

The Feltmaker



The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers January 2011 Master: John Ray Issue No. 34

The Master's Address

The Master, John Ray, gave the following address to the Company at the Installation Dinner, held at Haberdashers' Hall, on Friday 1st October 2010.



First and foremost may I express my thanks to the Court for electing me Master of our ancient and respected Company for the coming year. It is a unique honour and privilege to be elected Master of one's Livery Company and I am conscious that I follow a long line of distinguished Past Masters. With the support of the Livery and my family I shall do my very best to uphold the values of the Livery and maintain the exemplary standards set by those who have preceded me for over four centuries.

I know that I shall be supported by a very able team of Wardens. I would particularly like to welcome Edward Hutton, our newly elected Fourth Warden.

I would like to say special thanks to our Immediate Past Master, Mrs Susan Wood, for a most enjoyable and successful year. Past Master Wood made history for our Company by becoming our very first lady Master. As such she added more than a touch of glamour and elegance to the role. She led our Company with tremendous enthusiasm, skill, tact and good humour. It is an honour to follow her as

Master.

It is customary for the new Master to set out his thoughts for the year. Our programme of dinners and events has been well established for many years and I do not intend to alter this. The Diary of Events for the year has already been sent to members. The guest speaker at the Banquet in June will be John Bly who I am sure many of you will recognise from the BBC's Antiques Road Show. In addition to all the usual events, there will be a charity event to raise funds for our Charitable Foundation. This will be held on Thursday, 3 March 2011 at an art gallery in Mayfair. Full details will be circulated in due course and I hope it will prove a popular event and successful fundraiser.

I intend to continue the good efforts made by my predecessors and maintain our recruitment drive. At the October Court Meeting, two new Liverymen and three new Honorary Liverymen were sworn in. I was delighted to welcome them all at the Installation Dinner. However, it is not enough as we need a constant line of new members so that our Company can be continually reinvigorated. I would ask all Liverymen to think of suitable candidates they could propose for membership.

All of the new Honorary Liverymen are past captains of our affiliated ship, HMS Lancaster, and we are delighted to acknowledge their continuing association with the Company.

On a personal note, I would like to say that my father always enjoyed attending our dinners as a guest. He found everyone so friendly and welcoming. I hope we can continue our deserved reputation for friendliness and good fellowship, not only throughout the coming year but for many years to come.

I hope to have the pleasure of your company at as many events as possible throughout the year. The first event will be the Carol Service on 15 December at the Priory Church of St Bartholomew the Great in Smithfield, followed by supper at Haberdashers' Hall. I am looking forward to a most enjoyable year, and with the support and help of the Livery I am sure it will be a very good one for all of us.

Master: John Ray

Wardens: Eda Rose-Lawson, Anthony Phillips, Simon Bartley, Edward Hutton **Immediate Past Master:** Susan Wood

Clerk: Jollyon Coombs **Registered at Stationers Hall**

John Ray - Master Feltmaker 2010-2011

John was born in Beaconsfield in 1945. He was educated at High Wy-

years before joining the group head office of a large international support

anyone whose life is affected by their own, or someone else's, drug or alcohol use. He is now also Company Secretary for the charity.



combe Royal Grammar School where he spent much time playing tennis, representing both the school and the junior county team. Following school, he took up articles with a small accountancy practice based in Chancery Lane. After qualifying in 1969, he moved to Barton Mayhew (now Ernst & Young LLP) where he spent three

services group based in Mayfair. He spent most of his career in various roles based in the head offices of large international groups, but he has now fully retired.

In 1992 John became a Trustee Director of a charity based in Buckinghamshire providing a range of services to

John was first introduced to the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers at the April Dinner in 1990 by the late John Roberts and Past Master, His Honour Keith Devlin, and was elected to the Livery in October 1990.

John lives in Buckinghamshire with his wife, Rosemary. They have two children: a son, Christopher (38), and a daughter, Nicola (36), both of whom now live and work in London, Nicola having spent many years working in Africa. He no longer plays tennis, but still enjoys watching it, along with rugby and cricket, and is a member of the MCC. His other interests include travel, theatre and music and both he and Rosemary enjoy spending time at their house in southern France, but this will be severely restricted over the next year.

Open Evening at The Feltmakers' Lodge

On Monday 18 January 2010 ten Liverymen accepted an invitation from the then Master of the Feltmakers' Lodge, William Horsman, to attend an open evening at Butcher's Hall. The evening started with a short presentation from John Sylvester in the Lodge Room, explaining the history of the Feltmaker Lodge which was founded in 1918 and is number 3839 on the Register of the United Grand Lodge of England. It is one of 22 City Livery Lodges, and aside from Liverymen, other guests at the open evening included Masters of several other City Livery Lodges. The Feltmakers' Lodge currently has 28 members, most of whom are also Liverymen.

William Horsman explained the relevance of the interior decoration of the Lodge Room and the Masonic furnish-

ings it contains. He also introduced the current Lodge Officers and gave a brief account of their roles, as well as dealing with some common misconceptions about Masonic traditions. This was followed by a presentation from the Chairman of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution regarding recent charitable donations from the Grand Charity, the Freemasons' central charity. There is a strong emphasis on supporting vulnerable people, and donations had been given to a wide range of medical charities and to charities working with both old and young people.

Following the presentations, guests joined Members of the Lodge for an excellent dinner. Given that we were dining at Butcher's Hall, it was no surprise that the highlight was roast fore-

rib of beef. After dinner we were treated to a delightful musical entertainment by Robert Ellison, accompanied on the piano by David Harper. It concluded a most enjoyable and informative evening and the guests left Butcher's Hall with a strong impression of the fellowship of the Feltmakers' Lodge and the charitable purpose of the Masonic movement.

Since this dinner the Feltmakers' Lodge has kindly donated £1,500 to the Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation and Commander Ian Wellesley-Harding has succeeded William Horsman as Master of the Lodge. We wish him an enjoyable and successful year in office.

