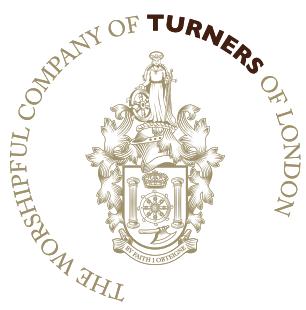


The Turner

June 2017
Issue No. 42

Including:
Cockpit Arts Award 2017
Gold Medal for Stuart King
Mr Howell and Mr Pepys
Lady Gascoigne – Victorian Turner
New Freemen and Liverymen



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Andrew Neill, Master 2017–18

It is a great privilege to become Master Turner and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the range of events planned for the year ahead.

The Turners' Company is renowned for bringing together a wide cross-section of people from the City, from active practitioners of the craft and from the REME, joining with those introduced by family or friends.

In the past three years we have attracted nearly thirty new members that will ensure continued vitality of the Company in the years to come.

I am delighted that two of those new members are my own daughters, Alexandra and Ginny, both of whom also work in the City. They represent the fourth generation of my family to be Turners. My grandfather, Sir Thomas Neill joined the Livery in 1909, having moved to London from Ireland via Glasgow. He became Master for the year in 1931.

Cover photographs: Front: 'The Wild Wood' by Stuart King, Freeman and Company Gold Medallist (see page 8); Back: The Automaton lathe exhibited in the Robots exhibition at the Science Museum (see page 7).

Photographic credits and thanks to:

Jon Murrell (pages 2, 4, 5, 9 & 11); David Best, Artichoke (production) and Matthew Andrews (photo) for 'London's Burning' (page 4); Darren Appiagyei (page 6); Science Museum (page 7 & back cover); Gabor Lacko (pages 14 & 15); Museum of London (page 16); Imperial War Museum (pages 20–23); the Wakefield and Tetley Trust (page 22); Stuart King (pages 24, 26 & 27); and the many other photographers and members of the Turners' Company whose photographs have been used in this issue.

In 1947, his eldest son, Brian, became a Freeman, becoming Master in 1980. Now Sir Brian Neill is not only my father but also Father of the whole Company. I became a Freeman in the year that Sir Brian was Master and my brother Michael joined in 1992.

Since 1980, I have been working in the Square Mile as an investment banker dealing initially with international trading companies and subsequently with long-term infrastructure and project finance. This has included telecommunication and power cables; ports, toll roads and wind farms; the reprovision of Wembley Stadium and the substantial investment of public and private funds into new NHS Hospitals since 1995.

I look forward also to sharing the opportunity with the City of London's 109 other Livery Company Masters to participate in the huge range of educational, commercial, craft and charitable activities promoted by the Livery movement.

A particular attraction of the Turners' Company is its strong commitment to the continuing support of the craft. Wizardry in Wood 2016 was the most successful so far in terms of visitor numbers and sales by the exhibitors. It also provided a fantastic showcase of all aspects of the craft to friends from other Livery Companies.

During the coming year we are offering bursaries to fund further study, research or training and practical experience for craftsmen and women, who want to improve their craft and trade skills. The bursary scheme is in addition to the continuing financial support by the Company and its charity of lathes for educational establishments (schools, colleges and rehabilitation centres) for people of all abilities.

In recent years, the Company has established a successful Certificate in Woodturning. We expect to award the 100th such certificate later this year at one of the increasing number of accredited centres around the country.

Most of the Company's work is done by its members who volunteer to sit on the range of committees and to carry out the many and varied tasks. Four of the committee chairmen are changing this year and so particular thanks are due to Peter Gibson, who is standing down from the Howe Committee, Christopher Roberts (Membership), Matthew Gaved (Communications) and Gerry Thwaites (Events).

We welcome in their places respectively Christopher Scott, Nicholas Edwards, Nigel Luson and Paul Logan but I must pay tribute to all of the volunteers that make the Company as vibrant and effective as it is. We look forward to the growing number of newer members playing a role as soon as they are ready.

Meanwhile, in the office, we are extremely fortunate in being able to continue with the unstinting work of the Clerk, Alex Robertson, his assistant, Becca Baker, and our Beadle, Stephen Grundy. Throughout the year they support the Master and Wardens and all of the members.

Finally I must pay a special tribute to the Master 2016–2017, Nic Somers, and to his wife Anne. He has worked tirelessly during the year and for several years beforehand in supporting the craft and the Company. He played a huge role in Wizardry in Wood 2016 both in attracting sponsorship and in sealing the participation of Kew and the Daniel Collection. I know that he will actively continue to support the Company from the Past Masters' benches.

Andrew Neill
Master 2017–18

MY YEAR AS MASTER (2016–17) BY NICHOLAS SOMERS



In my Master's Letter in the previous edition of The Turner, I wrote jokingly, "if the opening of an envelope would benefit the Turners' Company – I will be there!" Well, in the past year the Clerk has opened many envelopes on my behalf, inviting me to numerous exciting and interesting events.

I have tried to attend as many as possible and at each I have done my best to promote our Company and our Craft, and what a fun year it has been! Sometimes exhausting but always enjoyable.

I have had the privilege of meeting people and visiting places that I would never have normally experienced, and best of all I have made many new friends among the Masters of other Companies.

In early June last year, the Clerk and I, together with our spouses, attended the annual Livery weekend at the Ironbridge Museum. This is an important event in the Livery calendar, where one gets to meet all the other Masters for the first time.

A highlight was the Saturday visit to the Estate Manager's House at Blits Hill, the re-created Victorian Town, where Turners' Liveryman, Professor Alan Gillett, was found in his role of Estate Manager, duly attired in a frock coat, top hat and sporting a long grey beard!

Nearby, we visited the turner's workshop which Turners' Company supports.

There were numerous spectacular events commemorating the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire, all of which I attended. The highlight was the final day on 4 September, which culminated in a huge wooden model of the 1666 skyline of the City of

London, mounted on two barges and moored near Blackfriars Bridge, being set alight.

Another commemorative event was the 950th anniversary of the little known but oldest document in the City archives, the 'William Charter', given by King William I (the Conqueror) to the City in 1067. Although small, (5cm x 16cm) it is written in English and confirmed the legal rights of the citizens of London.

Obviously, our 'Wizardry in Wood 2016' was the major highlight of my year. The success of this exhibition was down to the high quality of the works shown by the exhibitors, the hard-working team who organised the event and the sponsors who supported us.



The Great Fire Commemoration Grand Finale

I don't think I have attended any event since then without someone coming up to me and saying how much they had enjoyed the exhibition and that they were greatly looking forward to the next one in 2020!

I have visited many woodturning centres which support the Youth Training Scheme, which we jointly run with the AWGB. It has been a pleasure to see so many young people taking up turning and I am always impressed by the quality of their work and the dedication of their tutors.

I presented certificates at the Building Crafts College in July; Stuart Mortimer's Young Turners day at Grateley in August; Mary Ashton's day at the Orchard workshops in Bristol in September; the Max Carey Trust at Portishead also in September and Peter Bradwick's day in Cwmbran in February this year.

I have also enjoyed supporting the craft at the 2016 Bodgers Ball at Tyntesfield House, Bristol; the Nottinghamshire County Show at Newark;

the UK and Ireland woodturning symposium in Coventry; Gilwell Park 24 at Chingford; the Community Fair in Guildhall Yard and Collect Crafts Fair in Sloane Square, London.

I have been privileged to have been regally entertained by many Livery Companies and other related City organisations, with an unforgettable afternoon at the Royal Garden Party in June.

We have also hosted some excellent Company lunches and dinners during the year, thanks to the superb organisation of our Clerk Alex and his assistant, Becca. The Livery Dinner, just before Christmas, was a very jolly evening and we were privileged to have seven Aldermen on our top table, including the Lord Mayor and the two Sheriffs.



Livery Dinner December 2016 (L to R): Alderman Sheriff William Russell; Alderman Sir Roger Gifford, Master Musician; the Upper Warden; Alderman, Dame Fiona Woolf, Hon. Liveryman; Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor; The Master; Alderman Alison Gowman; the Renter Warden; Alderman Ian Luder, Master Cooper; Alderman Sheriff Peter Estlin

I have attended numerous fund raising events and I was particularly pleased when, for the very first time, the Chairman of the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Luncheon asked us to put on a stand of turned objects to be sold in aid of the Army Benevolent Fund.

Thanks to the Chairman of the Howe, Past Master Peter Gibson, who managed to gather a large number of items in a very short space of time, we were able to mount an excellent display. In just four hours on the stand, manned by Peter, the Mistress and myself, we raised £2,005 for the ABF. Our first visitors were the Duke of York, escorted by the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs.

Finally, I want to mention the event that gave the Mistress and I particular pleasure, and one we will never forget, which was attending a 5am breakfast on a very wet Friday morning in September!



Nicholas Somers in amusing conversation with HRH the Duke of York by the Turners' Company stand at the Lord Mayor's Big Curry Lunch in May 2017

Organised by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, we were invited to meet the families before they set off on the Disneyland Paris weekend trip.

In the taxi sponsored by the Turners' Company and driven by our gallant Clerk, Alex, was Lucyellen, aged three, who had a liver transplant when she was just one. I am delighted to report that her health goes from strength to strength.



(L to R): The Master; Lucyellen with her mum, Marriane and son, Ryan; the Clerk; the Mistress

In closing, the Mistress and I would like to thank the Wardens, the Master's Steward, the Clerk, the Clerk's Assistant, the Beadle, all the members of the Court, and all the members of the Company for their support and friendship over the past twelve months.

By the time you read this the new Master, Andrew Neill, will be well installed and I wish him and his wife Jo every success and happiness during their year.

Nic Somers, Deputy Master

2017 COCKPIT ARTS AWARD WINNER

The Cockpit Arts / Worshipful Company of Turners Award helps aspiring and established turners to develop their craft practice and business by providing a sponsored place at Cockpit Arts for a year, including studio and support services.

This year's Award Winner is Darren Appiagyei, a recent graduate of Camberwell College of Arts, where he studied 3D design.

Previous Award winners include Eleanor Lakelin and Frank Boggis Rolfe (2011), Chloe Robertson (2012) and Matthew Corbishley (2014).

Darren says that "Through experimenting with various techniques and materials, I developed a passion to explore materials, particularly exotic materials. Research is a big factor for me, as gaining an understanding of where a material comes from is crucial to the function of a piece. I mainly use a lathe, as it is one the first machines I became comfortable with and I fell in love with its simplicity."

Cockpit Arts is an award-winning social enterprise and is the UK's only business incubator for craftspeople.

It houses up to 170 small businesses at two centres: in central London (Holborn); and in Deptford, where Darren will be working.

Cockpit Art's business incubation services include workspace, on site business coaching and business support workshops, selling and promotional opportunities, as well as referral to specialist advisors and access to finance.



Darren Appiagyei and examples of his work at Camberwell College of Arts





One of the most imposing and outstanding exhibits at the Robots exhibition, which opened in February at the Science Museum, was the 18th century Automaton lathe.

