

The Feltmaker



The Newsletter of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers November 2011 Master: Eda Rose Lawson Issue No. 35

The Master's Address

The following is taken from the address given by our new Master, Eda Rose-Lawson, at the Installation Dinner

It gives me enormous pleasure to be standing here before you this evening as Master of the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers. I thank the members of the Court, for the great honour bestowed on me, which is a mantle that I shall wear with great pride.

Our Livery Company has a long tradition stretching back over four hundred years, and as each Master takes up the baton and steers the Livery into the future, I am well aware that its history and precious traditions must be upheld and not forgotten, while its aims and objectives are well nurtured to bring them to successful fruition.

I take up the Mastership from a long line of Past Masters, who have each brought to the Livery their own skills and qualities, and at this point it is my pleasure to thank Past Master John Ray for a most successful year of office which he conducted so efficiently and so cheerfully in spite of breaking his foot on the ice early in his year.

Perhaps I feel even more honoured due to the fact that I am only the second lady in the long and distinguished history of this great Company to hold this office; the honour of becoming the first lady Master going of course to my friend, Mrs. Susan Wood, who, I'm sure we would all agree, carried out her duties as Master with distinction, and equal to any of her male predecessors. My theme for my year is the apprecia-

tion of Tradition along with the skills of Restoration and Conservation that still survive in this country today. So many times we admire the fine work of by-gone days as we visit stately homes and historic buildings, only to hear the words, 'they can't do that anymore!' Yes they can! We have a small highly skilled body of designers, plasterers, gilders, and restorers using traditional methods to bring precious buildings back to their original state. These are talents and skills to be greatly admired and encouraged.

Perfect examples are the Church of St Mary-le-Bow in Cheapside, and Windsor Castle, so it will come as no surprise to you to learn that I have chosen St Mary-le-Bow for our Christmas Carol service and supper on December 12th, steeped in tradition, beautifully restored, and world famous for the Great Bell of Bow.

The sound of Bow Bells caused that famous Liveryman of the Mercers' Company, Dick Whittington, to turn back to the City, later to become Lord Mayor of London. I cannot imagine why he wanted to leave in the first place, but I'm sure we shall understand why he was compelled to return, when we hear the bells. I have arranged for the full peel of the twelve bells to be rung by the City of London bell-ringers, specially for the Feltmakers, for three quarters of an hour before our service begins.

With the Livery Society I hope to arrange a special visit next year to Windsor, as I believe that the restoration of the Castle, is a great tribute and

testament to the wonderful craftsmen who are capable of carrying out such fine restoration work today.

As you know, each Master is expected to nominate a Charity and create a fund-raising event during their year of office, and I have nominated the Spinal Injuries Association, with whom I have been involved in fund-raising over many years. The Association cares for permanent wheel-chair, spinally-injured sufferers - people from all walks of life, including jockeys, sportsmen and other serious accident victims.

I have therefore decided to organise a fund-raising race-day luncheon and afternoon tea at Ascot, which is booked for May 2nd next year. I shall be hosting guests from the Livery, and the racing world in general. With full support from the Spinal Injuries Association, I am sure the day, promoted in the name of the Feltmakers, will be a great success, and you would be correct in expecting me, a milliner, to say that ladies will be encouraged to wear their finest hats for the occasion.

After lunch on that day, there will be an auction of top quality lots. I am still working to secure more, as well as seeking the further sponsorship, necessary to make the day a really great success.

Planning the year ahead is very exciting and I look forward to your support for as many of the events and dinners as possible, to enjoy good fellowship together, as we confidently take this ancient Company of Feltmakers happily into the future.

Master: Eda Rose-Lawson

Wardens: Anthony Phillips, Simon Bartley, Edward Hutton, Peter Simeons **Immediate Past Master:** John Ray

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

Eda Rose-Lawson

Master Feltmaker

Eda was born in Wales and was educated at the prestigious Cyfarthfa Castle Grammar School in Merthyr Tydfil. On leaving school, Eda went on to study fine art, sculpture and the history of art at Goldsmiths' College School of Art, London



Her fascination with the three dimensional form led to a course at the West of England Academy of Art, Bristol, where she broadened her artistic education by pursuing courses in dress design, fashion and millinery. This was to eventually dictate her passion for wearable sculpture: hats, and, much later, the creation of her own couture millinery business.

Developing an interest in all things theatrical, Eda taught art at Elmhurst Ballet School and at further education classes in Surrey before pursuing her other interest, English Language. She gained the Royal Society of Arts qualification in teaching English as a foreign

language at International House Piccadilly, London, after which she joined the Berlitz School of Language in Frankfurt: subsequently taking a post with the United States Air Force in Frankfurt as a German/English translator. On her return to the United Kingdom she became course leader at Oxford and Reading University language schools, and enjoyed treading the boards with the Berkshire Shakespeare Players.