Susan Wood

The Master's Charitable Event

On Wednesday 10th March liverymen spent a most memorable evening at the Cabinet War rooms, off Horse Guards Road in Whitehall. Through a

by Anne Sebba, author of the recent biography 'Jennie Churchill – Winston's American Mother'. Jennie was the subject of her lecture and this was

After the presentation, those present were divided into two groups. One group was conducted by a knowledgeable guide on a tour of the war rooms in this underground bunker, including Winston's bedroom. We were told that these rooms were protected by a very thick layer of concrete, but that in the later years of the war, even this would not have been sufficient to prevent the complex being destroyed by a direct hit from a V1 flying bomb. Luckily no such hit occurred, not that apparently it would have been such an issue for Winston, as he was in the habit of going outside and up on the roof to watch during air-raids.

The other group visited the Churchill Museum, which employs cutting edge technology and interactive media displays to excellent effect to inform the visitor about Winston's life. This did not only cover WW2 period, although this inevitably dominated the theme of the exhibits.

The two groups switched places and, later on, were ushered back into the main room for an excellent and most welcome dinner. After this, Major Ben Ramsay from the Welsh Guards spoke about their Afghanistan Appeal, which aims to raise £1 million, primarily to retrain injured soldiers who cannot remain in the army, and widows who need to rebuild their careers after bereavement. Finally, Anne Sebba returned to field questions from the audience on her earlier presentation. Each guest was also given a signed copy of Anne's book.

The evening was very much enjoyed by everyone. The event had been well supported, not only by those present, but also by a grant from the Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation and by additional donations from Feltmakers and friends. As a result Master Susan Wood was able to present a cheque for £8,000 to Major Ramsay, which was most welcome.

Peter Shirley



sandbagged entrance lies the bunker which houses the Cabinet War rooms, the nerve centre of wartime government, where Winston Churchill, his cabinet and senior military commanders planned their strategy and monitored the progress of the fight against the enemy.

Today, the rooms, under the Treasury Building, have been preserved and the site is managed by the Imperial War Museum. It includes not only the original underground war rooms, but also a museum dedicated to all aspects of Winston Churchill's life.

The event was organised by Master Susan Wood, supported by our Clerk, with the object of raising funds for the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal, which provides much needed assistance for the families of soldiers of that regiment who have been wounded, or killed in the conflict in Afghanistan as well as rehabilitation for injured soldiers.

Seventy two Feltmakers and friends assembled and were welcomed with drinks at the start of an evening that was both entertaining and informative. It started with an illustrated talk

a very fitting venue for this topic. Anne was a most lively and enthusiastic speaker with an extensive knowledge of her subject. She quickly made everyone realise what a complex and in-



teresting person Jennie had been, and Anne didn't flinch from describing Jennie's passionate nature, the men in her life, and the influence she had on the young Winston. Her talk was well illustrated with slides and the extent of her research was impressive.

Common Hall

A meeting of Common Hall took place on Tuesday 22nd June at the Cavalry and Guards Club. A meeting of Common Hall is called at the behest of the Master, and is open to all Liverymen. As Master Susan Wood explained in her opening comments, the principal purpose of Common Hall is to share information.

This year's meeting looked at three matters; our charity, membership of the Company, and the Historical Committee's current project to develop our knowledge about a period during which there is a paucity of information available about the Feltmakers. The last of these matters is the subject of a separate article in this magazine.

Past Master John Curteis gave us a most informative update on The Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation, in particular about the way in which the Trust operates. The Trust Deed was updated last year, and instead of the previous four, there can now be a maximum of eight Trustees at any one time. The primary functions of the Trustees are to review the financial circumstances of the charity, to consider ways in which income can be generated for the fund, and to consider applications for grants.

Principal sources of income are the St. Clement's Fund, to which most Feltmakers subscribe, income from the investment of Trust funds, and the fundraising events organised by each Master in turn, such as Master Susan Wood's evening at the Cabinet War Rooms this year, together with initiatives undertaken by individuals, such as our Clerk's rowing adventure last year. The fund is also supported by a grant from the Haberdasher's Company, which contributes to the payments made to pensioner hatters each year.

In terms of grants made, the Foundation supports, among other trade-

related causes, the annual Hat Design Competition and Award, a Christmas lunch for pensioner hatters (in addition to the small annual grants to individuals), and sponsors a trainee milliner. The Foundation also supports City causes, such as the Lord Mayor's charity for the year. A grant is made to the Cadet Forces Association, and also to the Sea Cadets, with a small sum also going to HMS Lancaster. A number of grants are also made to support initiatives, such as Providence Row, a facility for homeless people, and Treloar College, for young people with disabilities. Numerous small awards are also made to a variety of charitable causes.

Our Company is keen to do as much to support the Foundation as possible. This year, Assistant Simon Millar has undertaken a Pathfinder March, described below. Individual contributions such as this are very much welcomed, as are the donations made to the St. Clement's Fund by members of the Company. Ideas for possible beneficiaries of the fund are also welcomed by the Committee, as are offers from those who wish to help raise funds.

The Master, whose theme for her year was membership, then gave us an overview of the current position. Numbers have remained fairly stable in recent years, with the number of Liverymen fluctuating between 165 and 175. The status of 'Honorary Liveryman' is a form of membership accorded to selected individuals by virtue of the office that they hold, or have held. Last year, the Court agreed to extend this to past (and current) Commanding Officers of HMS Lancaster who are still serving in the Royal Navy. It is very pleasing indeed that all five have accepted. The category of Freeman was redefined in 2009, and this form of membership is open to applicants aged 18-30, and to those in the hatting or felt industries who do not wish to, or who may not

yet be in a position to become full Liverymen. It is hoped that this new form of membership will appeal to younger people, particularly those from our associated trades. It is important that we build for the future by involving people in the younger age groups.

The category of Honorary Freeman was introduced in 2009, and is open to the spouses and partners of late Past Masters. Apprenticeship is one of the oldest forms of membership, and is open to those between 14 and 18 years. There are currently three apprentices, and we very much hope that they will become Liverymen in the fullness of time. Although the current level of membership is satisfactory, the Company is always looking to recruit new Liverymen and Freemen. However, as the Master made clear, this is not a question of numbers alone. We wish to welcome to our Livery those who will be both 'good company', and who are willing to make a contribution to the life and spirit of the Feltmakers' Company.