With the help of a £5,000 grant from the Turners' Company, the Science Museum had taken in hand the major restoration of this most dramatically ornate rose-engine lathe, which is shown on the back cover.

Whilst the machine came to the Science Museum in 1867 and several attempts had been made over the years to restore the lathe, which was basically in 250 pieces, it is only now that it has been restored to its former glory.

Mystery surrounds the origins of this machine, with its amazing rococo decoration, but standing over nine feet tall it was clearly made to impress; one theory is that it was made for Friedrich I of Prussia.

This was a period when European royalty partook in the art of turning as well as having a Court Turner.

The machine is also exceptional in that it was designed to turn components automatically; using a weight-driven geared mechanism of cams and levers to further show off the prowess and prestige of the owner. This mechanism or “brains” of the machine, shown in the photo, was located inside the cabinet.

Further work is required to understand how it was all connected up. The Curator of Mechanical Artefacts, Ben Russell, has asked the Society of Ornamental Turners to assist in this research; a real test of engineering archaeology.

After seven months the Robots exhibition, which explores the 500-year story of humanoid robots, will tour around the world, visiting Europe, Singapore and Australia before returning to the UK in 2021.

It is to be hoped that exhibiting the lathe in this way will stir interest in the royal collections of Europe to garner a more exact history of this amazing artefact.

Nicholas Edwards
Deputy Master, May 2017

GOLD MEDAL OF THE TURNERS' COMPANY AWARDED TO STUART KING

Freeman by Presentation Stuart King was awarded the Turners' Company prestigious Gold Medal for his services to the Company and Craft of Turning by the Master Nicholas Somers, at the Company's Masters and Clerks Lunch held in March.

Howe Committee Chairman Peter Gibson read the citation, of which this is an edited version:

"Stuart's interest in the countryside and woodlands around his home in Buckinghamshire began while at school, which he tells us:

'Was an old fashioned village school – I started aged 4 1/2 and left at 15 – the school did not do qualifications! A lot of the time was spent on 'rural studies', 'bee keeping', art, woodwork and cookery.

'I have worked freelance most of my life and followed my passion for those things that are achieved by using one's hands to create something of usefulness and beauty.

'I have spent decades recording the rare skills of artisans and in using my own hands in transforming material from nature into something that others wish to own and sometimes use.

'My main objectives today are to share those skills, some by way of creating video DVDs that share still and movie images and stories gathered over many years, and by filming new material promoting endangered hand skills.'

As a result, Stuart is internationally recognised as one of the world's leading polelathe turners.

But he is also a conventional turner who has been invited to lecture and give demonstrations to turning clubs all over the UK and abroad.

I should emphasise that when he is described as a 'conventional turner' that description applies to the lathe in use, rather than Stuart's turning, which is often far from conventional.

He has appeared in numerous TV programmes, including the Time Team with Tony Robinson.

Stuart was presented with the Freedom of the Company in 2004 having supported the Company and the craft for many years prior to that.



Freeman Stuart King receiving the Turners' Company Gold Medal from the Master Nicholas Somers

He joined the Howe Committee in 2008 and immediately became a very active member – who not only willingly gave his time but also promoted the Company at every opportunity.

His photography skills have been invaluable, recording all the Company's possessions but also all the entries for the past five Company Competitions, for which he also acted as a judge. He retired from the Howe Committee in 2012 but re-joined in 2014 and remains on the Committee today.

Stuart has held numerous positions in other organisations including: President of the High Wycombe Society, President of the Middlesex Woodturning Association and Trustee of the Holmer Green Village Centre.

Through his interest in the craft, he was presented to HRH The Queen Mother and to Diana, Princess of Wales.

This brief summary of a small part of Stuart's working life explains clearly why he is here today to receive the Gold Medal of the Worshipful Company of Turners."

The front cover shows one of Stuart King's works: 'The Wild Wood'

Turn again! A Gold Medal poem

Master, Wardens, members of this court and noble clerk
 The custodians of the ‘mysteries’ of our ancient craft
 Whose birth we trace to the balusters of dear old Noah’s Ark
 His calloused hands worn wise through honest toil and graft

I am a freeman of your historic London City band
 Through recreating Leonardo’s lathe with my fair hand
 To prove that his design, just a pencil sketch on paper
 Was proficient, and not just an Italian renaissance caper

I have proved that turning in this verdant isle
 Is at least 4000 years of age, starting with a Bronze Age style
 And long before Joseph brought to Glastonbury his Holy Grail
 Iron Age folk nearby at Mere were turning wooden cups to hold their ale

Whatever did the Romans do for us? we might well ask
 Fine lathe-spun silver for the table was their task.
 Followed by the Dark Age Saxon turners, as well they should
 Skilfully turned items for the table out of wood

1066, annus horribilis for Hasting’s greatest son
 A battle lost, but by a noble Norman won
 A stray arrow, bon jour, provided Duke William his chance
 To import industrial woodturners from his native France

Woodturner Richard Whittington, Dicky to his turning mates
 Had been repulsed from London for selling wonky wooden plates
 But undeterred was heard to say
 I’ll turn again, turn again, and turning around (as turners do) he turned around to stay

Our Worshipful Company’s Charter of 1604, ensured that our trade
 Was protected by fair rules and regulations, all the items that we made
 Measuring pots, stair rails, chair legs and cups, each turned from fine wood
 Bobbins, eggcups, fork handles, spurtles and spoons,
 ... plus deep hollowed bowls for the eating of your pud

I have used bow lathes, strap-lathes, pole lathes, wheel lathes of sort
 So here I am summoned before this City court
 A medal you say, to pin on my chest
 Be mindful of the pin as it enters my vest!

Thank you, dear Turners, for this recognition
 It will surely elevate my egoic condition
 And did I hear the ghost of Dick Whittington once more exclaim?
 “Turn again, turn again, turn again”.

FATHER OF THE TURNERS' COMPANY THE RIGHT HON. SIR BRIAN NEILL, PC

The title of 'Father of the Company' is held by the oldest Master Emeritus or Past Master of the Turners' Company.

The Right Hon. Sir Brian Neill, PC became the Father of the Turners' Company on 10 August 2015 following the death of Hugh Lindley-Jones. This article is by Sir Brian Neill.

I was born in August 1923. At that time there was a Conservative Prime Minister in Downing Street. Stanley Baldwin had just succeeded Bonar Law who had recently retired because of ill-health. 1923 is a long time ago and both the USSR and the BBC had been established in the previous year, in the autumn of 1922.

I have no memory of my first home near the Clarence Gate entrance to Regents Park because in the summer of 1924 we moved to Hampstead. Nor have I any memory of my father's Mastership of the Company in 1931–32, though no doubt the formal dinners were among the white tie occasions that intrigued my sister and my brothers.

I also know that it was my father who introduced Stanley Woodward to the Company. It was Sir Stanley (father of Past Master Richard and grandfather of Nigel) who formed the link between the Company and the Society of Apothecaries. At some stage during WWII he was Master of both.



Sir Thomas Neill, Master 1931–32

My father died in 1937, very shortly after attending the Coronation of George VI. Of the period before he died my memory is not good apart from family occasions.

I do recall, however, the Reichstag fire of 1933 and the period of grave unemployment, particularly in the north of England, after 1929. My most vivid memory is of the haggard man who came to the house, perhaps in 1931, begging for food.

For some years after my father died we had no contact with the Company, but early in the War Past Master E.C. Farmer (father of Past Master George Farmer) invited me to become his apprentice. I readily accepted but I think I was a poor apprentice as most of the time I was away in the Army.

Joining the Army

I left school at the end of 1941 and went to Winchester to see whether, if I passed the relevant exams, I could be commissioned in the Rifle Brigade. I had no military background whatever, but I had met and was much impressed by a young officer called Jim Wilson, who later became a Lieutenant-General. It was a good choice.

I managed to survive the OCTU (Officer Cadet Training Unit) and I joined a battalion of the Rifle Brigade in June 1943. It was what was called a motor battalion, being a mobile infantry unit in an armoured brigade of tanks.

The following year we spent training in Yorkshire for the Invasion. In May 1944 we moved south. We were not part of the D Day force. The plan was that one or more of the three armoured divisions in the British Second Army would break out of the bridgehead that had been established by the initial assault.

We sailed from Tilbury and passed through the Straits of Dover on D+5, protected by a heavy smoke screen. We landed with the help of landing craft and hurried to our assembly point a few miles from the beach and near the road between Caen and Bayeux.



Three generations of the Neill family (L to R): **Andrew Neill** (then Upper Warden); **Nicholas Somers** (then Master); **Freeman Ginny Neill**; Father of the Company, **Sir Brian Neill**; and **David Batchelor** (then Renter Warden)

The Battle for Normandy

Then things began to go wrong. The weather deteriorated and many ships were unable to land or were driven back to England. On shore Montgomery's plan to capture Caen soon after landing proved to be hopelessly optimistic and attempts to encircle the city were unsuccessful.

In the end it was decided that a major attack by a full Army Corps was necessary. On 26 June (by which time the weather was rather better) Operation Epsom was launched, led by two infantry divisions. By 28 June, 11th Armoured Division, of which we formed part, was ready to break out to cross the River Orne and head south towards Falaise.

But in front of us was a low range of hills that dominated the land to the north, south and east, the most easterly of the hills being Pointe 112. The importance of Pointe 112 (Hill 112, as it came to be known) was appreciated by Rommel and the two German Armies under his command. One of the German generals is said to have expressed the view that "he who holds Hill 112 holds Normandy".

The 28 June 1944 was a bad day. German Tiger tanks were dug in at the top of the hill and the armour of our Sherman tanks was of little use against their 88s.

We made some progress up Hill 112 but at great cost. Five members of my platoon of thirty men were killed. At the end of the day we withdrew for the night. But remember that in June a night is very short. The next morning we tried again, this time with another armoured regiment and reached the summit of the hill where there was a small wood. But a fierce barrage began.

It was at this point that my company commander and I were wounded. I have no recollection of the next 24 hours or so until I woke up in a hospital bed in Swindon. Later that night the Army commander decided to withdraw from the hill. He could not risk the division being encircled by I and II Panzer Corps that were thought (according to intercepts) to be advancing from the south.

I was in hospital for several weeks, but the young often recover quickly.

Fortunately the shell fragment had missed my spine and heart and had lodged safely in my liver. In those days surgery was less advanced and, encouragingly, the surgeon said it was too dangerous to operate. So perhaps I have enjoyed an iron supplement free from prescription.

Battle of the Bulge

By November I was thought to be fit for battle again and I rejoined my battalion just before the Germans launched their remarkable but doomed attack through the Ardennes. My company guarded the Meuse at Givet but no German tanks reached us.

The next two months were cold but in the main uneventful. At the end of March we crossed the Rhine. The German defences were beginning to crumble but there were days of serious fighting. I lost a good friend to whom I was talking on the bank of the Weser.

