain few and far between.

The discovery of synthetic fibres and the invention of the needleloom together gave felt a new life. From near extinction it is now a thriving industry. No doubt the Feltmakers' Company will go on forever. It would be good if the feltmaking industry continued to be around to support it and I believe it will.

Ted Andrew

New Liverymen

New Liverymen admitted to the Feltmakers Company

The biographies of new Liverymen, previously published in 'The Feltmaker', will appear on the Company web site. However, we are pleased to announce the following admissions to the Livery since the last edition:

Court Meeting: April 2007

**Mr. Peter Alvey
Mr. David Nash**

Court Meeting: October 2007

**Mr. Dominic Ely
Mr. Guy Jackson
Mr. Andrew Norris
Mr. Andrew Stafford**

In the last issue of the Feltmaker, we announced the then new website that had been designed by Treloar College students. However, Treloars warned that they would not be able to update our site in future and so the Court took the decision to ask professional web designer, Roger Meeks, to produce a completely new website for the Feltnmakers, and this went online in July 2007. The internet address is the same, www.feltnmakers.co.uk and it can also be found from most search engines, including Google, by searching for feltnmakers. A great benefit of this new website is that it is much easier to update, and so it is planned to add new material regularly. The content is managed by the Editorial and IT Committee, who also produce the Feltmaker magazine, and it is hoped that these two means of communication will complement each other. Liveryman Peter Shirley is currently in the role of webmaster, which means that he

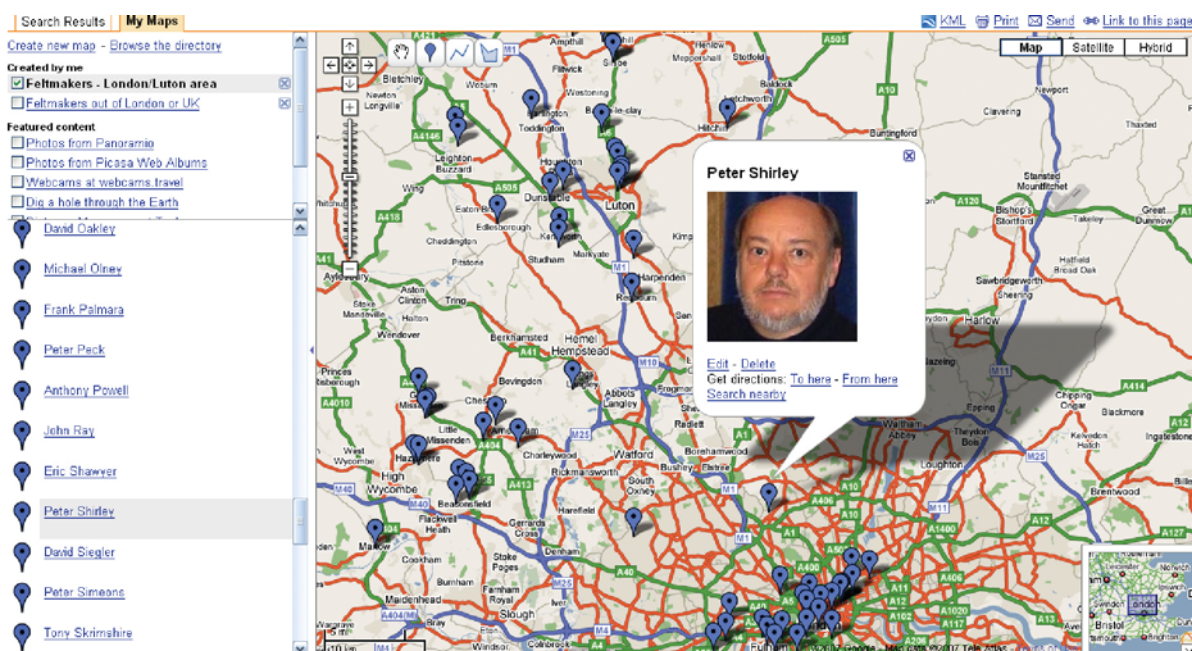
manages the site on a day to day basis, and uploads the articles and pictures on behalf of the committee.

There is a password protected area, and each liveryman can be made a registered user and will have a unique username and password allocated. They are advised to change the password after logging in, both to increase security, and also to provide one that they will remember easily. Unfortunately only people with a valid e-mail address can be made registered users, and initially only those with e-mail addresses in the last Livery List were added, unless Peter has been notified of new e-mail addresses.

The Members' area contains the Livery calendar for 2007-2008 and also links to maps showing the home locations of all liverymen, using postcodes shown in the Livery List. Due to technical constraints, the livery is split onto

two maps - those living in the London/Luton areas and everyone else. The links to these are at the top of the Members' page and each person is shown by a coloured marker. Clicking on the marker will bring up a box with their name, and also for a few, their picture. It is vital that the Livery keep up to date addresses and e-mail addresses, so please make sure that either the Clerk and/or Peter are notified of any changes. One facility within the website is to send an e-mail to every registered user, and the Clerk may do this if there are any urgent notices to be sent. This function would be especially valuable if there are any further disruptions to the postal service. If any Liveryman has any query or problem with the website, has suggestions, or wants to notify contact detail changes, please e-mail Peter at webmaster.feltnmakers@ntlworld.com

Peter Shirley



Editor's Note

Due to space constraints it has not been possible to include the usual reports on sporting and other events. These can all be found on the website.