It was in 1984 that Eda decided to set up her own business, 'Eda Rose Millinery' comprising the design and creation of bespoke hats for special occasions and fashion consultancy. She quickly built up a list of very satisfied clients, and her creations quickly came to the notice of Harrods of Knightsbridge where she was consid-

ered to be 'one of the top few inspirational designers of couture millinery': the spur which drove her to develop the business through other retail outlets as well.

Being invited to speak about the millinery business and put on shows of her work has taken up much of her time but it has proved to be a popular means of charity fund-raising. In 1996 Eda married George Lawson, a businessman and rowing enthusiast. They currently live in an Art Deco



country house in Oxfordshire, and both share a great interest in quintessentially British traditions and events

Eda was elected onto the Livery in April 1997 and was subsequently invited to be one of the judges of the Feltmakers' Design Award, a role she greatly enjoys as she feels the competition is one that the Livery can be proud of, being a source of great encouragement to young students embarking on a millinery career.

A member of the Royal Overseas' League London, the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Society, and Progress Theatre in Reading, Eda's other interests are her three very young grand-children, the theatre, antiques, architecture, fashion and the glamour of the golden age of Hollywood.

Our New Fourth Warden

Peter Simeons

Peter Simeons has been a Feltmaker since 1989. Shortly after joining the Company, he became a member of the Livery Society committee. He arranged the Luton lunch for four years, and has organised the Cricket activities for the Livery since the early 1990's. He was a Steward in 2000/01 and joined the Court in 2004. His father, Past Master Charles Simeons, was Master of the Company in 1987.

Peter qualified as a Chartered Accountant, after serving Articles with Robson Rhodes in London. He then decided to move into commerce, whilst seeking to use his language abilities, and joined the audit team of Bunge, an international trading house, with a working base in Antwerp, Belgium. He subsequently moved to Paris, to be C.F.O of Bunge's French operation. On his return to the UK, he became C.F.O

Europe, and developed his global treasury and fiscal knowledge. He



became a Fellow of the Association of Corporate Treasurers and still sits on their Member Services committee. At this point, Bunge decided to sell their

European operations, which he executed, and then temporarily became a consultant to them. He also worked with the DTI advising SME's on raising debt and equity, including flotation on AIM. He was soon back with Bunge, full time, setting up commercial offices in major cities across Europe. Peter is now a director of Bunge's international sugar trading company, which has a turnover in excess of \$3bn, where he is responsible for the accounting, treasury, tax and legal activities of the company.

He has always been interested in sport, having played rugby at club and county level, and continues to play cricket and golf. He is a member of the MCC. Peter is married to Irene, and they have two daughters, Louise and Wendy.

ANNIVERSARIES

In 2011 our congratulations go to:

Past Master **Charles Simeons**: who has recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

Past Master **Geoffrey Farr**: who has been a Liveryman for 40 years and a Court member for 30 years.

Past Master **Derek Hilton**: who has been a Court member for 30 years.

Past Master **His Honour Judge Keith Devlin** and Past Master **Derek Bedford** who have both been Court members for 20 years.

Honours

Our congratulations go to **Commander Rory Bryan R.N.**, who was awarded the O.B.E. in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours.

OBITUARIES

It is with great sadness that we record the death of Liveryman **Canon Richard Tydeman**, who died on 1st April 2011.

We also mark, with great sadness, the death of Janet, wife of our Chaplain, **Colin Semper**.

WELCOME

We welcome the following new Liverymen to our Company:

At the meeting of the Court held on 4th April 2011:

Graham Peart
Richard Pavry
Colin Smith
Christopher Ray

At the meeting of the Court held on 7th October 2011

Trevor Lord
Nigel Macdonald
Simon Charles
Michael Clowes

The Feltmakers' Charitable Foundation

The so-called "economic downturn" has affected us all individually in one way or another, and few charities have escaped unscathed from the knock-on effects on both donors and investments.

Against that depressing background, our foundation has held up remarkably well in the circumstances. Thanks to wise and careful monitoring of our investments, our portfolio valuation rose during a volatile year and the income from investments was only marginally below that of the previous year. The significant fund raising event of the year was the Charitable Evening held at the Peter Osborne Art Gallery, organised by the Master, John Ray. This successful and enjoyable occa-

sion raised £4,760 and the Master presented a cheque for the proceeds to his chosen charity, the Iain Rennie Hospice, at the Livery Banquet. Also, during the year, Court Assistant Simon Millar undertook a sponsored walk of some 48 miles in a day, raising nearly £1,000 for our funds.