By April we reached the Aller and here we paused. A German colonel, bearing a white flag, came to seek the establishment of a combat-free zone because there was a camp with political prisoners a few miles to the north and it was feared that some of them might escape and spread the typhus from which they were suffering.

This was our first news of what proved to be Belsen. After discussions at a senior level it was agreed that no fighting should take place in the immediate area of the camp.

The next day a contingent consisting of my battalion and an armoured regiment moved north to the entrance to the camp. But we did not go in. Our task was hand over to the following troops and then move on. There were some SS units in the vicinity and there was strong resistance in some of the villages.

But a few days later we were taken out of the front line. With two friends I went back to the camp. You will have read descriptions of Belsen; I will not repeat them.

End of the war

When the War ended the battalion moved to Schleswig not far from the Danish border. By then I had been appointed the adjutant and I spent much of the remainder of 1945 trying to organise

the gradual demobilisation of the battalion. Quite a number of people had served throughout the War and they obviously had priority.

When the task was done I became a staff officer for a year at the HQ of the Army of the Rhine. This was not an interesting period except for one thing. With the help of a friend I was able to travel to Nuremberg to attend a day of the Trial there of the main Nazi war criminals, including Goering.

At the beginning of 1947 I left the Army and returned to a more normal life at Oxford. But whereas I had been a young platoon commander at the age of 20 on Hill 112, I was now an almost elderly undergraduate of 23 when I joined Corpus Christi College.

Called to the Bar

I was called to the Bar by the Inner Temple in October 1949 and started my pupillage immediately. The first years were difficult and it was some years before I had built even the semblance of a practice. But things improved and in May 1956 I got married to Sally Backus. The current Master, my son, was born in December 1957.

Legal autobiographies present problems – they are likely to be either impermissibly indiscreet or extremely dull. I will therefore deal as shortly as I can with my time at the Bar.

The chambers I joined specialised to a considerable extent in cases involving the media and therefore in the years before 1978 I met many interesting people whose lives or careers had engaged the attention of the Press. But it was a life of rich variety involving some travel abroad including Bermuda, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and Lagos. I was asked to join Oliver Franks' Committee investigating the Official Secrets Act, 1911 and I chaired a Foreign Office committee concerned with Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

Becoming a QC

I became a QC in 1968 and my work became still more varied. To take two examples – I was leading counsel in the proceedings in which the Sunday Times sought to improve the compensation payable to the “thalidomide children.” After an excursion to Luxembourg this case eventually led to a change in the law of contempt of court.

Also of more than fleeting interest was the Crossman Diaries case that raised issues as to the confidentiality of proceedings in Cabinet.

Outside the Courts I began to take some interest in the potential use of computers in the practice of the Law and legal research, a field that was engaging the attention of academics in Harvard and of practitioners in Scotland.

Early in 1973 I travelled with a small group to see what was being done at the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell to digitise the statutes of Northern Ireland. This visit resulted in the formation of the Society for Computers and the Law, of which I became President some years later.

Joining the Court of the Turners' Company

Meanwhile I had joined the Livery of the Company and gradually took an increasing interest in its affairs. In due course I was invited to become a member of the Court but, even in those days, it was difficult to combine an increasingly heavy practice with regular attendance at the Court of the Company.

Today I think it would be impossible because the Company in recent years has grown so much in importance, thanks in part to the wonderful Wizardry in Wood exhibitions. I was elected Master in 1980, fifty years after my father.

I have no particular recollection of that Election Court but the previous year was very memorable when I became Upper Warden. I had quite recently been appointed a High Court judge and in May 1979 was sitting in the Assize Court in Lincoln. I managed to get a train to London in the afternoon and hurried to Blackfriars.

After dinner I made my way to the Temple where I had left my car and set off up the AI. But there was no risk of falling asleep at the wheel: it was the day of the 1979 General Election. As I drove north, increasingly excited commentators noted the rising tide of support for the Conservatives. It was an exhausting few hours.

My time as a Warden and then Master passed all too quickly. There were problems but on the whole all went well. I remember in particular the raising of the Mary Rose, which gave us the

chance to have in our possession for a short while one of the artefacts of the time of Henry VIII.

Another highlight was the journey I made with Past Master Brian Burnett to the workshop of Fred Howe. Apart from his finished work his collection of wood for future use was most remarkable.

My travels on Circuit ceased in 1984 when at lunch in Sheffield I found a letter from Margaret Thatcher asking whether I would agree to my name going to the Queen for appointment as a Lord Justice of Appeal. Twelve years of very interesting work followed, but in 1996 I decided to retire. Presiding day after day over a division of the Court of Appeal was burdensome and I thought I should go while I was still reasonably bright.

A busy 'retirement'

The following years were not wholly idle. I had long been interested in mediation as an alternative to litigation and I helped in the establishment of the Civil Mediation Council of which I became the first chairman. I was also invited to join the part-time Court of Appeal for Gibraltar: I soon found myself being the President following the very sad death of Sir Renn Davis of a heart attack at Knightsbridge station. And I was asked to join the Council of the Foundation for Science and Technology.

But I suppose my main activity before I was approaching ninety was as the chairman of the trustees of the Lynn Foundation, a body established at the end of the 20th century to try to increase the observance of the Rule of Law in countries in Eastern Europe and beyond. Though fascinating it was hard work. And the efforts I made in Ukraine and Turkey have been overtaken by events.

I have had a remarkably interesting life and have been blessed by having a wonderful wife, an enchanting family, good health and enough work to keep my mind chugging quietly along.

On top of it all it is now a great honour to find myself Father of the Company.

The Right Hon. Sir Brian Neill, PC
Father of the Turners' Company

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR LIVERYMAN GABOR LACKO INTERVIEWED BY JOHN HUMPHRYS

Liveryman Gabor Lacko was interviewed by John Humphrys on the BBC Radio 4 Today programme on 14 January 2017. This article is based on the interview, with additional contributions from Gabor.

Gabor Lacko was born in Hungary. He was thirteen at the time the Nazis occupied his country on Sunday 19th March 1944, a date he will never forget. Everything changed that day.

In his memoir, Gabor describes how “soon German troops were all over Hungary. Adolf Eichmann arrived to deal with some ‘civil’ matters. Things started to happen at a deadly speed. ... from 5th April Jews had to wear a yellow star”. At that time, Jews comprised eight percent of the Hungarian population.

Gabor explained to John Humphrys that, when it was announced that Jews had to wear a yellow star, his mother made one for him from a piece of material she found in their home. He took it to the Today studio; it is also shown below.

The Nazis required the star to be exactly ten centimetres across and canary yellow. Later, Gabor had to wear “a proper, very professional looking yellow star made in a German factory with ‘Jude’ printed on it.”

He wore this during his stay in Germany. But, when the Russians liberated the Strasshof camp in 1945, he tore it off and threw it away and “hoped that I would never need it again”.



Gabor also recalled the first day he had to wear the yellow star made by his mother. As he went to a medical appointment, he put a newspaper under his arm so that it covered the star.

He has never forgotten that, at the top of his road, a lady said “Little boy, don’t cover it. There is nothing to be ashamed of”.

But soon Gabor, his family and the other Jews in his home town of Debrecen, taking only a rucksack each, were forced into a ghetto from their homes. “Immediately after our departure the vultures awoke, surveyed the situation and took whatever could be easily removed.”

A short time later, Gabor, his family and many others were sent off to a nearby brickworks.

The brick factory was the local ‘distribution centre’ for Jews. He was very lucky because his mother insisted that they should have fresh air instead of a cover over their heads.

She made them move from a covered, crowded and airless loft to the drying part of the brick factory. Gabor explained that everyone from the drying area was sent to Austria.

But from the loft, everyone was taken to Auschwitz. A very large percentage of those people did not return. If Gabor and his mother had stayed in the loft, he also would have not have survived because he was too young for physical labour.

Instead of being killed, he was sent to a camp in Strasshof, around 20km west of Vienna. Travelling in sealed cattle trucks in the stifling heat, the journey took three days and “there was nothing to eat, nothing to drink”. Many people died on the way.

Although only thirteen years old, Gabor had engineering skills and worked for around six months in the Ostmark Werke anti-aircraft gun factory in Vienna, contributing to the German war effort.

In his memoir, he writes that ‘Having spent six months in Ostmark Werke, aged thirteen, modern machinery, workshop processes and the transformation of raw material into a very fine product became second nature. Ostmark Werke was part of my engineering education, though the price paid for it was more than excessive.’

But then the factory was blitzed and destroyed by Allied bombers. Gabor was taken by the Nazis to work on rubble clearance in Vienna, before being returned to the camp in Strasshof. This was now a transit camp and Gabor and other prisoners were put into wagons to go to Theresienstadt or Birkenau.

But when his train was still in Strasshof, it too was bombed. Gabor and the other prisoners could not open the wagon doors – and in any case there was nowhere to jump because there was a crater fifteen feet underneath the wagon.

If the train had not been bombed, he would almost certainly have died in one of the death camps.

Instead of which, two weeks later, the Russians liberated Strasshof camp. “We did not speak Russian, they did not speak anything else, but soon we understood: Go away ... there will be fighting here.”

Packing took only two minutes and then Gabor, his mother and sister left, travelling by foot mostly and sometimes by horse drawn cart to Bratislava, which was the nearest large town. From there they eventually took a train back to Budapest.

In Budapest there was another extraordinary coincidence, because his father had been separated from Gabor and his mother.

During the time that Gabor and his mother had been in the brick factory and Strasshof, his father had been on hard labour, *arbeits dienst*, because Jewish men were not trusted and were not allowed to go into the army.

Instead, they were given a yellow armband and a shovel instead of a rifle. Gabor’s father had been taken to the Ukraine, but fortunately survived and went back to Budapest. He went every day to the Jewish centre in Budapest to try to find out what had happened to his family.

One day when he went to the centre, he found Gabor’s mother standing on her own.

Forgetting his manners, he just asked “And where are the children?” Gabor’s mother pointed to the other side of the road. “There they are” she said.

Gabor had gone with his sister to buy some bread. “Proper bread. Nice, fresh, warm bread” describes



Gabor. They had not seen bread like this for almost a year. And it was served to them by a man in a white coat “and not thrown at us by a Ukrainian servant of the Third Reich and made of sawdust”.

When he was eight years old, Gabor had decided to become an electrical engineer. Ten years later he went to Budapest Technical University. He graduated in 1953 and started to work as an electrical engineer.

Gabor explains that “We got back from the camp in 1945. The Russians were there, the Communist Party was very active and Hungary became a socialist or communist state. But in 1956 the Hungarian Revolution decided they had had enough.”

Gabor recalls that he was an Anglophile from a very early age and when he was nine reading a book called ‘Hallo here London’.

He took the opportunity to come to England and has never looked back.

