

# The Turner

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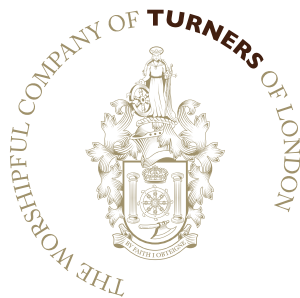
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Including:

Master in Turning awarded  
to Stuart Mortimer

John Bridgeman recalls the  
highlights of his year as Master

Reflections from Honorary  
Liveryman Dame Fiona Woolf  
on her year as Lord Mayor



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### Cover photographs:

Front: Bowl by Ray Key  
Back: 'Methuselah' by Joey Richardson  
Both these works will be exhibited at Wizardry  
in Wood, 12-15 October at Carpenters' Hall

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02: Jon Murrell  
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11-13: Stuart King  
15: Wellcome Trust (painting by AP Tilt brothers)  
18: Royal Opera House (2012)  
19: Max Carey Trust  
20: Nick Abbott / Paul Coker  
21: Bill O'Leary / Helen Wells  
23: Nic Somers  
Back Cover: Joey Richardson

## MASTER'S LETTER



Nicholas Edwards, Master 2015-16

**It is with a sense of awe that I took on the Mastership of our illustrious Company on 14th May 2015. Awe not just for the honour but also at the historical context of the Turners' Company.**

It is over 400 years since we had a Royal Charter conferred on us, but the record shows we had been in existence for at least the same period prior to 1604. Even this pales in significance when it is realised that the technology of turning on which our Company was founded has been with us for at least a further three millennia.

The daunting responsibility I now face is to take the Company forward against this historical backdrop and I have the support of a very capable Clerk, Wardens, committees and members.

I owe special thanks to John Bridgeman for his skilful Mastership last year and look forward to leaning on his experience and wise counsel as Deputy Master.

Long overdue thanks are also due to Honorary Assistant Gordon Sloan who sponsored my nomination to the Court some ten years ago and has always been at hand for friendly advice.

I have had a lifetime association with turning, starting with my first lathe at the age of fourteen. I am a professional engineer with a background in the machine tool industry as it moved into a computerisation phase.

My interests amongst others include a preoccupation with turning and I had the honour to be President of the Society of Ornamental Turners for the last eight years. My new role gives me a unique sense of completeness based on the parallel paths of career and hobby.

The Company's support for the City of London will continue as before and 2016 is the year of the Company's fourth Wizardry in Wood exhibition. It is this event which creates such a stir in the Livery movement and positions the Turners' Company in people's minds way above the actuality of 51st in the Order of Precedence. Turning is in good heart and we continue to nurture participation in the Craft with sponsorship, education and competitions.

Our charitable activities will again concentrate on donations and lathes for the most deserving causes in our community. From its members, the Company looks forward to receiving donations of not only a general nature, but also those with a focus on particular needs.

During the forthcoming year we shall be looking to widen our membership. Employers are making greater demands on our professional lives, but the need for a world outside the career is as important as ever.

The Turners' Company provides a special place, combining an historic Livery Company with a living craft and a reputation for outstanding friendliness and hospitality. Should you wish to introduce new members please do advise the Clerk or any Court member.

The Company now has excellent offices in Skinners' Hall with our own separate meeting room. Formally opened by Liveryman (now Dame) Fiona Woolf, these provide better and well-deserved accommodation for our hard working Clerk and his assistant, as well as a display of Company treasures.

My wife, Ann, and I are looking forward to the coming year and meeting as many of you as possible. We have a splendid programme of dinners and lunches on our social calendar and also events of interest in the City, organised by our Livery committee. The emphasis is not only on enjoyment but also giving to others, for which the Turners' Company is justly famed, and this year will be no exception.

**Nicholas S Edwards**  
Master 2015-16

# MY YEAR AS MASTER (2014-15) BY JOHN BRIDGEMAN



One begins to think about one's year as Master of the Turners' Company at the Livery Dinner in the previous December (2013 in my case). An official photograph is taken in evening dress and one borrows the Master's Chain of Office for the occasion. It feels good!

My first formal engagement was the Bodgers Ball – a must for anyone interested in woodcraft. The Mistress Turner and I marvelled at the best of woodcraft from shave-horse to pole-lathe.