During the year, the Foundation made grants totalling some £35,000. Recipients include the Design award winner, the Lord Mayor's Appeal, support for trainee milliners, and the Armed Forces and cadet organisations. We continue to support Pensioner Hatters with grants at Christmas and by a contribution towards the Atherstone Pensioners Lunch. The Trustees again record their appreciation of the continuing support

given by the Haberdashers' Company in part-funding these grants. The number of donors to the St Clements initiative remained static over the year. Whilst thanking all contributors, the Trustees would encourage other Liverymen to consider joining the scheme and so enhancing the income of our charity.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their help and advice. In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our retiring Treasurer, Peter Grant, for his hard work in that post during the last three years. He will be succeeded by our immediate Past Master, John Ray and we thank him for undertaking this role and wish him well.
John Curteis *Chairman of Trustees*

The Master's Charity Event 2011

The Master's charity event, this year in aid of the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, was held in the Osborne Samuel art gallery on Bruton Street. The charity was kindly represented by patron and BBC television presenter Bill Turnbull.



The event was very well attended by Feltmakers and friends alike. We were able to wander freely around the gallery, which specializes in British artists

and were treated to a wide-ranging of Lynn Chadwick, which are the gallery's main exhibition at the moment and



Henry Moore to paintings by a variety of artists and a selection of the incredible photos of Tim Flack.

Peter Osborne, the gallery owner, who had generously allowed us to use the gallery for the evening, gave us a fascinating introduction to some of the pieces on display as well as an insight in to the building itself and the secret passages on to Bond Street to aid the escape of mistresses, although there were a couple of members of the audi-

ence who were more interested in rain free access to Bond Street shopping through the passages.

Bill Turnbull then talked to us about the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home charity and its origins in 1985 with five nurses who, having helped to look after Iain Rennie at home, with his family, in the final weeks of his illness, decided to set up the hospice at home charity to allow terminal cancer patients to be cared for in the comfort of their own home. Bill also told us of the important work that the charity is doing now.

The Company is immensely grateful to Peter Osborne and to Bill Turnbull for their support on this very successful evening, which raised £4,760 for the Ian Ronnie Hospice at Home.

Christopher Ray

All images taken from "TWENTIETH CENTURY BRITISH ART" Osborne Samuel

Dinners

Master's Plough Monday Dinner

This year's Plough Monday Dinner, hosted by Master John Ray, was held on Monday 10th January in the delightful setting of Armourers' Hall.

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.

Members of the Court were, therefore, delighted to welcome Alderman and Sheriff Fiona Woolf, C.B.E. and Mr. Sheriff Richard Sermon, M.B.E., as the Master's principal guests, together with Mr. Stephen Clark, TD (Master Wheelwright), and Mr. Alderman David Wootton (Master Solicitor).

The evening was, as ever, a most convivial one, with excellent food and wine, and good fellowship. The toast to the guests was fluently and eloquently

proposed by Senior Assistant, Peter Simeons, who referred to the distin-

guished careers of the Sheriffs, and the Company's pleasure at their presence.

In response, Alderman and Sheriff Fiona Woolf spoke about aspects of the roles of the two Sheriffs, in terms of the parts they each, and jointly, play in supporting the Lord Mayor though the year.

Mr. Sheriff Richard Sermon then gave us his view about the role of the Sheriffs. He spoke, particularly, about the charitable activities that are so much a part of the City's activities.

The final speaker of the evening was the Rt. Reverend Graeme Knowles, Dean of St. Paul's, and, of course, Honorary Liveryman of the Feltmakers, proposing the health of the Company. **Judy George**

The Installation Dinner

Our Installation dinner is now traditionally held at Haberdashers' Hall, and is the first event each year hosted by the new Master of our Company who has been elected and installed into this honour at the Court meeting that precedes the dinner.

This year we are delighted to welcome Eda Rose-Lawson as our new Master; only the second lady Master in our over 400 year history. Eda was previously our Upper Warden and we now also welcome Peter Simeons as our new Fourth Warden.

The dinner was a splendid affair, attended by seventy-five liverymen and their guests, who included Sir Christopher Pryke Bt. Master Tallow Chandler, H.H. Judge Giles Forrester, Upper Bailiff of the Weavers' Company, and Mr. Paul

Ludwig, Master Waterman, as well as our principal speaker for the evening, Professor Sir Mansel Aylward, currently the Chair of Public Health-Wales, and Director of the Centre for Psychosocial and Disability Research at Cardiff University. Sir Mansel, a long-standing friend of the Master, was accompanied by Lady Aylward.