In England Gabor pursued his career in engineering and also became a Fellow of a number of engineering institutes and a member of the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers. He took up woodturning in 1959 and was appointed to the Livery of the Turners’ Company in 2016. For the last ten years Gabor has collaborated with Liverymen Patricia Spero. They are both members of the Register of Professional Turners and their work is showcased on: www.gaborandpatricia.com.

THE STORY OF THE GREAT FIRE, MR HOWELL AND MR PEPYS

Hazel Forsyth, Curator of the Museum of London, gave a talk about the Great Fire of London to the Turners' Company in March. This article is based on her talk and book 'Butcher, Baker, Candlestick maker', which accompanied the exhibition at the Museum of London.

Three days into the Great Fire, on the afternoon of 4th September 1666, Samuel Pepys went to:

"Tower-streete, and there met the fire burning three or four doors beyond Mr. Howell's, whose goods, poor man, his trayes, and dishes, shovells, &c., were flung all along Tower-streete in the kennels [gutters], and people working therewith from one end to the other; the fire coming on in that narrow streete, on both sides, with infinite fury."

Richard Howell was well known to Pepys because they were both employed by the Navy Board, for whom Howell was the principal turner.

They were also close neighbours, attended the same church and met socially. Pepys notes, for example, that on 3rd December 1661 he received as a gift some of Mr Howell's turned work to help file his papers, which Pepys thought 'very handsome'.

A few days later, on 11th December 1661, Pepys received an invitation to dine with Mr Howell and some officers of the Tower of London at the Mitre Tavern. But this did not end so well. When Pepys arrived Mr Howell was not to be seen. Pepys did not want to stay in the tavern, so wandered up and down the street, both hungry and disgruntled.

Despite this early upset, Howell and Pepys eventually got to know each other quite well. Howell came to visit Pepys in his garden one afternoon in June 1665 and they had a very detailed discussion about the Navy and the Navy Paymaster, John Fenn.



Turned barrel lids from around the time of the Great Fire

It is clear, said Hazel Forsyth, from Pepys' diary entry for 4th September 1666, that "he was very sad indeed to see Mr Howell in such a desperate plight. And the more so because it seems that Howell was ill, or at least possibly a little frail. In his Will made on 10th December 1660, Howell says that he was already 'in a vale of misery'".

Pepys' description of the trail of 'trayes, dishes and shovells' strewn all along the street provides a very graphic picture of the emergency that was unfolding that afternoon in Tower Streete and the desperate efforts of Richard Howell to save as much of his stock as possible.

Hazel Forsyth found later evidence that suggests that Mr Howell did in fact manage to retrieve most of his stock, not least because he was able to summon and pay for extra help to move his goods away from that part of London.

In his inventories there was a note of payments due to carmen and porters and other people who had helped remove his goods to safety during the fire. These and 'other charges in the tyme of ye fire' amounted to £16 5s 8d; a considerable amount when a craftsman's normal wages were only around 1s 6d a day (£2 a month).



Is it possible that this turned shovell handle was made by Richard Howell?



Turning at around the time of the Great Fire

But tragically, just nine days after the exertions witnessed by Mr Pepys, Mr Howell died.

Hazel Forsyth thinks “it is likely that he died of shock. The culmination of poor health, the dreadful calamity of the fire, the destruction of his house in Tower Street, and then having to seek sanctuary at the Tower of London” (just beyond the eastern rim of the fire) was probably all too much for him.

Mr Howell did not die a poor man. The land where his house had been in Tower Street was valued at £100. There was also a house in Savage Street in Tower Hill and another large house in Greenwich, which is where he had taken his rescued stock.

This must have been a considerable exercise and explains the high costs involved. But the success meant that the garrets of the Greenwich house were stuffed with finished goods and the cellars with raw materials.

Hazel Forsyth found that one garret was rammed with three hundred and sixty shovells and spade trees, together with hides and other materials.

Meanwhile the hall contained six dozen water scoops, valued at 42 shillings, twenty old shovells and spades, some bandileer collars and brass lamps.

But the cellar held even more and a massive amount of wood. Some 4,946 pounds (over 2 tonnes) of boxwood; 17,935 pounds of corn wood; 760 pounds of greenwood; 728 pounds of speckled wood; and 12,320 pounds of *lignum vitae*. There were also more finished goods in the cellars; lantern trees, heads and bottoms of barrels.

The cellar stock as valued at £80 9 Shillings 10 Pence. The wood weighed over 16 metric tonnes.

There are two footnotes to this story. One is that Pepys kept a note in his private papers that Howell had overcharged the Navy for supplies of *lignum vitae* for tackle blocks!

The other is that the widowed Mrs Howell, who with three properties was by then of private means, was subsequently pursued by Dr Hicks the Rector of St Olave – noted by Pepys in his diary for Sunday 20th September 1668.

Dr Hicks was lucky in two ways: his small church in Hart Street (just off the now named Pepys Street) was one of the few that survived the Great Fire. He was also successful in pursuing Mrs Howell and they were married later the same year.

What became of all Howell’s ‘trayes, and dishes, shovells &c’ is not known – sold, used, misused and lost over the last 350 years. It would be nice to think that at least one item survived and was included in the Museum of London’s Fire! Fire! exhibition (July 2016 – April 2017).

Apprenticeship records researched by Cliff Webb, published by the Society of Genealogists (2014), show that Richard Howell was apprenticed to John Wallington, Master of the Turners’ Company for two years 1647–49, whose father (also named John Wallington) was Master for a total of four years 1613–15 and later in 1619–21.

Richard Howell also had three apprentices: Thomas White (indentured in 1648), William Orbell (1662) and Richard Whitall (1664).

LADY GASCOIGNE – A SURPRISING VICTORIAN TURNER

At the lunch following the 2016 Patronal Service, the Master mentioned a lathe and a small book being kindly presented to the Company by Mr Peter Berg, a guest of Past Master Rhidian Jones. The book was a neatly-bound first edition of “The Handbook of Turning” by an anonymous author dated back to 1842 and dedicated to the Earl of Craven.

I was pleased to be asked to investigate and was intrigued by the fact that this small volume was written by a lady so long ago. Her picture appeared as a frontispiece in the form of a woodcut. So who was she and what was the significance of this small volume?

Further, the other woodcuts in the book showed the unmistakeable lines of a Holtzapffel Ornamental Turning lathe and its equipment, and the work detailed was clearly ornamental turning.

I referred back to the extensive library archives of the Society of Ornamental Turners (SOT) and found that this book had also been researched by a member of the SOT, the late Warren Ogden, back in the 1970s.

The author's name had become clear, due to finding later editions of this book where her name was included. In the “Bibliography of the Art of Turning and Lathe and Machine Tool History” published by the SOT, he wrote:

“The problem of identifying the authoress has been a fascinating one. Warren G Ogden Jr., with the help of Sir Walter Verco, KCVO, located the grandson of the Lady in question.



Woodcut of Mary Isabella Oliver-Gascoigne from *The Handbook of Turning*.

“In his opinion it would seem probable that his grandmother did write this book, as, by all repute, she took a strong interest in scientific subjects. All that the present generation knows of her activities revolved around the making of stained glass. She was quite well known in her time for this kind of work.

“Concerning the portrait on the frontispiece, her grandson adds that her Roman nose resembles that enjoyed by most members of the family.

“The authoress' maiden name at the time of publication was Mary Isabella Oliver-Gascoigne, of Parlington Park, Yorkshire. She did indeed marry a Colonel Frederick Trench, who assumed the name of Trench-Gascoigne, by Royal Licence dated Aug. 15, 1851.

“The marriage took place in 1850, some eight years after publication of the book. Our authoress then took the married name of Mrs. Frederick Gascoigne.



Parlington Hall in 1904 (Since demolished)



Mary Isabella seated behind her sister Elizabeth

“It is also interesting to note that the Hon. Silver Oliver (her brother) owned Holtzapffel Lathes Nos. 1538 (purchased in 1833) and 1585 (purchased in 1835 – a very comprehensive outfit), both of which were housed in the “Turning Room” of Parlington House where Mary Isabella Oliver worked on her book.

“Burke’s Landed Gentry describes her as ‘Mary Isabella Oliver-Gascoigne who succeeded to Parlington and other Gascoigne estates from her mother, Mary Turner, wife of the Rt.Hon. Silver Oliver, MP, who assumed the name and arms of Gascoigne, she being a step-daughter of Sir Thomas Gascoigne who died in 1810.’”

Lady Gascoigne was born 21 March 1810 and died 22 October 1891.”

The website www.parlington.com is dedicated to the history of the Parlington estate, Aberford (west of Leeds). The information is extensive, giving the Gascoigne family tree back to the Norman conquest.

The website includes a delightful crayon drawing of Isabella sitting behind her sister, Elizabeth, in younger years (above). The sisters appear to have been leading lights in the craft movement.

Isabella’s plea for more involvement by the ladies in turning contained in the preface is an interesting reflection of the times and the social expectations. It reads:

“And why should not our fair countrywomen participate in this amusement? Do they fear it is too masculine and laborious for a female hand?

“If so, that anxiety is easily removed; the rough work can be executed by any carpenter, and when once prepared, what occupation can be more interesting and elegant than ornamenting wood or ivory in delicate and intricate patterns, and imitating with the aid of the lathe, the beautiful Chinese carving, so much and so justly admired; besides the taper fingers of the fair sex are far better suited than a man’s heavier hand, to produce lightness and clearness of effect.”

The publication of this little book was no doubt a success at the time and further hardback editions were printed in 1852, 1859 and 1871. By 1884 John Jacob Holtzapffel had produced his 650 page magnum opus on Ornamental Turning as Volume 5 of ‘Turning and Mechanical Manipulation’ subsuming and amplifying the knowledge presented by its precursors.

However, the earlier book has recently become available in a scanned paperback version from several publishers ([see www.abebooks.co.uk](http://www.abebooks.co.uk)) and also as a free Google download.

Whilst it seems remarkable that a young lady should have been writing about her turning hobby back in 1842, the records of the Holtzapffel company show that no less than thirty seven of their lathes were purchased by ladies between 1795 when production started and 1842 when the book was first published.

It is interesting to note that fourteen of these ladies were titled, reflecting the interest in ornamental turning by the nobility at that time.

Nicholas Edwards
Deputy Master
May 2017

TURNER LORD WAKEFIELD'S GOLD MEDAL FOR THE DOWNING OF THE FIRST ZEPPELIN

Britain entered the First World War entirely unprepared for attacks from the air. The civilian population had to cope in the first two years with Zeppelin raids, followed by Gotha and Giant bomber aircraft attacks up to almost the end of the war.

Home defence never took the priority attached to the Western Front, but at least some efforts were made by creating a ring of balloon barrages and anti-aircraft gun emplacements primarily to protect the capital city of London.

From 1916 onwards, new aerodromes were built as bases for the Home Defence Squadrons of the Royal Flying Corps. No. 37 Squadron RFC was born with flights at Stow Maries, Goldhanger and Rochford.

