

CV for the Turners

David Batchelor

Master, The Worshipful Company of Turners, 2018/2019



A Man of Kent, he was brought up in Little Chart which was home to four generations of the family hand-made paper making business. His great grandfather was selected by William Morris to supply the paper used at the Kelmscott Press; his grandfather made paper for Bank of England promissory notes; and his father converted the business to make flong (a cardboard like product used to convert flat bed type into half cylindrical form via the 'hot metal' process) for Fleet Street. In 1937 all flong used in Fleet Street came from France or Germany. The firm became a reserved occupation during WWII and ultimately closed shortly after Mr Murdoch had dealt his blow.

H E Bates came to live in the village and base many of the characters in the Darling Buds of May on people in the village. David's service as H.E.'s paper boy and cricket team reserve was never mentioned.

In 1968 David left school and came to work for the Vestey family head quartered in Smithfield but also with storage, shipping and insurance interests in the heart of the City. After three years he moved to the (then exciting) photocopying industry before joining Coopers & Lybrand (now PwC). He became a partner in 1984 serving a wide range of clients both in the City and nationally.

In 2001 he became a Freeman of the Turners and stepped into the world of interim management for three years during which time he took on five non-executive directorships. He did not succeed in retiring at sixty: instead he served nine years as a Treasurer of a charity and Governor of the University of Westminster until December last year.

He is married to Lesley, a retired GP. They live in Sevenoaks. Their sons Joe and Ed are married respectively to Tomoe and Sara. Each couple have two children.