After an excellent meal, our guests were welcomed most ably by Assistant Neil Edwards. We were then, both entertained and educated by the Master's special guest. Following a couple of amusing anecdotes from their school-days together, Sir Mansel spoke with great enthusiasm about his work on

identifying the nature of well-being, and the determinants of happiness, and the very real business imperative for employers to invest in the physical and mental health of their employees. This



was fascinating stuff and particularly the contention that whilst we all need a sufficiency, money alone cannot make you happy! **Judy George**

Dinners

Spring Livery Dinner

This year's Spring Livery Dinner was held on Monday 4th April at the Apothecaries' Hall. The Hall dates back to 1672, and is one of the oldest Livery Halls in the City of London.

Four new Liverymen were sworn in at the Court Meeting prior to the dinner: Richard Pavry, Graham Peart, Chris Ray (son of our Master), and Colin Smith.

Grace was offered by the Very Reverend Colin Semper, our Chaplain, before an excellent meal including Saddle of Welsh Lamb and accompanied by fine wines.

A toast was eloquently proposed to all our guests by Liveryman Peter Winfield. They included Mr Nigel Macdonald (Chairman of James Lock & Co Ltd), Mr Nigel Pullman (Master Leatherseller), Mr George Turner (Master Framework Knitter), Lord Sharman (Master Gunmaker), Mr Jonathan Crowther (Master Maker of Playing Cards), Lady Pill (Master Welsh Livery Guild) and Field Marshal Sir John Chapple, together with the Clerks to the Leathersellers', Framework Knitters', Gunmakers' and Makers' of Playing Cards.

Mr Nigel Macdonald then proposed a toast to the Worshipful Company of Feltmakers and the Master. In his

toast, he referred to the history of James Lock & Co and the evolution of the business in recent years. He highlighted the company's need to reinterpret business standards and to provide customers with what they wanted, whilst using the internet for worldwide expansion. He called for a reassessment of values in business, and stressed the need to innovate.

The Master responded to this toast in jovial manner, whilst encouraging Feltmakers to attend this year's Feltmakers' Banquet as well as participating in upcoming events and activities. A most enjoyable evening was had by all.

Peter Simeons

The Feltmakers Banquet

Fishmongers' Hall, the venue for this year's Banquet, provided us with spectacular views of the Thames and beyond, wonderful paintings and candlelit chandeliers. The splendidly attired Doggett's Men in their crimson uniforms with oars welcomed us and the



HAC Brass Quintet, who played during the reception in tremendous form, then serenaded the Company with the Post Horn Gallop during a delightful evening.

Drinks before dinner provided an opportunity to examine the winning entries in the Feltmakers' Hat Competition,

won this year by Isla Campbell of Kensington and Chelsea College. She was accompanied by her tutor Sarah Cant. During his speech, the Master, John Ray, paid a very warm and moving tribute to all that Past Master Bill Horsman had done in establishing, guiding and promoting this prestigious national annual competition over twenty years.

The Master's powerful words triggered an enthusiastic standing ovation, extremely rare on an occasion like this. Bill now hands over the reins to Liveryman Rachel Trevor-Morgan. Some idea of the kudos that derives from winning the competition can be appreciated from the Kensington and Chelsea College website.

After grace by our Chaplain the Very Reverend Colin Semper, all sat down to a sumptuous dinner. The Upper Warden, Eda Rose-Lawson, introduced

our principal guests, namely Lord Mayor 'Locum Tenens' Alderman Ian Luder and Alderman and Sheriff Fiona Woolf. Ian Luder's response to Eda's welcome was delivered with consummate panache and poise in his customary self-deprecating and witty style. The Master, who replied on behalf of the Company in proposing the health of the guests, presented Ian Luder with a cheque for the Lord Mayor's Charity, the Bear Necessities.

He then asked Mrs Lin Luder to present the Feltmaker Award 2011, with the winning entry modelled by Jasmine. The Master's principal personal guest was John Bly, the well-known furniture expert who has been involved with BBC Television's Antiques Roadshow since it started in 1978 and also a Patron of the Master's Charity, the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.

His very amusing speech put us in fine form when we came to echo the Master's Toast to "the Livery Companies of the City of London".