As is customary, at any Feltmakers' event, the business of the evening was followed by an excellent dinner provided by the kitchens of the Cavalry and Guards Club, washed down with wines from their cellars. This was an informal dinner, and although not an occasion for speeches, after a few words by the Master, Simon Millar was invited to tell us about his very recent Pathfinder March. This involved Simon, with several hundred others, walking the 46 mile route that takes in all the original WWII airfields in Cambridgeshire used by the RAF for the Pathfinder raids. The event is a circular walk starting and ending at RAF Wyton, and participants have to complete it in 20 hours. Simon was sponsored and raised money for charities including our St. Clements Fund.

Judy George & Peter Shirley

The Feltmakers in the 17th Century

At Common Hall in June, Past Master John Bowler gave a fascinating account of the work currently being undertaken to fill some of the important gaps in our history. The 17th Century was a turbulent time, which included the dissolution and restoration of the monarchy, fire and plague. It was also a turbulent period for the Feltmakers, including great difficulties in the relationship with the Haberdashers, and with the City of London, which refused for a very long time to accept our Charter. Very few records, however, exist from this time, and there is a long period which has previously been lost to us completely.

Recently, at the behest of the Historical Committee, Stephen Freeth, formerly Keeper of Manuscripts at Guildhall, has undertaken some exciting research for us, which has already yielded excellent results. He has uncovered an astonishing story, believed to be unique, of the struggle to establish ourselves. We are still bemused why the Haberdashers pursued the matter of blocking the Feltmakers' independence to such lengths (46 years) and more almost certainly remains to be revealed. The names of three more Masters have been found including our main benefactor Philip Macham, the donor of Sullens Farm. We now know the names of eleven Masters in the 17th century. Also identified are six Wardens, four Assistants, two Clerks and accurate dating for two more, two

Beadles and thirty five Apprentices with dates and full information.

The earliest recorded Feltmakers' Arms are c. 1680. Stephen Freeth has found an earlier version (pictured) on an apprenticeship indenture. This is dated 12th March 1666. The form would probably have been printed some years before. The main difference lies in the shape of the hat.

Also now discovered is 'The Feltmakers' Association Oath Roll'. This contains the loyalty oath administered in 1696 following an attempt to assassinate William III. Not many of these rolls have survived. The Feltmakers' Oath Roll has and we now have a photoprint copy. It contains 514 signatures which probably represent most of the Company at that time. This excellent find now needs to be further deciphered. Remarkably, five of those names are still represented in our Company today.

Various miscellaneous items have come to light including more accurate dating of various Feltmakers' Arms, corrections to some dates in the Company History, a Chancery petition in 1698/9 and a Bill in Chancery in 1698.

The Historical Committee regards the outcome of this research as being highly successful and is keen to continue further. They know there is more information to be collected as

the National Archives have not been investigated and they are sure there is more to be found in the City papers at the London Metropolitan Archives, the Haberdashers' Archives and other locations.

We are very keen to retain the services of Stephen Freeth, and are grateful to those Liverymen who have most generously helped to fund the research to date. The Company is providing some support to the next stage of the process, but the project nonetheless stands in need of additional funds, and a number of fundraising efforts are underway. If you think that you can help, either by making a private donation, or helping with fundraising, or in the actual research itself, please contact the Clerk or Past Master Bowler.

The Feltmakers' Arms dated March 12th, 1666, but probably earlier, found by Stephen Freeth



Welcome

New Liverymen, Honorary Liverymen, Honorary Freemen, and two new Apprentices to the Company.

Honorary Freemen

Mrs. Dicky Bonham
Mrs. Elizabeth Burgess

Liverymen and Honorary Liverymen

Mr. Richard Brumby
Mrs Elaine Howard

Mr. Ian Thomas

Mr. Peter Wood

Commodore Ben Kay RN

Captain James Morley RN

Commander Rory Bryan RN

Commander Richard Buckland RN

Apprentices

Mr. Edward Wontner (Apprenticed to his Grandfather Past Master Giles

Wontner)

Mr. Archie Wood (Apprenticed to his Grandfather, Edward Wood)

Congratulations

To Past Master Peter Keens, who in 2010 completed his 50th year as Liveryman, and subsequently Assistant, Warden, Master and Past Master, of the Feltmakers' Company.

The Feltmakers' Design Award 2010



ometry of Art Deco architecture and crystalline structures, she created a beautifully crafted and balanced headpiece using felt and leatherette. She received a cheque for £1200.

The second prize was won by Marissa Groom from Leeds College of Art. This



This year the judging of the Feltmakers' Design Award took place on 18th March at Haberdashers' Hall. The competition was once again organised by Past Master Bill Horsman, who saw to it that the day ran smoothly. On the judging panel were Freddie Fox, Eda Rose Lawson and Rachel Trevor-Morgan who are all Liverymen and milliners. We were very pleased to be joined by fellow milliner Edwina Ibbotson and the Editor of the Hat Magazine, Nigel Denford.



There were over thirty-five entrants from colleges around the country and the standard of the work was as high as ever.

The first prize went to Awon Golding from Kensington and Chelsea College. Taking inspiration from the ge-

ometry of Art Deco architecture and crystalline structures, she created a beautifully crafted and balanced headpiece using felt and leatherette. She received a cheque for £1200.

ometry of Art Deco architecture and crystalline structures, she created a beautifully crafted and balanced headpiece using felt and leatherette. She received a cheque for £1200.

very finely executed and sculpted hat was inspired by the work of the artist Lucy McLauchlan. Marissa received a cheque for £600.

Taking third prize was Anna Pulleyn, again from Kensington and Chelsea College. Anna's 'Dear John' hat told a story whose inspiration started with postage stamps. She very cleverly took the notion of where they had travelled and the messages they had sent, which in turn led her to nostalgia and forgotten personal histories. The judges were all taken with the thought and inspiration that had led to her 1940's hat with its fine veiling and felt lettering. She received a cheque for £400.

Further prizes of £200 were awarded as follows: The Craftsmanship Prize was awarded to Yulia Silina from Kensington and Chelsea for her felt 'swirl'.

The Commercial Appeal prize was awarded to Esther Louise Mathews from Janie Lashford's School of Millinery for her green velour felt hat with embroidered trim.

The Artwork and Presentation prize was awarded to Coral Carmichael from Northampton College for her colourful 'Madame Butterfly' inspired drawings.

The Innovative Use of Felt prize was awarded to Rhain Kempadoo-Millar from Leeds College of Art for her intricate cut felt design.