Among the less well known initiatives was that of Col. Sir Charles Wakefield, Lord Mayor of London, (1915–16), who was keen to protect the City of London which had seen haphazard raids.

In 1916 he offered the substantial reward of £500 to the first gun crew to bring down a Zeppelin over England. Wakefield is of course well known to the Company as a Turner and one of eight Turners who served as Lord Mayor – as well as the man who employed Richard Gardner Williams, the Company's greatest benefactor.

It is perhaps significant that in a time of war and crisis the City selected a Turner to fill its highest office; and the subsequent conflict saw Frank Newson-Smith installed in 1943.

On the night of 31 March 1916, Zeppelin L15, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Joachim Breithaupt, left its shed in Northern Germany in the company of six other Zeppelins, two of which had to turn back over the Dutch coast with mechanical problems.

Zeppelins L15 and L13 made landfall over Suffolk and L15 came in over Dunwich, proceeding south west over Framlingham, Grundisburgh, Ipswich and Manningtree.

Passing over Colchester at 8.45 pm it dropped a high explosive bomb which caused no casualties



Two police officers stand amidst rubble beside a crater caused by bombs dropped from German airship L15 on Chambers Street, Bermondsey © IWM

and only minor damage to a printing works in Hawkins Road. Then L15 passed East of Witham down to Pitsea where Breithaupt picked up the Thames and turned South South East towards Orsett, keeping the River on the port beam.

The Zeppelin was picked up by the search-lights at Perry Street and the Dartford guns opened fire at a range of 6,000 yards at an estimated height of 8,000 feet.

Lt Claude G Ridley of 37 Squadron saw the ship, intercepted and fired about twenty rounds to no effect and subsequently lost sight of it in the darkness, as it slipped out of the search-lights.



Zeppelin L13 over an airfield in Germany © IWM



The hulk the downed Zeppelin L15 lying in the Thames Estuary. The size of the Zeppelin is brought in to scale by the surrounding boats. Artist: Donald Maxwell 1917 © IWM

L15 was then again lit up and faced an intensive anti-aircraft barrage from guns at Purfleet and across the River in Kent.

Keen to lighten his load to climb out of harm's way, Breithaupt dropped twenty high explosives and twenty-four incendiary bombs which fell harmlessly into open fields near Rainham. Passing over the Rainham – Wennington Road at 9.45 pm, the Zeppelin was hit by shrapnel from a near miss which damaged three of its central fuel cells, causing it to lose height.

Not surprisingly the Purfleet gun crew claimed the credit and Capt. J Harris of the Purfleet Garrison duly put in an application for the award. A blue heritage plaque affixed to the wall of Woodlands Pre-School in West Thurrock marks the event.

Discretion taking over from valour, Breithaupt turned his ship north flying over Upminster and passing to the west of Brentwood at about 9,000 feet.

Subsequently L15 was intercepted over Ingatestone by 2nd Lt. Alfred de Bath Brandon,

a New Zealander with No 39 Squadron who had taken off from the aerodrome at Hainault Farm.

He climbed above the Zeppelin but his attack with explosive darts proved ineffective. Under machine gun fire he passed along the beam of the airship to attack from the rear where an incendiary device and more explosive darts had no discernible effect.

The pilot then lost L15 as it altered course due East to make for the coast and Belgium, as the anti-aircraft hits had been too severe to allow the Kapitänleutnant to contemplate a return to Germany.

To lighten the ship, he ordered the crew to discard all movable objects, including the machine guns, which fell in fields in Stock, South Hanningfield and Woodham Ferrers.

By now Breithaupt had reached the River Crouch which he attempted to follow, passing Althorne at 10.45 pm. Flying between Burnham and Southminster he loitered over Foulness and at 10.50 pm sent a distress signal giving the state and location of the airship.



The Wakefield Medal © IWM

The circling over Foulness had put additional stresses fore and aft on the aluminium structure, already weakened by the loss of the three central fuel cells and about ten minutes later L15 fell from 2,000 ft into the sea at Knock Deep off Dengie.

All but one member of the crew were rescued by trawlers out of Margate, but an attempt to tow the ship to land was unsuccessful and she foundered.

The gun and search-light crews all felt entitled to claim Sir Charles Wakefield's award and for good measure 2nd Lt Alfred de Bath Brandon was also credited with the kill.

The substantial prize fund was used to produce some 300 medals in 8 ct. gold to present to all those involved. The reverse of the medal bears the inscription "WELL HIT – 31ST – 1 APRIL 1916" with L15 embossed on the upper left edge and the design of an anti-aircraft gun in the centre.



Sir Charles Wakefield, Lord Mayor and Turner

Lord Wakefield was born in Cheshire in December 1859, the son of a Liverpool Customs officer. After schooling at the Liverpool Institute, he began working for an oil-broker, and travelled extensively.

He started his own firm, C.C.Wakefield & Co., dealing in lubricating oils and appliances. At a time when the petrol engine was still in its infancy, Wakefield specialised in lubricants for locomotives and steam engines.

But he also had the foresight to plan for a rapid expansion of the automobile market. His products, marketed as Castrol, became a global brand. The name was chosen because early motor lubricants contained a considerable proportion of castor oil.

Wakefield's head office was in Cannon Street. He was elected to the Court of Common Council in 1904, and served as a Sheriff in 1907–08, being knighted in the latter year. He became an alderman in 1908, and was Lord Mayor in 1915–16.

He took an energetic part in the recruitment drives for the forces during the First World War, and in 1916 paid visits to the Western Front and to the Grand Fleet in Scapa Flow (*see opposite page*). He was created a Baronet in 1916, and was awarded the CBE in 1919.

His success in business allowed Wakefield to pursue many interests, and to become a supporter of early aviation pioneers.

He part-financed Alan Cobham's return flight to Australia in 1926, and Amy Johnson's flight to Australia in 1930, the first solo flight from Britain to Australia by a woman.

Motor sport was also close to his heart. He supported Sir Henry Segrave's speed trials at Daytona and Miami, and presented the Wakefield Gold Trophy for the world land speed record.

In 1930, he was raised to the peerage as Baron Wakefield of Hythe. He was made a Viscount, also of Hythe, in 1934. He remained active in business until a month before his death in January 1941.

George Kieffer
Past Master



The Lord Mayor of London, Colonel Sir Charles Wakefield, addressing men of the 15th Battalion, London Regiment (Civil Service Rifles), 47th Division, Camblain Chatelain, 11th June 1916 © IWM

From a speech by Lord Wakefield, Lord Mayor of London, appealing for recruits, outside Mansion House, London, 1915

“My appeal to the young men of our city has been answered, as I knew it would be, and even beyond my expectations and hopes.

Day after day, during the past week, there has poured into the Mansion House, a stream of sturdy fellows who have no idea of bending the neck to the yoke of German frightfulness.

It has been my privilege, and my pride, to welcome them.

But we cannot have too many and the limits of time and space have prevented the attestation of all those who are willing to serve from being taken.

I have therefore decided to keep the Mansion House open as a recruiting centre for another week and I am sure that I shall have the privilege of welcoming many hundreds more.

There will be additional accommodation, more staff, better facilities for medical examination and no waiting. Victory, complete and absolute, leading to an enduring peace, will light on our banners.

Our young men will continue to offer themselves for God, King and country as they have been doing during this past week.”

The following images were obtained from the Imperial War Museum website under its Non-commercial license and are © IWM:

Bermondsey bomb damage: www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205213209

Zeppelin L13: www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205087798

Zeppelin L15 in the Thames Estuary: www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/17723

Wakefield Medal: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/40823>

Lord Wakefield with 47th Division: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205072114>

Quotation from Mansion House speech: <http://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/80022447>

Photograph of Sir Charles Wakefield (opposite page): Courtesy of the Wakefield & Tetley Trust

HOWE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Howe Committee's objective is to promote and support the craft, while promoting the Company through the craft and its representative bodies.

The Committee is made up of representatives of the Livery together with representatives of: The Society of Ornamental Turners (SOT); The Register of Professional Turners (RPT); The Association of Polelathe Turners and Greenwood Workers (APTWG); and The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (AWGB).

Shows and Exhibitions

Fewer and fewer woodworking exhibitions are now held in the UK. The show in Detling, Kent no longer takes place and the Alexandra Palace show ended some years ago.

The major show remains that held in Harrogate each November and, in 2016, this was supported by the RPT as well as by both the Master and the Chairman of the Howe.

In March 2017, the RPT was well represented at the Midlands Woodworking Show in Newark.

There will also be a small show in Essex (near Braintree) in September where a number of members of the RPT are expected to demonstrate.

Competitions 2016

The 2016 Competitions were held in Carpenters' Hall immediately before the opening of Wizardry in Wood. The family of competitions attracted what may have been the greatest number of entrants ever.

Although the overall number of entries was large, some competitions attracted very few.

Before the next competitions take place in 2018, the Howe Committee intends to review both the detailed rules of our competitions and the range of different competitions offered.

Liveries Wood Group

The main activity of the Liveries Wood Group over the last year was to provide the excellent display for Wizardry in Wood.



Display at Wizardry in Wood of entries to the 2016 Competitions

Youth Training

In the 2015–16 Master's Year, the Company – in conjunction with the AWGB – supported the training of twenty-five young people, which included nine on the two day course run by Stuart Mortimer in Hampshire. In 2016–17 Stuart Mortimer moved from a large two day course to a smaller one day course, but will revert to a two day course in 2017–18. To date, fourteen young people have attended courses in Hampshire, Cornwall and County Durham.

In addition, the Bodmin Club ran a course in January this year for five disabled young people in wheelchairs. They thoroughly enjoyed the event and the Cornwall based charity, Active8, intends to offer another course – through the Bodmin Club – during the Summer.

In February 2017, courses also took place in South Wales and Kent. In addition, Peter Fordyce who runs woodturning activities at Forfar Academy in Angus, has plans to run a woodworking project throughout Angus schools.

Cockpit Arts

Past winner of the Turners' Company and Cockpit Arts Award Eleanor Lakelin now has an established turning practice, based at Cockpit Arts, Deptford. She was visited in January this year and certainly appears to be doing well.

The winner of the 2017 Award is Darren Appiagye. He lives very close to Cockpit Arts in Deptford, and is very well qualified, having a foundation diploma in Art and a degree in 3D design. We have agreed to fund his twelve months stay at Cockpit Arts and also to provide additional turning tuition. (See page 6.)

Education and Training Sub-committee

The sub-committee is chaired by Past Master Peter Ellis. The roll-out of the Turning Certificate continues with particular support from the Bristol area clubs and the Building Crafts College (BCC) in Stratford, London.

This year's fine furniture making course at the BCC is fully enrolled in the Certificate syllabus.

Past Master Peter Ellis met the Principal of a 'sister' college to the BCC in Leeds, and both agreed that the college could become involved in the programme during 2017. At a meeting in February with AWGB representatives, the roll-out of the Diploma was discussed and it was decided that more work on the manner of the roll-out was required.