Edward Hutton

Feltmakers' Hall

The Great Fire 1666

Liveryman Alastair Hay has presented a report to the Historical Committee concerning his researches to identify the precise location of our Hall. He points out that in the 16th and 17th Centuries Livery Halls were not the impressive facilities we see today but frequently functional warehouses and stores located near to the river. In many instances the Court of the Livery would meet in an upstairs room to deliberate on trade issues, infringements and disputes. It is probable that the Feltmakers' Hall was leased or rented which was common at that time. In 1666 the City covered about one square mile with a population of 80,000 people. It was a chaotic and unpleasant place with houses for the rich and for the poor in buildings close together and arranged in haphazard terraces often almost touching one another. The site of the Feltmakers' Hall was in St Peters Hill not far from a bakers premises in Pudding Lane where in the early hours of Sunday 6th September 1666 the fateful fire started. The timber framed properties had no hope and the strong and veering winds spread the fire along the water front and our Hall was engulfed sometime on the Monday afternoon.

The Fire destroyed 13200 houses, many important buildings including The Royal Exchange, The Customs House, The Guildhall, St Pauls. 87 parish churches and the Halls of 44 livery companies.

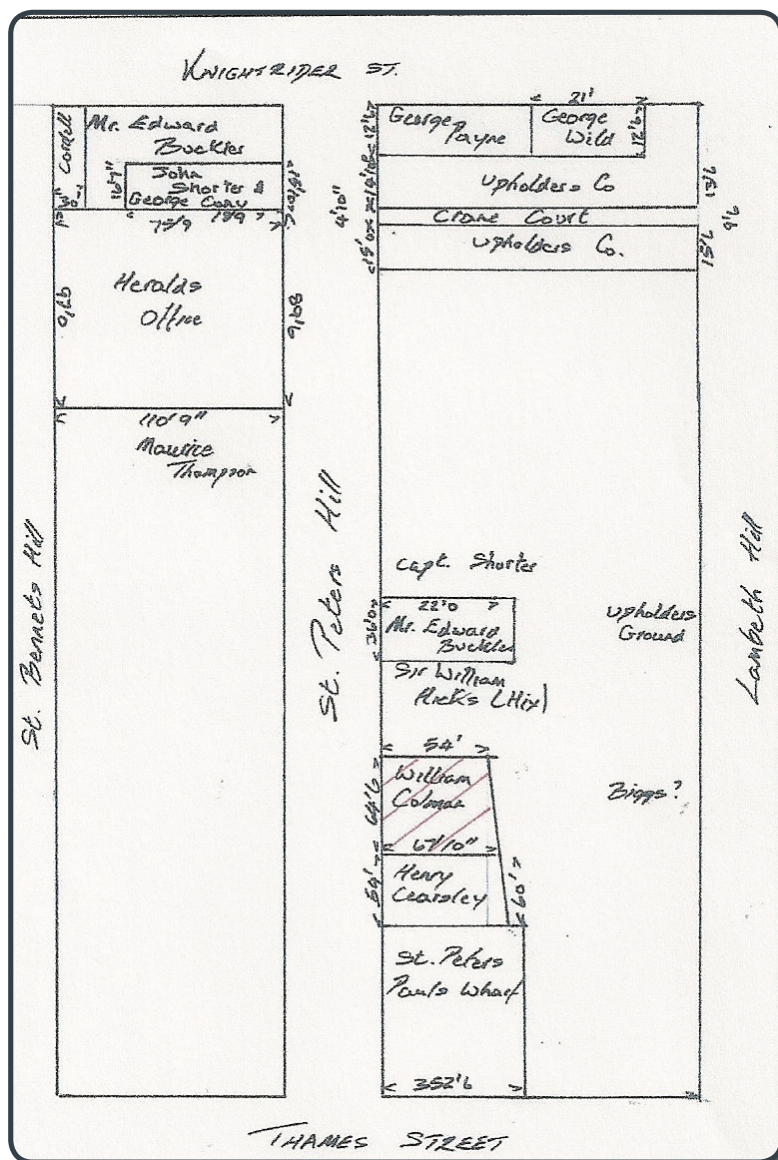
There is a reference in a survey of building sites in the city after the Great Fire which describes:-
 "Mr William Colman 8th March 1668. One foundation set out this day said situate on St Peters Hill belonging to the said Mr Colman, formerly the Feltmakers Hall....."
 Alastair Hay then remarkably tracked

through the major reconstructions and rebuilding of the City from the aftermath of the fire, through the Georgian and Victorian periods and the Blitz of the 1940's.

This was a period of huge change to the river frontage and the removal of unsightly wharves and crossing points. Victoria Street did not exist until the further 'grandification' of the City in the Victorian period and was built in 1870/1880 and cut across St Peters Hill. His detailed researches of documents and maps confirmed that St Peters Hill is now Peters Hill which runs from St Paul's Cathedral crossing Queen Victoria Street via a pedestrian crossing and then over Upper Thames Street by way of a bridge leading directly to the Millennium foot bridge over the river.