Towards the end of the judging we were joined by Master Susan Wood, the Lady Mayoress, Claire Anstee together with the two Sheriffs' wives, Liz Wootton and Julie Cook and our clerk Jollyon Coombs, who were able to witness the final decision making. This event was appropriately brought to its conclusion by a delicious lunch.

Rachel Trevor-Morgan

Livery Society Report

Once again the Livery Society has enjoyed a sociable year. There was an excellent attendance at the Livery Society Dinner in February (see below). The Livery Society also enjoyed several sporting events during the year. The Master's Golf Day at Harpenden, ably organised by Neil Edwards, and attended by thirty enthusiastic golfers was a successful and enjoyable occasion

The two cricket events, the first at Amersham, a single wicket competition

that is always well attended both by cricketers and spectators, the cricket is great fun and buffet is always delicious; the other at Great Missenden, where a 20/20 event was enjoyed in June. Brian Minnigan does an excellent job in organising our Livery shooting events. He gathered two teams for the Inter-Livery Clay Shoot organised in May and held at Holland and Holland and the teams enjoyed food and fellowship together with some wonderful shooting. Our own Inter-Livery Ten-

nis competition was held once again in September. These events are described in more detail on other pages elsewhere in the magazine.

The Livery Society Committee is most interested in suggestions as to what events might be organised for the Society for the year ahead. There is, in our Company, a wealth of diversity in both work and leisure on which to draw and Liverymen are encouraged to put forward ideas.

Sarah McLeod

Livery Society Dinner

This popular annual event to which newer Liverymen, in particular, are invited was held, once again, at the



East India Club in St James' Square on 22nd February. We were delighted to host our Master, the Clerk and Chaplain, and their presence added

immeasurably to the evening.

Nearly thirty Liverymen sat down to a delicious meal of S m o k e d Mackerel & Horseradish Mousse with Melba Toast, followed by a substantial Steak, Kidney & Mushroom Pie, and finished with a Lemon Cheesecake

with Raspberry sauce, which rather fortunately lived up to its billing as "light"! During Coffee the Master kindly agreed to talk about her year so far,

her Charity Event and her hopes for the Livery. The Master highlighted her own favourite events to date including presentation of the Lord Mayor's hat, a visit to Treloar's School for severely disabled children and lunch with the Sheriffs and Judges at the Old Bailey. The Master also outlined the remaining events of her year of office and encouraged us to join her at the Livery's Spring Dinner and at the Banquet in June, explaining that Liverymen get out of the Livery what they put in. She encouraged all present to get involved with whatever aspects of Livery life were of interest to them, including the sporting events for the forthcoming season. The evening was very convivial and was an excellent opportunity for us all to get to know our fellow Feltmakers a little better.

Sarah McLeod

News from HMS Lancaster

At this time last year, HMS Lancaster was back at sea, fighting pirates in the Arabian Gulf. She returned home at the end of May 2010, after a six-month tour of duty, and has subsequently gone into dock in Portsmouth, for a major refit. She is due

to go back into service in early 2011.

Prior to her last deployment, her football team (HMS Lancaster FC) won a Football Association Charter Standard Award, recognising good practice at the grassroots level, for coaching

given to local youngsters. Congratulations, Lancaster!

We send her Commanding Officer, officers and crew our warmest best wishes.

Our New Fourth Warden

Edward Hutton has been a Feltmaker for twenty years having been introduced to the Company by his father-in-law Past Master Peter Grant. Before joining the Court in 2003, his main contribution to the Company was during the late 1990's when he organised its participation in the InterLivery Swimathon held at the RAC Country Club in Epsom. As a result, the Feltmakers team succeeded in raising a not insubstantial amount for the Feltmakers Charitable Foundation and the then Lord Mayor's chosen charity. He is currently a member of the Editorial and IT Committee and has also served on the Historical Committee. Other charitable work included a stint with the Prince's Trust.

Edward was educated at Oxford University graduating in 1974 with an honours degree in Modern Languages (French and Spanish). Since qualifying as a chartered accountant at Price

Waterhouse in the late 1970's, he has spent his business life as an investment banker in the City, mainly spe-



cialising in equity capital markets at HSBC. The range of work has been diverse, covering government privatisations (the UK electricity distribution and generating companies in particular) at one end of the scale to advising on smaller company takeovers at the other. Geographically too the range has been diverse and in addition to working in the UK the job has

taken him to destinations in Europe, Asia and North America, not forgetting one memorable visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo at the height of the civil war. He has mainly worked with companies in the natural resources, telecoms and support services sectors. Since leaving HSBC in 2002, he has principally been involved as an advisor to corporate clients on AIM, the London Stock Exchange's market for smaller and growing companies.

Sports in which he participates include golf, tennis and skiing. His main hobby is woodworking where over the years the workshop has turned out items such as chests of drawers, desks and cupboards.

Edward is married to Cathy who is currently midway through a degree course in Homeopathy. They have three children (Emma, Peter and Andrew) and home is near Winchester.

The Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation

This is my second report, following my appointment as Chairman of the Trustees in 2009, in succession to Past Master Peter Grant, who took on the onerous role of our first Treasurer at the same time, and to whom the Trustees are very much indebted.

This has been the first full year for which our accounting period has run from 1st April to 31st March, following a change in the accounting date during 2009 to ease the pressure on administration during the preparation of the final accounts.

Following the previous very sharp fall in the value of our investment portfolio, this year saw a welcome recovery of about 46%, almost exactly in line with the movement in the All Share Index.

The income for the year from grants and donations rose from £27,200, in the previous fifteen-month period, to

£57,600, having been transformed by two initiatives. The successful Thames Row, undertaken by our gallant Clerk, Jollyon Coombs, resulted in net income to the Foundation of £24,350 and enabled grants to be made to the Army Benevolent Association, Promise Nepal and Alton Rehabilitation. The evening in the Cabinet War Rooms, organised by Master Susan Wood, enabled a grant of £8,000 to be made to the Welsh Guards Afghanistan Appeal.

During the year as a whole, the Foundation made grants totalling £60,030. The Foundation supports the Feltmaker Design Awards, makes grants to Pensioner Hatters, and supports regular beneficiaries including the Lord Mayor's Appeal, and the Sheriffs' and Recorder's Fund, each year. Other beneficiaries include Treloar College, the Evalina Family Trust, Providence Row, the Shooting Star Children's

Hospice and the armed services and cadets.