The latest recipient of our Master in Turning award was Reg Hawthorne and this was presented at the opening of Wizardry in Wood. (See the December 2016 issue of *The Turner*.)

2017 Bursary

The Howe Committee has recently reviewed the Bursary Award rules to make them more attractive to potential applicants. The arrangements for the 2017 Bursary Award have been published on the Company's website and also in the magazines Woodturning and Revolutions. A flier was also mailed to the majority of UK woodturning clubs. Nine entries were received and the initial selection began on 22 May.

The Register of Professional Turners

The Turners' Company supports the RPT. This is limited to: the provision of a Treasurer (the Clerk) together with limited office support; and for the provision of accommodation and lunch for the RPT AGM and Craft Day. The Chairman of the Howe is a voting member of the RPT Management Committee and is usually supported by another member of the Company in an advisory but non-voting role.

The Chairmanship of the RPT changed at the beginning of 2016. A number of excellent changes and initiatives have recently been introduced to the benefit of RPT members.

Chairmanship of the Howe Committee

From the 2017 Election Court, Assistant Christopher Scott is the new Chairman of the Committee.

Past Master Peter Gibson

Chairman, Howe Committee 2015–17

CHARITY COMMITTEE REPORT

In May 2016 our first QUEST (Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust) Woodturning Scholar, Jack Darach, was appointed. He specialises in creating turned musical instruments, particularly recorders. He played one of his recorders for us at the Livery Lunch in September. (See page 19 of the December 2016 issue of *The Turner*.)

The Charity continues to support a wide range of activities within the City, the Services and the Craft.

The year has also seen a number of interesting grants and in particular our support towards the restoration of the Automaton lathe at the Science Museum, which is now on public display at the Robots exhibition (see page 7 and back cover).

We were also pleased to support a new venture for children and young adults at the South Devon Steiner School and to increase our support for the Max Carey Trust in Portishead.

We continue to monitor the use of the Charity's thirty lathes at the institutions where they are based; over the last two years we have not had to take back any underutilised lathes.

We are increasingly focusing our efforts on charities and organisations where we can be confident that our lathes, ancillary equipment and grants are going to be sustainable in the medium to long-term and where we may get 'more bang for our buck'.

We also continue to receive interesting applications for new lathes, some of which are by word of mouth from existing recipients.

The Committee was heavily involved in the planning and manning of the Charity's stand at Wizardry in Wood, which took place in October 2016.

We were able to display work in particular from Phoenix House and from Street Forge, Suffolk. All visitors appeared to be impressed with the work on display and the beneficial impact of turning in assisting adults to rehabilitate their lives.

The Master had requested that we supported his two chosen charities, Phoenix House Recovery Centre, Catterick and Theodora Children's Charity, through the organisation of a raffle.

We were, in turn, well supported by many of the exhibiting turners who contributed most of the twenty prizes.

The raffle was a great success, in no small part as a result of the efforts of Chris Morgan and Bob Taylor from the Phoenix House Wood Workshop at Catterick who helped staff our stand each day. I should also like to thank those volunteers on the stand who were not members of the Company.

With the benefit of matched funding of £2,500 we raised a total of £7,500 for the charities.

Finally, I should like to thank the Committee for their work in the last year and also for the very significant and time consuming effort involved in making such a success of the Charity's stand at Wizardry in Wood.

Assistant Nicholas Fisher
Chairman, Charity Committee



The Turners' Charity stand at Wizardry in Wood



Dinner after the tour and talk at The House Mill, Bromley-by-Bow

Planning future events continues with the aspiration to arrange visits and events at least one year ahead – we are making progress.

The Events Committee has also tried to acknowledge the views expressed at the Strategy Day a few years ago, so we have mixed a few things up to improve accessibility for all, both Livermen and Freemen.

Last year's turning weekend at the Max Carey Trust was a great success and contributed nicely into the Novice Competition at Wizardry in Wood; we have decided to make this a regular annual event – we are Turners after all – and the next weekend is planned for 20–22 October 2017.

Michael Todd arranged an evening at The House Mill and there was a good turnout of twenty-four. John Bridgeman gave an illustrated talk on 'Mills, Turners and the Industrial Revolution', which was accompanied by gin, wine and an evening meal all for the princely sum of £30.

The long-awaited visit to Dowgate Fire Station has had to be postponed again due to unforeseen circumstances, but we hope this will go ahead later in the year and will advise accordingly.

Events planned for 2017 currently include:

Saturday 1 July 2017: BBQ and wine tasting at Nutbourne Vineyard.

Thursday 14 Sept 2017: After work evening on the Golden Hinde with drinks.

Weekend 20–22 Oct 2017: Turning weekend at the Max Carey Trust.

We are also in process of arranging visits to: the **Guildhall Art Gallery** and amphitheatre followed by a cheap and cheerful supper; and the **Cutty Sark**.

Everyone asked for plenty of notice and a mixture of events which did not cost too much; with this programme we have tried to satisfy all these aspirations and hope that you will commit to coming to at least one event during each Master's Year.

Assistant Gerry Thwaites
Chairman, Events Committee 2015–17

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Finance Committee was established to oversee and manage the finances of the Company and of the Charitable Trust, these responsibilities being delegated respectively by the Court and by the Charity's Trustees.

The principal tasks of the Finance Committee are therefore to monitor and control expenditure and to manage the separate investment portfolios of the Company and the Charity. The Committee meets five times a year to review the quarterly accounts, set budgets and review the performance of the investments. The Chairman reports to the Standing Committee and to the Court on the key points arising.

In addition to the Master and Wardens who are ex-officio members, the Committee comprises four further members who have particular expertise in finance or investments. For the past year these have been Assistant Nick Fisher, Liveryman Lionel Anderson, Assistant Nigel Luson and Assistant Melissa Scott.

An Investment sub-committee is responsible for managing the Company's investments, which represent almost the entire accumulated reserves. It consults with stockbrokers Charles Stanley who provide advice and make recommendations on the portfolio.

The Company's funds are invested with the intention of generating sufficient income to finance its varied activities whilst preserving real capital values over the long term.

The value of the portfolio currently stands at around £5.02m and generates income of some £175k each year. This covers the administrative costs of running the office including the salaries of our Clerk and his assistant, promoting the Company to the City and beyond, and subsidising some of the Company's formal functions.

The Charity's accumulated reserves are invested in five diverse investment funds, currently valued at around £650k, with the intention of providing a balance of capital appreciation and income. The Charity's activities and regular programme of gifts are financed by income from this portfolio (currently around £20k per annum) and by donations made by members of the Company and by the Company itself.

These activities also include the biennial Bursary Awards, the biennial Competitions, and Wizardry in Wood which takes place every four years.

Larger gifts, such as lathes for a particular school, are generally financed by an appeal, a specific fund-raising event or by generous individual donations. Legacies are sometimes received and are especially welcome – all Liverymen are encouraged to consider leaving a gift to the Company or the Charitable Trust in their Will and a suitable form of words is available if required.

I should like to thank the Clerk, the Company Accountant, my fellow Committee members, and all those who work so hard to ensure our finances remain healthy and in good order

Renter Warden Andrew Sindall
Chairman, Finance Committee

WELCOME TO NEW FREEMAN OF THE TURNERS' COMPANY IN 2016–17

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Nick Agar, Freeman

Nick has more than twenty-five years' experience as a woodturner and is one of the world's leading instructors and presenters. He travels widely to demonstrate his skills, including on woodturning cruises

along the Norwegian fiords.

His work is often inspired by organic forms, pottery, sea life, ancient cultures and the natural surroundings at his riverside studio near Totnes in Devon. He specialises in a wide range of techniques for creative surface enhancement including carving, airbrushing and ceramic and metal effects. He is particularly well known for his wall sculptures, hollow forms and large diameter work and in these his use of burrs and intriguing or figured timber. Nick's award-winning work also often incorporates weaving and metalwork.

In addition to exhibiting widely, Nick is regularly commissioned by collectors. His clients include HRH The Prince of Wales and the Royal jewellers, Aspreys. Nick and his work have featured on BBC and ITV lifestyle television programmes.

Nick is Patron of the Max Carey Woodturning Trust, which is supported by the Turners' Company and used by members of the Company for woodturning courses.

He is co-author with David Springett of 'Woodturning Evolution' (GMC Publications). Nick is a member of the Devon Guild of Craftsmen, the Register of Professional Turners, the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain and the American Association of Woodturners.



Christopher Baddeley, Freeman

Born in Croydon, Chris grew up in Sevenoaks, Kent, attending Sevenoaks School. He read Geography at Churchill College, Cambridge; graduating in the summer

of 2013. His degree included a dissertation investigating the success of rebuilding the hurricane flood defences in New Orleans.

After finishing his degree, Chris joined Aspen Insurance as a graduate underwriter. After completing the two year graduate scheme he became an assistant underwriter in the Technology and Cyber Risk team. He is currently involved in selling insurance policies to clients around the world who seek protection from computer network attacks and data breaches.

Chris spends his spare time and weekends keeping physically fit and playing golf at Knole Park Golf Club in Sevenoaks, where he has been a member for several years. He is also a keen sailor and is a member of the Lloyds Yacht Club, and regularly tries to take part in club weekends on the Solent.

Chris was introduced to the Turners by his mother, Jo, who is a Liveryman. His interest in joining the Company began after attending a young members reception at Apothecaries' Hall where he saw turning done live for the first time.

Chris represents the fourth generation of his family connected to the Turners' Company. He looks forward to continuing the Baddeley family's close association with the Company in the coming years.

WELCOME TO NEW FREEMAN OF THE TURNERS' COMPANY IN 2016-17



Derek Edwards, Freeman

Derek was born in South East London. He joined the Royal Army Medical Corp when he was seventeen, training as a Medical Assistant and then as an Operating Theatre Technician. He served

in Germany, Canada and the UK. His last posting was to the Cambridge Military Hospital in Aldershot, working on an MOD medical trial for Col. Jack Webb MC, a Consultant Physician.

Col. Webb became Derek's mentor and the advice and encouragement he received from Col. Web changed his life. On leaving the Military Derek went to a London Teaching Hospital and worked for six years as a Medical Physics Technician. He then moved over to the commercial side of healthcare and spent many years travelling the world promoting British medical devices.

In 1991 he was recalled to the RAMC as a long-term reservist for the First Gulf War, serving in a Field Hospital in Saudi Arabia.

He took early retirement and since then spends three to four days a month at the Christie Hospital in Manchester where he works in Radiology and has an Honorary Contract as the Trust's Advisor in Nutritional Support.

Derek has been a member of the Avon & Bristol Woodturners, serving on the Committee and is a Past Chairman. Now his main hobby is his traction engine.

He lives in a small village in North Wiltshire. He is divorced and has two grown up children and two fantastic grandsons. Derek was sponsored into the Turners' Company by Past Master Peter Ellis.