Because of the significant changes made in road patterns and buildings it has proved difficult to make a precise location of the Hall but it is to the South

and East of the College of Arms, due south of the Upholders Company and due North of the Church of St Peters, Paul's Wharf. The current land use on this side comprises Millennium Bridge House and the headquarters of the Sal-



vation Army with Peters Hill dissected by Queen Victoria Street.

The conclusion is that the location of the Hall to within 100 metres, is somewhere in the vicinity of the Salvation Army building although in fact it may be in the middle of Queen Victoria Street!

Tony Skrimshire
 Member Historical Committee

Feltmakers' Design Award 2011

For those involved, this annual event in our calendar has always been one to look forward to, and sure enough another memorable day was enjoyed at Haberdashers' Hall when 40 millinery entries were judged for the 2011 Feltmakers' Design Award.

This year the judges, headed by Past Master William Horsman, were liverymen and milliners Freddie Fox, Ian Wright, Rachel Trevor-Morgan and Eda Rose-Lawson, together with milliner, Edwina Ibbotson and Editor of The Hat magazine, Carole Denford.

After much deliberation, and with the help of Jasmine, who expertly modelled the creations, the judges awarded the first prize and winner of the Feltmakers' prize of £1,200 to Isla Campbell for an intricately made fantasy castle style hat in felt. Second prize of £600 went to Beth Simpson for a multicoloured felt flower headband and third prize of £400 to Harvy Santos for a wool Mohican style head-dress. All three winners are students at Kensington and Chelsea School of Art, which continues to produce successful millinery students – a credit to Ms. Kirsten Scott who is head of department at the college. Other awards of £200 each were made to Hollie Barret, of Northampton College, for 'Craftsmanship', Ellie Louise Matthews, of the Janie Lashford Millinery School, for 'Commercial Appeal', Chloe Osborn, of Northampton College, for 'Art-work and Presentation', and Sophie Beale, of Kensington and Chelsea School of Art, for 'Innovative Use of Felt'.

We were honoured to have the company of the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. Barbara Bear, accompanied by Mr, Nicholas Woolf, husband of Sheriff, Fiona Woolf, Mrs. Rosemary Sermon, wife of Sheriff Richard Sermon, and the Master, Mr John Ray with his wife, Rosemary, all of whom joined us at a splendid lunch, which perfectly rounded off the proceedings.

I am sure it will be of interest to all to be reminded that the giving of an award

to aspiring milliners sprang from an idea in 1991 created by Past Masters Geoffrey Farr and William Horsman together with Liveryman Freddie Fox. It was in 1993 that Past Master Horsman personally took on the organisation. He not only ensured that there would be a fine display of hats designed and made by students accompanied by art-work to present to the judges every year, but also organised a splendid lunch for the judges and guests, which took place for many years at Luton and latterly at Haberdashers' Hall.

After eighteen years of organising the event, Past Master Horsman has decided to retire from the position of organiser. On behalf of all of us in the Livery, therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm that he has applied to the task to make the event the success it is today, and in doing so, provide future organisers with an excellent model to follow.

Eda Rose-Lawson

Editors Note: A further article about Bill Horsman is also published in this edition



Lunches

The Luton Lunch

It was a pleasure, for once, not to have to worry about the weather for the Luton Lunch, which took place on Friday 28th January at our customary venue, the Luton Masonic Centre. Thirty-six liverymen and guests sat down to lunch and after Grace, spoken by Past Master Nicholas Heal, we enjoyed a delicious four-course meal.

Our guest speaker this year was Veronica Main, Curator of Textiles and Clothing at Luton Museum. Veronica had curated last year's very successful exhibition of felt hat making at the Museum and she told us how the hatting industry had come to our area and



of the development of straw plaiting and felt hat making. She claimed that Luton's entrepreneurial spirit had been instrumental in the development of hatting here. She produced three beautiful specimen hats of the 1920s and 1930s from the Museum's collection, to the delight of the audience.

The Master responded by thanking Veronica and the caterers and organisers for what was, once again, a successful and enjoyable event.

"It seems to get better every year" was expressed by one of the liverymen to me as we were leaving.

David Siegler

The Feltmakers' Lunch

The Livery Lunch, an event instigated by Past Master Susan Wood as an



informal occasion for Liverymen and their spouses to meet and socialise, was held this year at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. As it was a fine early September day, we were able to have pre-lunch drinks in the courtyard before moving indoors to lunch in the Hall upstairs. As ever, the Ladies were resplendent in their hats.

Before lunch, Brigadier Roy Wilde, Clerk of the Tallow Chandlers, entertained us with a fascinating history of

the Company and its Hall (it has to be said, in far more detail than can be

seen on the Company's website). The Deansgate cellars are 35 feet below the Hall, which may account for the good condition of the wine. The site of the first hall is now occupied by the Bank of England, but this first hall, construct-

ed in 1476, was destroyed in the Great Fire, the ferocity of which was due in part to the stocks of tallow on site.