The number of donors to the St. Clement Scheme continues to rise, and the Trustees extend their thanks to all contributors. The Foundation is also indebted to the Haberdashers' Company for their continuing support, which part funds the grants made to Pensioner Hatters.

Once again, may I thank my fellow Trustees for their contributions and the advice which they bring to our discussions; their input is greatly appreciated. And finally, may I remind Liverymen that the Trustees will consider favourably any suggestions for additional recipients for our grants. Please direct any such suggestions through the Clerk in the first instance.

John Curteis

Election of the Lord Mayor

One of the duties and privileges of all members of the Livery is to heed the summons to attend Common Hall at Guildhall twice a year, firstly on Midsummer's day for the election of two sheriffs for the year and then on Michaelmas day to elect a new Lord Mayor of London, again to hold office

The Common Cryer and Serjeant of Arms demanded silence, directed all men to be uncovered in the Hall, and bade all those who were not Liverymen to depart the Hall on pain of imprisonment.

Lord Mayor. This year's candidates were Michael Bear, David Wootton, and Roger Gifford.

Guildhall was overflowing with Liverymen, seated to maximum capacity, and as all have the right to cast their vote, latecomers were directed to an overflow area where they could not only follow the proceedings via a video link, but also cast their vote via a video link monitored by the officials on the dais. This is one of the very few modern concessions to the proceedings. This year, the names of Michael Bear and David Wootton were passed to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, and while they made their deliberations, the Livery was addressed by the Assistant Town Clerk. Although it includes some formal information and content, the address, by tradition, is the occasion for the Assistant Town Clerk to amuse the assembly and we were entertained by a succession of witty stories.



for a year. The elections are held in Guildhall and only liverymen are allowed to vote. This year Michaelmas fell on 29th September, and on that day, I joined the many hundreds of Liverymen from all livery companies streaming into Guildhall, although I had been granted special permission to view and photograph the ceremony from the Gallery. Just prior to this, the many splendidly robed dignitaries including the current Lord Mayor, Nicholas Anstee, formed a procession and entered the adjacent Guild Church of St. Lawrence Jewry for a short service. At 11.35, the Livery Committee, Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff formed a procession and entered Guildhall, in strict order of precedence, taking their seats at the front of the hall and followed by the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Sheriffs and other officers who took their seats on the dais. Master Feltmaker can always be singled out as being the only Master allowed to wear (his) hat during the ceremony.

The Assistant Town Clerk read the proceedings of the last Common Hall, after which the Recorder informed the Livery of the occasion of today's meeting. The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, other dignitaries and officers then retired, in procession, preceded by the City Marshal and the Swordbearer.

There they remained while the Livery cast their votes from the three candidates, selected by the Court of Aldermen from amongst their number, and offered this year for election. Each candidate's name was read out and their surname displayed on a large card. Liverymen indicated their preference by a show of hands, and a shout of 'All', for their favoured candidate.

Their next favoured candidate received a shout of 'Next Time' (i.e. next year), and the third a shout of 'Later'. Liverymen were asked to return two candidates to be presented to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, from whom they select one to be the new



The Lord Mayor and Aldermen returned in procession into the Hall, with the Lord Mayor elect, Michael Bear, now on the Lord Mayor's left. His entry was greeted by a great cheer from the assembled Liverymen. Once all had returned to the dais, the Lord Mayor elect was called upon to declare his assent to take office and

the Swordbearer placed the chain around his neck. He then addressed the Common Hall.

This was followed by resolutions of thanks to the current Lord Mayor, and then to the two previous Sheriffs, all of which were passed unanimously by the Livery, and to which the Lord Mayor and late Sheriffs responded. The resolution of thanks to the Lord Mayor was moved on behalf of his mother Livery, the Butchers' Company, by its current Master, Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal.

At the end of the ceremony, the Lord

Mayor, the Lord Mayor elect, the Aldermen and others left the Hall in procession, to be greeted by a fanfare of trumpets as they exited the Hall. They were followed by the Livery Committee, and the Masters, Prime Wardens and Upper Bailiff of the livery companies.

This was a ceremony which showed the City's tradition and its ability to display pageantry, at its very best. Liverymen left the Hall in the knowledge of a job well done, and for us Feltmakers, with an excellent lunch to look forward to at the Tallow Chandlers' Hall. It has become a very welcome tradi-

tion, after both the Shrieval and Mayoral elections, for the Tallow Chandlers Company to invite members of other Companies who do not have their own Halls to join them for lunch, which this year, as usual was excellent, informal and fun.

Feltmakers who have not attended this, or the earlier Shrieval election, are strongly encouraged to do so next year, as these are occasions not to be missed. To take part is one of the great privileges of being a Liveryman.

Peter Shirley

History Enthusiasts Visit Penn House

The article below was one of the last to be written by Rowland Brown and is included as a tribute to him

Led by Past Master Derek Hilton, a group of Livery Members with a keen interest in matters historical, recent-



ly visited Buckinghamshire Stately Home Penn House, seat of Earl Howe, with the prime intent of viewing the celebrated Prince Edward Cap (see picture) dating back some 450 years. (The owner subsequently became Edward VI)

To the group's delight, not only did they view and handle this exceptional item of the Hatters' trade, they were given a conducted tour by the present Earl of the 400 year old mansion, and

had an enlightening account of Admiral Earl Howe's place in naval history in the late eighteenth century which resulted in his being made a Knight of the Garter, and being given a diamond encrusted ceremonial sword (see picture). We were able to view and enjoy Penn House's superb collection of pictures featuring the Admiral's triumphs, and also to view precious naval documents and log books covering the period 1784-1804.

Penn House houses a fascinating

variety of historic artefacts, ranging from pearls presented to the family by Henry VIII, which have their own ghost story to boot, associated with Hampton Court Palace, to early navigational aids and items of imperial

nostalgia. The morning of the visit flashed by, and the Feltmakers present left to

repair for lunch to the celebrated nearby pub/restaurant 'The Hit or Miss', realising how fortunate we are as a nation to have such treasure troves of living history on our doorstep.