Kevin Hearty, Freeman

Kevin's civilian career has centred on engineering and engineering management. Latterly, Kevin worked in senior appointments in corporate business management (both UK and internationally)

and in corporate strategy. His last civilian role was as Head of Business Management within the BT Plc international property division. Now retired from his civilian role, in the longer term he intends to set up his own business.

Militarily, Kevin enlisted into REME as a volunteer. Having successfully completed Junior Officer appointments he was promoted to Major where he commanded a Regimental Workshop, worked as a Staff Officer in a Multi-National Engineer Brigade and further commanded a Workshop Company within a REME Battalion.

On promotion to Lieutenant Colonel he completed a tour as the Commanding Officer of a training unit. Following Command, Kevin worked as a Brigade Staff Officer, followed by a further Staff Officer appointment in the Headquarters of the Army's Regional Command working on Equipment Support and the Army Reserves Rebasin. On promotion to Colonel in January 2016, Kevin is currently serving as a Deputy Commander in a Logistic Brigade.

Colonel Hearty was awarded the Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal in the 2005 New Year's Honours list; receiving his award from Her Majesty the Queen in March 2005.

Kevin has a 31 year old son, who since graduating from University, is now working in New Zealand, and a 29 year old daughter who teaches in a primary school.

Kevin's main recreational interests are golf and DIY.



John Hicks, Freeman

John was born in Dublin, grew up in Rickmansworth and went to Langley School in Norfolk. He was articled to Turquand Youngs and studied at the City of London Polytechnic and subsequently

qualified as an accountant. He worked in the City of London before moving to Exeter for three years where he was involved in preparing the accounts for Buckfast Abbey.

Whilst living in Exeter he became a member of Round Table, becoming Chairman on his return to Rickmansworth, where he ran his own accountancy practice.

John ran in the London, New York and Dublin Marathons between 2000 and 2002 in support of the Anthony Nolan Trust. Since 2005 he has supported The Children's Trust for children with brain injury, of which his partner was a Vice President, and is still a dedicated fund raiser.

John qualified as a scuba diver in 1991 whilst on holiday in Sabah and is now a qualified PADI Master Diver, logging over 120 dives. John was initiated into Freemasonry in 1985, through which he became a Freeman of the City of London in 2008. He has become a member of most Masonic degrees, and has risen to Master in most, and is now the treasurer of too many as well as being charity steward in two.

John has a wide range of interests including railways, the history of the Dark Ages and genealogy, and has traced his family tree back to about 1530, through several lines.

John's Civil Partner is Louis who comes from Malawi and is a celebrity milliner, having appeared on Britain's Next Top Model. John was introduced to the Turners' Company by Liveryman Brian Farminer, who he has known for over twenty years.



Simon Hope, Freeman

Simon got interested in classic cars as a toddler watching as some of the world's greatest cars used to gather outside his house before they set off to race in Ireland. The first classic car he bought was a 1947

Sunbeam Talbot Ten when he was seventeen. He then progressed to an AC Ace at university. Over the years he has raced all over the world and also competed in long distance rallies. Including the Peking to Paris Rally, which was completed in a 1927 Speed Six Bentley.

Simon started auctioneering some 35 years ago and started H&H Classics in 1993. It is now the largest and oldest auction house in Europe specialising in classic and collector cars, motorcycles and aircraft.

He enjoys walking, reading, a good glass of beer and thinks that life is too short to drink poor wine. He plays golf off a handicap of four.

Simon lives in Cheshire with his wife of nearly thirty years and they have three sons.

Simon's interest in wood dates back to school days in the 1950s and 1960s. He can still smell the wood being worked, not turned then – just simple woodwork.

Last year his good friend and recent Master Nicholas Somers (now Deputy Master) introduced Simon to the Turners' Company and also to his namesake turner in Essex, where he spent two days learning the basics of wood turning.

Simon looks forward to attending Company events in London and would be delighted to organise with the Events Committee a private visit for members of the Company to a significant classic cars collection.

WELCOME TO NEW FREEMAN OF THE TURNERS' COMPANY IN 2016–17



Robert Marshall, Freeman

Robert graduated from Edinburgh University with a BSc in Chemical Engineering. He was employed by BOC Gases for thirty years, working in Production, Distribution and finally

Operations Safety. With BOC he was able to visit many parts of Europe, America, Australia and Asia.

When he left BOC in 2003 Robert started his own consultancy (HazTrain Ltd), specialising in training in hazardous goods operations. He has since totally retired.

He is married to Anne and they have three married sons and two grandchildren.

Robert spent about twelve years coaching mini-Rugby (where he also gained an RFU Coaching and Refereeing Certificate) and he now supports Chiltern Rugby Club. He is also a member of Whiteleaf Golf Club, where he enjoys the constant battle to make fewer mistakes each round.

Robert's woodturning started by chance when he saw two turners working on demonstration lathes locally. They taught him the basics of turning, and convinced him to go along to a few Middlesex Woodturning Association meetings. He became hooked on turning as a new hobby.

Robert says that the MWA is an excellent 'window' for anyone curious about woodturning. The members are helpful and friendly, and the committee organises a mixture of excellent demonstrators and 'have a go' workshop evenings.

Last year Robert met Past Master Rob Lucas at one of the MWA meetings, who introduced Robert to the Turners' Company.



Ginny Neill, Freeman

Ginny graduated from Oxford Brookes University in 2015 having studied Business and Marketing. She has since been working at Euromoney Institutional Investor as a Marketing

Campaign Manager for their global events.

When she is not working Ginny enjoys spending as much time as possible down in Seaview on the Isle of Wight, where her family have a passion for sailing and powerboats. If she is not down on the Island you will find her playing tennis or in the gym.

Ginny is now a proud Freeman having joined the Turner's Company through Patrimony. The Neill family have been involved in the Turners' Company for 110 years, with Ginny being the fourth generation of Turners.

It started with her great grandfather, who was Master in 1931–32. Her grandfather, Sir Brian Neill (Master 1980–81), is Father of the Company ([see page 10](#)) and her father, Andrew Neill is Master (2017–18) ([see page 2](#)).

Her interest for turning grew when she completed a turning weekend at the Max Carey Trust. She made a dibber, a plate and a bowl, which now proudly sit in her flat.

Ginny is excited to be involved with the Turners' Company, in particular the events where she will be sure to help her father during his year as Master.



Sarah Roth, Freeman

Sarah attended York St John University, where she graduated with a first class honours degree in Film and Television with Theatre Studies.

In 2012 she attained a post-graduate degree from the Institute of

Education, University College London. Sarah is a Governor of All Saints' School, Whetstone where she is also Head of Music and directs the school choir and instrumentalists, often competing in choir competitions and performing at festivals.

Singing is her passion and in addition to performing as a solo artist, Sarah also belongs to various choirs in North London, including her local church choir at St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley. There she has the pleasure of singing with her mother, father, brother, uncle and several cousins.

She is currently studying for the Singing Diploma of the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

Last July Sarah married Sam Roth and they have just finished renovating their first home in Mill Hill. They share a love of good food and fine wine, travel and walking.

She also has a huge admiration for the art of woodturning, having watched her late uncle turn wood into both beautiful and practical creations.

Sarah has enjoyed Livery life for the past ten years through her father Bill Morris, who is an Assistant of the Court of the Turners' Company, and she has attended numerous Company and City social events.



Shaun Stacey, Freeman

Shaun was introduced to woodturning around twelve years ago by his friend and fellow new Freeman Nick Agar.

He has developed his woodturning skills and techniques with the support of Nick

and other leading turners including Tobias Kayne and Stuart Mortimer. He is a member of the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen, the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain and the American Association of Woodturners.

Shaun runs a specialist petrol station forecourt construction company, a number of property businesses and West Country Guns, a gun and country clothing company based in Wiveliscombe, Taunton.

He has had a long involvement in clay pigeon shooting and is a life member of the Clay Pigeon Shooting Association and sits on its Somerset and regional committees.

He has represented Great Britain and England in more than twenty international competitions and captained the English team three times. He has won both the British and English Open titles. Last year he was the first contestant from Great Britain to shoot 100/100 in a competition of the Federation Internationale de Tir Aux Sportives de Chasse.

Shaun and his wife Gill have three daughters. Emma, nineteen, is studying politics and international relations at the University of Bath, Jessica, fifteen who is also a keen woodturner and Rebecca, twelve.

WELCOME TO NEW FREEMEN AND LIVERYMEN OF THE TURNERS' COMPANY IN 2016–17



Katie Tasker, Freeman

Katie attended Loughborough University, where she graduated with a first class honours degree in Mathematics with Economics.

Katie currently works for Charles Stanley as an Investment Manager

looking after private clients, charities and trusts. She is involved with a number of industry committees, organising seminars on relevant topics, is part of the firm's diversity panel and has contributed to a working group which has been looking at the future of the industry.

Outside work she competes in Super Sprint Triathlons, whilst she could forego the swimming she finds both the bike and running a challenge and a great way to keep fit. Which is much needed when her other passion is sampling the various eateries of London.

Katie recently moved from London to Kent so that she could escape from the hustle and bustle at evenings and weekends and has since discovered a love for gardening – heaven forbid she gets black spot on her roses again this year.

Katie is incredibly grateful to Barbara Newman for introducing her to the Turners and is looking forward to working with the Company to support the art and craft of turning.



Ian Adkins, Liveryman

Ian has been a strategy and change consultant specialising in corporate culture change for fourteen years and is also a colonel in the Army Reserve. He was a regular Army officer for sixteen years and

started his career as a design engineer in the car industry. He grew up in North West London having been born in Malaya. After many years living abroad and also in Bath he has recently relocated to South Buckinghamshire.

He has worked with a wide variety of clients as a consultant across Europe as well as in the UK and Dubai. This work has ranged from corporate strategy development and strategic change programmes to leadership development initiatives. Prior to this Ian was commissioned into REME in 1987 and saw deployments to the first Gulf War in 1990, Belfast in 1993 and Kosovo in 1999.

Ian's Reserve career has included mobilisation for a tour in Pakistan as a Liaison Officer in the British High Commission, Islamabad; command of 102 Battalion REME in the North East of England; and appointment as Colonel REME Reserves in April 2013.

He was educated at the Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood and at Aston University, where he studied Mechanical Engineering. Later on he gained Masters' degrees from the Open University (MBA), Cranfield University (MSc Defence Technology) and Kings College, London (MA Defence Studies). He is a Chartered Mechanical Engineer.

His leisure activities include skiing, trekking and cycling. He was introduced to the Turners' Company by Assistant Bill O'Leary and became a Freeman in February 2016.



Matthew Altass, Liveryman

Born in Brighton in 1969, Matthew grew up in Sussex, relocating to London in 1987 to start a career in sales.

In 1996 Matthew moved into legal services and conceptualised and

built a successful business for his then employers, which was sold last year.

In 2004 Matthew decided to 'go it alone' and started Altlaw, a legal technology and document management business which is now the UK's leading independent provider of e-discovery solutions.

He is married to Orlessa, and together they have four children between the ages of 3 and 14 years old.