The present hall, built on a Roman site, was designed by the Company's Surveyor, Captain John Caines. Robert Hooke, sometimes known as "England's Leonardo", provided guidance to the Surveyor and Christopher

Wren collaborated in the building of the new hall, which opened in 1672. In WWII, the Hall was damaged by a bomb and rebuilding took 7 years, during which time the Beadle and his wife cooked in the courtyard to feed Liverymen, without the aid of gas or electricity. The Hall is one of the best preserved in the City with little change since 1672, other than the minstrels' gallery which was lost in WWII. All those who



attended had a very enjoyable lunch and the ladies with their wonderful hats brightened our day.

Eric Shawyer and Edward Hutton

Past Master William Horsman Retires as Organiser of the Feltmaker's Design Award

After eighteen years of organising the Feltmaker's Design Award, Past Master William ('Bill') Horsman has sadly decided to hand over the reins. During this period, the competition became



an event that heightened the profile of the Company not only amongst the participating design colleges but also generally in the Livery Movement.

The giving of an award to aspiring milliners sprang from an idea in 1991 created by Past Masters Geoffrey Farr and William Horsman together with Liveryman Freddie Fox. It was in 1993 that Past Master Horsman personally took on the organisation of the Feltmakers' Design Award. As well as a fine display of hats designed and made by students accompanied by art-work to present to the judges every year, Past Master Horsman also organised a splendid lunch for the judges and guests, which took place for many years at Luton and latterly at Haberdashers' Hall, London. He made sure that the event was always well attended by a panel of four milliners within the Livery, a fashion or millinery editor and guest milliner; needless to say a professional model was always

included in the list of invitees. At the lunch, the company would be joined by the Master of the Feltmakers, the Lady Mayoress and the consorts of the two Sheriffs of the City of London.

For those concerned, it was one of the highlights of the Livery calendar.

The winning hats would be put on display at the venue of the Feltmakers'

Banquet, usually at Mansion House, where Liverymen and their guests were afforded the opportunity to appreciate the quality and style of the winning entries. The winning designs would also add a dash of colour to the pages of this publication.

When we first heard over a year ago that Bill wished to retire, some enquiries were carried out for background information. Here is a comment received from Kirsten Scott, the Course Director at Kensington and Chelsea College:

"William Horsman has been a great supporter and encourager of millinery education in the United Kingdom. The Feltmakers' Design Award has been a focal point of our year for as long as we can remember, and gives our millinery students a real incentive to improve their skills and develop their creativity. The College is very committed to this competition, which has had a profound impact on innovation in the important

heritage craft of felt hat-making."

"The College is eternally grateful for all the support William has given our students over the years: through visits, initiating work experience programmes, offering employment to graduates and, of course, in helping to establish the Feltmakers' Bursary for students. This has been an enormous help to those who struggle to afford the materials and equipment needed to complete their studies and has allowed many to launch their careers as milliners."

As Immediate Past Master John Ray noted at this year's Banquet: "Bill, we congratulate you and give you our heartfelt thanks for everything you have done and for all your hard work over the years. Thanks to your leadership, dedication, careful organisation and vision, the Feltmaker Award is now a landmark in the academic curriculum of the pre-eminent colleges across the country. You have been a great ambassador, not only with the colleges, but also with Mansion House."

To which Eda Rose-Lawson, our new Master adds: "On behalf of all of us in the Livery I would like to take this opportunity to thank Bill for all the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm that he has applied to the task to make the event the success it is today, and in doing so provide future organisers with an excellent model to follow."

Bill will be greatly missed, but no doubt he will be available to give advice and guidance if needed to Liverymen Ian Wright and Rachel Trevor-Morgan who will now take over the reins.

Eda Rose Lawson

Sports

The Master's Golf Day

The Master's Golf Day was held at Camberley Heath Golf Club on a beautiful afternoon in early May. Livery-



men and their guests were treated to the very best of heathland courses, a course designed by Harry Colt in 1913. There was a different format this year

with prizes awarded to the best team in addition to the best individual score.

The teams were mixed (not, as some would claim, to ensure that a lady won a prize but much more realistically to ensure that a man won a prize!) The winning team comprised Anthony Philips, Daphne Higginson, Keith Pledger (whose score was 'borrowed from another team'!) and Alan Dick, guest of the Higginsons.

The Nearest the Pin prize was won by Bob Cackett, guest of Keith Pledger, and the individual prize was won by Gerry Higginson.