The Master's Plough Monday Dinner

This year's Plough Monday Dinner was held on Monday 11th January (the first Monday after Epiphany) in the graceful and historic surroundings of Vintners' Hall, close to the Thames, one of the most impressive of the Livery Company Halls. The Master hosts this dinner, which is attended by the members of the Court, together with the Master's personal guests, who include, again by tradition, the two Sheriffs of the City of London, as well as, on this occasion, Master Skinner, Master Fletcher and Master Plaisterer. The event was very well attended, despite the recent heavy snowfall and difficult travelling conditions.

Edward Hutton eloquently proposed the toast to the Corporation of London

and the Sheriffs, and we were delighted to hear, firstly, from Alderman and Sheriff David Wootton, and secondly, from Sheriff Peter Cook, responding to the toast. Both spoke wittily and entertainingly about their roles, and touched on the financial status of the City, as we start to emerge from the recession, and the importance of restoring confidence in the City and in its institutions.

We were very privileged indeed to hear next from the Master's guest, and our principal speaker of the evening, Mr. Peter Stormonth Darling, who has spent most of his very distinguished career in investment management. We were delighted to receive from him at our dinner, his entertaining and in-

sightful analysis of some of those factors, which had precipitated the global financial crisis. To the pleasure of a large number of his rather more mature listeners, these included the lack of older and more experienced managers during a period during which was characterised by the rapid advancement of younger, less-experienced, high risk takers, with what might have been predictable results!

The Plough Monday Dinner is the first event in our calendar year. This year's exceeded our expectations and we returned to our Livery Company's own plough well fortified for 2010!

Judy George

The Luton Lunch

The Luton Lunch has now become an annual event, much appreciated by liverymen, especially by those many Feltmakers who have connections to the Luton hatting industry, and who live in this area. However, this lunch is not an ancient tradition, having been inaugurated in the 1970s, but with a

break between 2002 and 2006. So it was a bitter disappointment last year when, after all the plans had been finalised, it had to be cancelled at the last moment because of the blizzards which shut down the country, making it almost impossible for liverymen to get here. Thankfully, having prayed

for better weather for the 2010 function on 5th February, our prayers were answered. After a dull and damp start to the day, the sun appeared and the temperature reached double figures for the first time since Christmas.

At our usual venue, the Luton Masonic Centre, thirty-seven of us sat down to lunch. A minute's silence was held in memory of Liveryman Tony Horn. After grace was said, we enjoyed a delicious four course meal and then, as a new venture this year, Liveryman John Horn, son of the late Tony, and himself carrying on the tradition by working in the family firm, gave a short presentation on feltmaking in Luton. John's talk was most educational and amusing, being illustrated with 'props' demonstrating the process from plain wool, through to a dyed and recognisable hat. The Master responded by thanking both John and also the organisers of what was, once again, a successful and very convivial event.

David Siegler



The Spring Livery Dinner

This year's Spring Livery Dinner was held in Fishmongers' Hall, close to London Bridge. The current Hall, designed by Henry Roberts, dates from 1835, a unique coalition of both the Roman and Greek styles, overlooking the River.

At the reception, we were pleased to greet old friends, and meet some new ones. These included new Liverymen Ian Thomas and Richard Brumby, together with our new Honorary Liverymen (and old friend) Captain James Morley RN, who captained HMS Lancaster from 2004 to 2006, and Master Ned Wontner, our newly indentured Apprentice, carrying forward a fine family tradition.

At dinner, we were delighted to be joined by Mrs. Patricia Hunt, High Sheriff of Somerset, Mr. Oliver Holmes- Master Glover, Mr. John Turner- Master Framework Knitter and Mr. Brian Porritt- Master Maker of Playing Cards as well as Alderman Alan Yarow and Deputy William Fraser, the Chief Commoner. An excellent dinner was preceded by an unusual Grace for two voices, the voices being those of the Reverend Canon Dr. James Rosenthal, and our own Colin Semper

Edward Winfield proposed the toast to our Guests most eloquently, and we were honoured to hear from Major General Geoffrey Field, formerly Governor of the Tower of London, who

spoke very compellingly about his work in relation to the War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Tribunal, and the long struggle to seek adequate compensation for those injured in the service of their country.

Finally, we had a rare and much welcomed treat in the singing, by the Choir of St. Stephen Walbrook, whom we last heard at the carol service, of the Feltmakers' Anthem 'A Crown of Glory', originally commissioned by Past Master Patrick Burgess for our 400th Anniversary. This made a wonderful end to a truly memorable evening.

Judy George

The Feltmakers' Banquet

Holding the flagship event of our social calendar at Drapers' Hall in Throgmorton Avenue proved to be a highly

During dinner, the Feltmakers' Award 2010 was presented by the Lady Mayoress to Ms Awon Golding of Kensington and Chelsea College.

In her response, the Master stressed the themes of charitable giving, education and fellowship. She presented a donation to The Lord Mayor's Appeal 2010 (Pitch Perfect) followed up by some very amusing observations on the various halls owned by the Drapers' Company. As a speech, it was brief, witty and to the point and thus served as a brilliant "warm-up" to her guest speaker, Garry Richardson, the veteran BBC sports presenter, who entertained us with the various "colemanballs" that he and other broadcasters had made over the years.



Her design was startlingly original in its conception and assured in its execution. As ever, the winning entry was beautifully modelled by Jasmine.

At the end of the evening, our palates refreshed, there was another treat in store as we sipped our stirrup cups to the beguiling and rhythmic delights of Becki Biggins and her Dream Team jazz band.

successful innovation. Its reputation as one of the City's finest livery halls is well-deserved.

As we arrived, to be welcomed by Susan Wood our Master, the Honourable Artillery Company Brass Quintet was already disseminating a mood of relaxed conviviality. They continued to entertain us throughout dinner playing many of our favourite pieces.

Our formal guests included the Lord Mayor Nick Anstee and his two sheriffs David Wootton and Peter Cook. In his reply to Upper Warden John Ray's witty introduction, the Lord Mayor congratulated the Feltmakers on the support given to the Army Cadet 'Outreach' Programme.

During the evening, we had all been treated to music of a very high order which served to create a most memorable banquet for those attending.