A private pilot, Matthew owns G-CUBA, a Piper Saratoga, which he flies almost every week.

He is also a keen bee keeper, scuba diver, snowboarder, takes piano lessons and has recently taken up kite surfing. He likes to keep busy!

The family own a rural home in Murcia, Spain which they visit with their children during school holidays.

Matthew was introduced to the Turners' Company by Liveryman Michael Todd.



Michael Edwards, Liveryman

Michael was born in Denbigh, North Wales and currently lives in Harrow in Middlesex.

He was educated at Ellesmere Port Grammar School and University College

London, where he studied Law. He is a solicitor specialising in company commercial work at Setfords, Chancery Lane, London, where he has been a Senior Consultant since 2014.

Michael has a keen interest in dance and was a trustee of the Imperial Society for the Teachers of Dance until 2016. He is a member of the MCC.

Michael's hobbies include woodturning and metal working, mechanics, shooting, military history, the breeding and showing of championship Deerhounds, his family and reading.

His interest in woodturning comes from his childhood when he was taught wood and metal turning on powered lathes, producing small turned items such as gear stick knobs at a handsome profit.

Michael is married to Taryn and has six sons and four daughters. He was introduced to the Turners' Company by Past Master Peter Gibson and received the Freedom in June 2015.

WELCOME TO NEW LIVERYMEN OF THE TURNERS' COMPANY IN 2016–17



Ray Key, Liveryman

Born in 1942, Ray started his working life as an apprentice wood and metal patternmaker. He then began working as a fibre-glass mould maker before becoming the leading clay

modeller for Chrysler Styling Studios. Since 1973 Ray has been a self-employed woodturner of considerable renown.

He is married to Liz, has one son and lives in Evesham, Worcestershire.

He is the President of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain and the President of the Worcestershire Guild of Designer Craftsmen. Ray received the Freedom of the Company in 2002 by Presentation.

He has been a member of the of the Company's Howe Committee for many years and was closely involved in the planning and organisation of the Wizardry in Wood exhibitions in 2004 (held to commemorate the Company's 400th anniversary), 2008, 20012 and last year.

He was the first ever person to be awarded the Company's prestigious Master in Turning in 2012. In 2015 he received the British Empire Medal in recognition of his extraordinary career and dedication to the craft of woodturning.

In further recognition of his unstinting support of the Company and his promotion of the craft in the UK and worldwide he has been appointed to the Livery of the Turners' Company by Presentation.



Barry Laws, Liveryman

Barry was born in the Royal Borough of Greenwich and moved to Hayes in Kent at the age of five, where he still lives. He was educated at Quernmore School in Bromley. After a short period working

as a pastry chef at the Cumberland Hotel by Marble Arch, he joined the administration team of Doyle Dane Bernbach, then one of the leading advertising agencies in the world, at their Baker Street offices.

This was the start of Barry's career in facilities management, in which he has now worked for over thirty years, across a wide range of business sectors. In addition to advertising (Omnicom), he has worked in insurance, merchant banking, property, estate management and telecommunications.

Most recently he has been working in the leisure sector, responsible for the management of both hard and soft facilities in the City of London, the West End and across the UK. He is a member of the British Institute of Facilities Management and the Energy Management Association.

Barry is widowed with two children. He is an active Freemason in both London and West Kent.

His main hobbies are golf and swimming and he is currently President of Bromley Swimming Club.

He was introduced to the Turners' Company by Liveryman Michael Todd and became a Freeman in January 2016.

WELCOME TO THE NEW COURT ASSISTANT

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Paul Logan, Court Assistant

Paul grew up in North London and was educated at Harrow County School for Boys and Kingston Polytechnic, where he gained a BSc in Geology. He also has two degrees, in Mathematics and in

Psychology, from the Open University, where he has taught courses on the geological evidence for climate change and petroleum geology.

Paul has spent forty years as a geologist in oil and gas exploration. He found the first oil-field in the East Irish Sea and he also found over one billion barrels of oil in the western Rift Valley of Uganda together with one of the largest gas fields to be found in Kurdistan, northern Iraq, since the end of Gulf war.

Previously he spent two years in Angola as General Manager for BHP Petroleum. Paul lives with his wife Karen in a north Buckinghamshire village.

His hobbies include; gardening, genealogy, mountain-walking and hypnosis. In the winter months, he is often to be found in his 'railway room' in which he is constructing a large model railway based on the 1930s London and North-Eastern Railway.

He also chairs his Community Defibrillator Group, having raised the monies to install and operate a defibrillator in his village. He also sings (badly) in the village choir, run by Karen and is looking forward to acquiring some turning skills.

Paul is a Freemason and Master-Elect of St Catherine's Lodge for the forthcoming year, as well as being a Fellow of the Geological Society and of the Royal Society of Arts.

The profiles of Liverymen Lex Agathangelou and John Kahn were included in the December 2016 issue of *The Turner*.

THE TURNERS' COMPANY WELCOMED IN 2016–17:

NEW FREEMEN

Nick Agar
Lex Agathangelou
Christopher Baddeley
Derek Edwards
Kevin Hearty
John Hicks
Simon Hope
Robert Marshall
Ginny Neill
Sarah Roth
Shaun Stacey
Katherine Tasker

NEW LIVERYMEN

Ian Adkins
Lex Agathangelou
Matthew Altass
Michael Edwards
John Kahn
Ray Key
Barry Laws
Peter Simpson

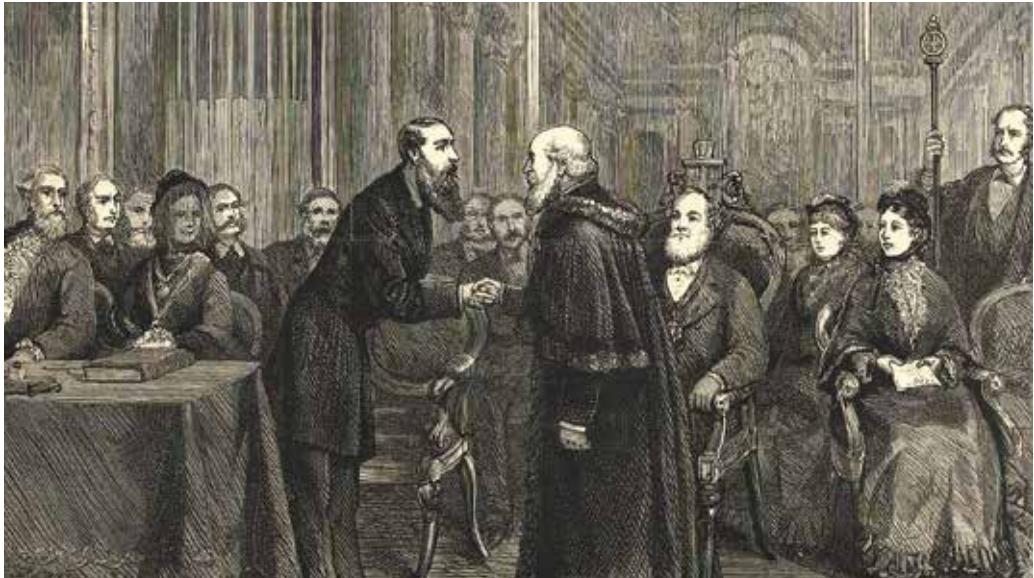
NEW COURT ASSISTANT

Paul Logan

WE REMEMBER THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2016–17:

Liveryman Nicholas Abbott
Liveryman Brian Guile
Liveryman Julian Scott
Major General Master Emeritus
Christopher Tyler CB

FREEDOM FOR THE KING OF THE BELGIANS



Baroness Angela Burdett-Coutts, heiress to part of the Coutts banking fortune and one of the richest women in England, was made an Honorary Freeman of the Turners' Company in 1872.

Renowned for her good works, in 1876 she generously donated four bells to St Paul's Cathedral in the name of the Worshipful Company of Turners.

One of her suggestions was that His Majesty the King of the Belgians, Leopold II, should also receive the Freedom of the Turners' Company.

The ceremony, shown in an illustration from the following Saturday's Graphic magazine, took place on 25 March 1879 in the Egyptian Hall at Mansion House.

The illustration was donated to the Company by Nicholas Somers in his Master's Year, together with the Company badge which belonged to the Baroness's husband, William Ashmead-Bartlett. William was 37 years her junior and took on her surname on their marriage in 1881. He is shown seated directly behind the Baroness's left shoulder.

William Burdett-Coutts was Master of the Turners' Company for two consecutive years, in 1888 and 1889.

The Company was fortunate in being able to purchase the Baroness's Company badge earlier this year at auction and she can be seen wearing it, seated at the table, 138 years ago.

It is likely that the Lord Mayor (1878–79), Sir Charles Whetham, is sitting next to the two ladies and behind the robed Master Turner, Charles Hutton Gregory, who is shaking the hand of the Belgian King, dressed in morning suit.

The figure, on the far left, at the table was probably the Clerk. One of the other men shown is almost certainly the Upper Warden, John Jacob Holtzapffel – a member of the Holtzapffel ornamental lathe dynasty.

The Beadle is on the right, holding the same staff that continues to be used at Company events.

The Graphic describes how the King subscribed his name to the roll of Honorary Members "amid loud cheers". He was then given the Charter and Rules of the Company and his certificate of membership in a turned ivory box.

Then there was "another burst of applause as the King joined hands with the Master in fellowship. His Majesty then returned thanks, speaking fluently in English".

KEY EVENTS: JUNE 2017 – MAY 2018

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Election of Sheriffs	Monday 26 June 2017	Guildhall
Summer Reception	Tuesday 18 July 2017	Apothecaries' Hall
Election of Lord Mayor	Friday 29 September 2017	Guildhall
Court Meeting and Livery Luncheon	Tuesday 3 October 2017	Apothecaries' Hall
Patronal Service and Luncheon	Friday 17 November 2017	Apothecaries' Hall
Winter Court and Pie Supper	Wednesday 22 November 2017	Apothecaries' Hall
Musicians' Carol Service	Wednesday 13 December 2017	St Michael's Cornhill
Livery Dinner	Monday 18 December 2017	Skinner's Hall
Court Dinner	Wednesday 17 January 2018	Apothecaries' Hall
Common Hall and Richard Gardner Williams Banquet	Wednesday 28 February 2018	Skinner's Hall
Court and Masters and Clerks Luncheon	Thursday 12 March 2018	Apothecaries' Hall
United Guilds Service	Friday 16 March 2018	St Paul's Cathedral
Craft Meeting with the Register of Professional Turners	Tuesday 20 March 2018	Skinner's Hall
Spring Dinner	Thursday 26 April 2018	Apothecaries' Hall
Election Court and Dinner	Thursday 10 May 2018	Apothecaries' Hall

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 Turners Company



The Automaton lathe, restored by the Science Museum, London with the support of the Turners' Company.
On display in the Robots exhibition at the museum until 3 September 2017. See page 7.