The golf was followed by dinner in the Captain's Bar of the Clubhouse overlooking the course as the sun set. The Master and Rosemary had met for drinks with the golfers and other guests beforehand and, after an excellent dinner, presented the prizes, which the Master had generously donated. All in all, a wonderful day! Numbers were down on previous years due, we think, to the plethora of holidays, which preceded the event, but the friendliness and efficiency of all the staff at Camberley Heath made everyone want to return there.

Gerry Higginson

Inter-Livery Tennis

We had an entry of twenty-six pairs this year with fifteen Liveries represented, which was excellent. Two liveries took part for the first time, the Salters and the Broderers. Once again there was an influx of new teams and younger players, which is raising the standard of the tennis every year.

The Feltmakers' were represented by Gilly Yarrow and her husband Alan and by Bruce Fraser, my willing and very able assistant this year, and his tennis partner Sarah Ward. Gilly and Alan met with some tough opposition in the first round in which they were involved in the three-way tie for second place. Sadly, they could not progress through the competition, though, as they had an important evening engagement.

Bruce and Sarah entered the Plate competition as one of the two highest second place teams and met the Horners' first team for a battle royal. The Horners', Rob and Clare Hunt, were the eventual winners and progressed to the Final where they lost to the Salters' number one pairing of Emily Nichols and Fraser Wright, successful first-time entrants! The Plate, too, provided a good deal of excitement and some tough battles with the Broderers', Peter Hissey and Helen Maher reaching the semi-finals before losing to the Grocers' number one pair, Stephen Goodhart and Hilary Graffy.

The final was a family affair as Grocers' number one pair met the Grocers'

number two pair, Clare Goodhart and Alexander Bute! Grocers One triumphed in a close game. Dinner followed for a record 91 players and guests in the President's Room with the prizes presented by our Master, John Ray.

Bruce and I had several fabulous helpers on the day and I would like to thank Liverymen Jane Way and Simon Wood, my father, Past Master Geoffrey Farr and my mother Catherine, together with my long-suffering husband Rob, for their help and support on the day. The tournament next year will be held on Thursday 13 September, once again at Queen's Club.

Sarah McLeod

Sports

Pairs Cricket Competition

On a warm and pleasant evening in the delightful setting of Amersham Cricket Club, six pairs of cricketers batted, bowled and fielded to try to win the competition. 'Fair play' was managed by two umpires, Past Master Geoffrey Farr and Liveryman Richard Brumby. The winners were two guests, Mark

Warren and Martin Bugg. A buffet supper in the pavilion for twenty-eight attendees followed, and the prizes were kindly awarded by the Master. The event was organised by Assistant Peter Simeons with the help of Liveryman Simon Curtis.
Peter Simeons



Inter-Livery Clay Pigeon Shooting

The rain that threatened, as members of 41 livery companies arrived just after 7.00 AM at the shooting grounds of Holland and Holland in Northwood, Middlesex, moved on, thankfully, and we were treated to a splendid day's shooting.

As usual, Holland and Holland staff had set up ten separate stands, each



providing a different challenge to the guns, with liverymen being invited to 'kill' four pairs of clays at each one. In addition, part way round the course, teams tried their skills at the flush.

Unlike at the stands, where contestants shoot individually, albeit with their scores contributing to their team score, the flush has all four team members shooting together, as waves of clays totalling 82, are sent over their heads in very quick succession.

The Feltmakers fielded two teams this year, but one member of team A had to withdraw to attend a family funeral, so with insufficient time to recruit a replacement, team captain Brian Minnighan decided that we would shoot with just three guns. Team A consisted of Brian, Simon Millar and Peter Shirley. The Feltmakers Team B comprised the Clerk, Jollyon Coombs, 3rd Warden Simon Bartley, Bill Gammell and Peter Winfield. Also attending to support the teams, were the Master, John Ray, and Past Master Bill Horsman.

101 teams from across the liveries, took part, and the top scoring team was the Butchers Company D team with a score of 348 out of a total possible score of 402. The Feltmakers' B team came thirtieth, with a score of 262, and the A team scored 168, giving them joint seventy-fifth place with the Farriers' A team, and the Tallow Chandlers B team, but remember that the Feltmakers' A team were only fielding



Brian managed to assemble both teams to begin the shooting at the earliest opportunity when the stands opened at 8.30, so we had completed the course by 1.30 and headed for lunch in the marquee, where, as has now become the tradition, we were offered a splendid buffet, which included two whole roast hogs. We were delighted that the Master and Bill Horsman were able to join us for lunch.

Another most enjoyable day and, hopefully, we will be able to field at least two full teams next year. This year's participants are already looking forward to the 2012 competition.
Peter Shirley