Edward Hutton

The Livery Lunch

The Livery Lunch was held on Tuesday 7th September at the Cavalry and Guards Club, Piccadilly, an occasion

and grace by our Chaplain Colin Semper, we sat down to a simple but excellent late summer luncheon of chicken

in Australia, ultimately progressing to becoming the Queen's Milliner. One of his more public engagements is his role as the principal fashion judge at the Melbourne Cup, not of the horses but of the ladies. In his opinion, avoid tattoos, bare midriffs and ankle bracelets if you wish to be adjudged a Well Dressed Woman! For those interested to learn more about Freddie, he has a book coming out soon and there will be an exhibition of his work next year at the Fashion Museum.



enjoyed by around sixty Liverymen and their partners (a turnout similar to last year's inaugural lunch). Indeed, it was a turnout apparently unaffected by problems caused by the Underground strike that day. The sun shone through the long windows and our ladies were resplendent in their hats. After drinks,

and roast pepper terrine followed by cold poached salmon, with dessert being a choice between summer pudding or a selection of plated cheeses. The highlight was the very entertaining talk by Liveryman Freddie Fox LVO in which he recounted how he became involved in hatmaking as a teenager

There was also much interest in a CD commissioned by our Master Susan Wood and featuring hymns sung by the choir of St Stephen Walbrook, City of London, including the Feltmakers' Anthem "A Crown of Glory". Copies of the CD were sold at the lunch and it is the intention that profits from those sales and any further sales will fund further and much-needed research into the early history of the Feltmakers' Company. All in all, an excellent event in our calendar!

Edward Hutton

Our Sporting Year

The Master's Golf Day

The Master's golf day was held at Harpenden Golf Club on 12th May. This was very well supported with over 20 golfers participating. Thanks go to all liverymen who brought a guest with them. The weather was fine and the standard of golf was one of the best on record, with nearly all golfers achieving 20 stableford points or more.

Master Susan wood presented her prizes to Assistant Edward Hutton, who won the tournament with 39 points with the second prize going to James Davis, a guest of Mike Winfield, with 36 points. Nearest the pin was claimed by Gerry Higginson and



the longest drive was won by Neil Edwards. Prizes were also won by Mike Winfield and Catherine Farr for the best out 9 and best in 9 respectively. When the golf had finished, everyone sat down to a first rate meal.

Liveryman Gerry Higginson will be taking over the organisation of the golf day next year. Please see the livery web site then for further details of next year's event.

Neil Edwards

The Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shoot

Perfect weather welcomed liverymen from many Companies to the grounds of Holland and Holland in Northwood for another enjoyable day, blasting away at clay pigeons. Every year, the Worshipful Company of Environmental Cleaners organises this event, which raises funds for charity.

This year the Feltmakers fielded one team of liverymen (Team A: Brian Minnighan, Peter Winfield, Peter Shirley and William Battersby) and one team of guests (Team B: Graham and Tom Poulton, Brian Mann and Kevin Harris). As usual, our entry was very capably organised by Liveryman Brian Minnighan. Brian encouraged everyone to assemble early, so that we could fortify ourselves with a breakfast of bacon and sausages in rolls, before heading off for our first stand to be there for the official start with shots from 8.30. Past Master Bill Horsman accompanied us throughout as a spectator and enjoyed the day immensely from his viewpoint sitting on a shooting stick.

The way the day works is for teams to process around and shoot at each

of ten different stands. Each one provides four pairs of different tricky 'birds' for liverymen to try and 'kill', each person shooting individually, and with a friendly Holland and Holland official

and has the adrenaline flowing to keep up with the demanding pace of loading and firing as the clays 'fly'.

The final Feltmakers' results were



efficiently managing the process, issuing cartridges, and noting scores. The eleventh activity is the flush or flurry, where the team all shoot together and try to hit waves of 4 or 5 clays which are sent overhead. This is great fun

scores of 216, for Team A, and an excellent 303 for Team B, making our guests the fifth highest scoring team overall.

Peter Shirley

Cricket Events

The Livery Cricket Pairs competition took place on Tuesday 18th May and the Livery Cricket match on Saturday 19th June. Both events were organised by Peter Simeons, with the help of Simon Curtis.

Once again, we were fortunate to have good weather for the Livery Cricket Pairs competition, held at the picturesque location of Amersham Cricket Club, set amongst the Chiltern Hills. 14 players competed for the winners' trophies, including Assistant Sarah McLeod's two sons and Liveryman Mike Bedford, all of whom made their debuts in the competition this year. Past Master Geoffrey Vero and

his partner with 40 points seemed certain to retain the trophies, before being overhauled by a guest pair at the end of the competition. The enthusiasm of the players was expertly managed by our two umpires, Past Master Geoffrey Farr and Liveryman Richard Brumby, whilst Sarah McLeod looked after the complex scoring system. Afterwards, 30 players and spectators enjoyed an excellent buffet supper in the clubhouse, which was also an excellent opportunity to mix with other Liverymen in informal and relaxed surroundings. The Master presented the prizes, which she had also kindly donated to winners Ross Thomson and Andy Stiel.

The Livery Cricket Match on 19th June was a limited over match against the Chiltern 100's team and was held at Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire. The opposition batted first and, despite good bowling and enthusiastic fielding from the Feltmakers, they reached 130 runs in their allotted 20 overs. When the Feltmakers batted, they started brightly and were up with the required scoring rate for the first 6 overs, before tight bowling from the opposition restricted scoring opportunities and the Feltmakers only managed 65 runs in their 20 overs.

Peter Simeons

Inter Livery Tennis Competition

The Tennis Competition took place on 16th September and was again held at the prestigious Queens Club, London and only a couple of showers interrupted a very successful and enjoyable day. The Feltmakers, having initiated the event, have been organising and hosting it for fifteen years at Queens Club and it is an important event in our calendar, raising the profile of our Livery Company.

The Feltmakers' teams this year were Liverymen Gilly Yarrow and Bruce Fraser each with their respective partners.

Both teams reached the semi finals but they were unable to overcome the strength of the Tallow Chandlers' players – Chris and Alex Kurkjian who seem to have been regular winners of the competition.

After the Dinner at which there were almost one hundred people present, Master Susan Wood, welcomed the guests, which included Masters from the Horners', Makers' of Playing Cards, Tallow Chandlers' and Wax Chandlers' Livery Companies. She then presented the Feltmakers' Trophy

and the prizes to the winners.

The main competition: winners were the Tallow Chandlers, with the Grocers as runners up. The Plate competition for first round losers was won by the Plumbers, with the Grocers as runners up.

We would welcome more aspiring tennis players next year and look forward to our Company's continuing support on the day.

Anthony Phillips

Felted Magical Mystery Hats

On 25th August, on one of wettest evenings of the summer, twenty Livery members and their wives and guests visited Luton Museum for a private viewing of this exhibition of felt hat making through the years. We were joined by our Master, Susan Wood and Luton's Mayor Tom Shaw and his Lady Mayoress.

Greeting us in the foyer was a very welcome drink and some delicious canapés. We then moved through to the exhibition of hat making and displayed on the walls were some wonderful old photos of local hat factories, some in use, some unfortunately not, and of the machinery used at those times, again some of it still in use, tak-

ing us through the different stages of hat making.

Along with these were samples of felts at their different stages together with a small selection of felt and straw casual hats for the public to try on, if they wished. This certainly gave a small insight into the tremendous work that goes into making the finished article. Also on display were hats of various styles, colours and finishes amongst them a top hat, a bowler (donated by Lock and Co.), fedoras and straws.

Taking up the far corner of the exhibition was a delightful display of some of the entrants from our Design Award, amongst them this year's winner, and

in the last display cabinet in the room was the Feltmaker's Charter, the Master's Hat, a Past Master's Badge, the Loving Cup and the Company Seal.

Nearing the end of the evening, the Mayor gave a short speech wishing the Company and trade much success and our Master closed the evening by thanking everyone for attending and particularly Past Master Horsman for his help with the exhibition. The visit now over, we gathered our raincoats and brollies and braved the unceasing rain for our journeys home.

Jackie Minnighan

Accounts Summary

The Company's accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009 were approved by the Court at its Spring meeting on 13th April 2010. The accounts for the year showed a net operating loss, after tax, of £3,800, compared with a surplus of £3,100 in 2008. This was largely due to expenditure on one item for which

donations had been received in 2008. The two years taken together show a more accurate position.

After a poor performance in 2008 due to the economic crisis, both the General Fund and the Life Quarterage Fund performed well in 2009, increasing by 26% and 38.3%, respectively,

the FTSE all Share index having increased by 24.9% in the same twelve-month period. At 31st December 2009, the Company's funds stood at £273,000.

Eda Rose-Lawson

Obituaries

It is with deep sadness that we record the deaths of the following Liverymen of our Company during the last year.

Rowland Brown OBE, JP, MA.

Rowland was born in Hampshire 1933, the second of four boys. From the age of nine he attended Queen Mary's School in Basingstoke. Following National Service in the Intelligence Core, he went up to Oxford in 1953, to read modern languages at Worcester College, also representing his college at football and rowing, an enthusiasm he maintained throughout his life.

Rowland was called to the bar in 1966. However, it was education that was dearest to him, and he ultimately became Headmaster firstly of the King Edward Grammar School in Nuneaton (the youngest Headmaster of his generation), and then of the Royal Grammar School in High Wycombe. During this period he was a member of the Oxford University Delegacy of Local Examinations, served as Legal Secretary to the Secondary Heads Association for ten years - and was their National President in 1985.

In 1993 Rowland was awarded an OBE for services to education. An energetic member of his local community, he served as a JP and Chairman of the bench in High Wycombe.

An enthusiastic Rotarian, this year he was presented with a life long achievement award for more than 35 years of service to the community.

Rowland became a Liveryman in 1991, and was a founding member of the Livery Society. Initially joint editor of this magazine, he continued to serve on its Committee, guiding each new edition with sound advice and an unerring eye. Generous with his time, he also served on the Historical Committee where he made a significant contribution.

Rowland was a devout and committed Christian; his faith played an important part in the way he conducted his life. Happily married to Jay for over fifty years, they had three daughters and eight grand children. His eldest daughter, Caroline, is the wife of Liveryman Robert Wallbank

Tony Horn

Tony spent a lifetime in the hatting industry and the Horn family has been involved in hatting since the early 1800s. Born in 1933 he left Dunstable Grammar School in 1949, and spent two years in Switzerland studying bleaching and dyeing before joining the family firm of H. Abraham (subsequently Baxter Hart and Abraham) in Luton.

Tony joined the Feltmakers' Company in 1988, and his career led him to take on many duties related to the hatting industry, including Chairman of London Luton Bleachers and Dyers Association in 1956, member of the British Colour Council and colour selection committee from 1956-78, member of the Hat, Cap and Millinery wages council for 20 years, member of the council of the British Hat Guild 1970-90, and Chairman of the Millinery Trades Benevolent Association in 1985. Tony was keen on skiing, tennis, golf and table tennis, and also enjoyed model engineering, woodworking and building radio and hi-fi equipment.

Tony was a family man, marrying his wife Jill in 1958 and they had two sons, Richard and John, and a daughter, Karen. John works in the family firm and is a Liveryman of our Company.

Derek Davies CBE.

Derek was born in 1933, and following a distinguished career, died after a long battle with cancer on 20th October. Husband of Joy, he leaves two sons and five grandchildren. Derek joined the Feltmakers' Company in 1977.

150 Years of the Cadet Movement

2010 marked 150 years since the Cadet movement, which is supported by the Charitable Foundation either by way of grants to the movement as a whole, or to individual cadet groups, was first established. Its original purpose was to help bolster the country's defence numbers following heavy losses in the Crimean War. This momentous year has been marked by a number of high profile events around the country, one of which, a reception at Mansion House, I was privileged to attend on behalf of the Master. Those who watched the Lord Mayor's Show

will also have seen the London Cadets providing both the Outward Guard of Honour and the Joint Band, celebrating the long association between the cadets and the Mayoralty. The City of London was proud to support the cadets in other ways, one of the most popular of which was the 'Big Curry' on 24th April, when Guildhall played host to 500 young people, enjoying an excellent meal as guests of the Lord Mayor, Nick Anstee.

Although the role of the Cadet Forces has changed considerably over the

years, they take pride in their affinity with the values and ethos of the Armed Forces - the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force - and the lessons of good citizenship and discipline these bring. Encouragingly, there are today more than 130,000 cadets in the Combined Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Corps, Army Cadet Force and Air Training Corps, supported by 25,000 Adult Volunteers. This is very much a good news story.

Judy George