This delightful chair was an award winner; the iron bridge at Ironbridge; the Mistress Turner

Our first major event of the year was a weekend at the Ironbridge Museum in Shropshire with 80 Masters of Livery Companies and their partners. Many will say that this is one of the highlights of a Master's Year – it's certainly action packed and I was able to meet the Ironbridge Resident Turner in his own workshop.

He was turning a stone-mason's mallet out of a reclaimed lignum vitae lawn bowl into which he was planning to insert a shaft of American hickory wood. Wonderful to see a true craftsman at work. Ironbridge is always worth a visit.

Next came a visit to Capel Manor Horticultural College in Enfield. As guests of the Master Gardener, HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, we enjoyed a guided tour of the magnificent grounds followed by a delicious English country cream tea.

Shortly afterwards we had the pleasure of attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace. I was told that cameras weren't allowed but suspect I was one of the few guests there without one. It was particularly enjoyable to have had Lindy with me on many occasions during my Master's year. Since we are both working we spend far too little time together and so I took every opportunity to ensure she was with me whenever invitations allowed.

In September I attended a City Breakfast with our good friends at the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, waving bon voyage to the Turners' sponsored taxi driven by Alex Robertson, our Clerk, on route to Disneyland Paris. Every year 100 London taxis take seriously ill children for a wonderfully happy weekend with their families. Sadly Kusera, aged six (the elder of the two girls in this picture), only lived for a few months after her visit. She died in the New Year.



Annual Taxi ride to EuroDisney, Paris, with our Clerk, Alex Robertson

November is a very busy month for Master Turners. An outgoing and incoming Lord Mayor, Remembrance Services, Court Meetings, our Patronal Service, the Harrogate Show and other livery functions. In all I attended 28 functions including making an after-dinner speech for the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers.

Mistresses and Consorts have a busy year of their own. Lindy organised an afternoon tea party at The Reform Club in December for some twenty five other Mistresses and Consorts.

A guided tour of the Club highlighted some splendid examples of turning in Regency and early Victorian furniture and a display of outstanding signature work by the late Bert Marsh and Joey Richardson, Margaret Garrard, Simon Hope, Stuart Mortimer and Paul Coker.

The Patronal Service at St Bride's was particularly evocative for the Bridgeman household as this is where the Mistress and Master were married.



Sheep Drive across London Bridge; tour and turning display at the Reform Club; our wedding at St Bride's

In the New Year I had the pleasure of conceiving a Presentation Chalice in sycamore modelled on the world famous wedding cake Spire of St Bride's Church as a design-and-make commission for Liveryman Paul Coker. We presented it to our retiring Chaplain, Canon the Reverend David Meara at the 2015 Ladies' Dinner; he was thrilled.



Chalice by Paul Coker presented to David Meara; Grand-daughter Tilly; Pulleys and pulley wheels made by turners

In the New Year one has a growing realisation that the year as Master is finite but with little time to dwell on it.

In January there is a children's Fancy Dress Party given by the Lord Mayor! The photograph below shows our grand-daughter Tilly in her Hogwarts outfit, having just cast a spell on a mounted Police Officer.

Time too to learn more about one's Livery Company, as I began my next piece of research – the importance of turners' pulley wheels to the success of the Royal Navy's fighting ships in the 17th and 18th Centuries.

At a visit to the Royal Windsor Horse Show in March we were able to see Joey Richardson in her role as a QEST scholar. Her breathtaking artistry never fails to inspire all who see it. And before we knew it, the next Bodgers Ball had come around again. This year in Sherwood Forest.



QEST Scholar Liveryman Joey Richardson; Blue Master at the Bodgers Ball; Green Man at the Bodgers Ball

I enjoyed helping to judge classes and resting my weary legs in a chair that went on to win its class. We also had the pleasure of meeting up again with Mr and Mrs James Pumfrey, demonstrators at last Summer's Reception, and now with their beautiful baby daughter Rose. And of course, no Bodgers Ball could ever be complete without a Green Man!

What an honour. What a Master's Year – and with over 200 engagements. Thank you Turners' Company.

**John Bridgeman CBE TD DL**  
Master 2014-15

# THE MAYORAL YEAR OF AN HONORARY TURNER



Fiona Woolf celebrating her Lord Mayor's Day

**To be made an Honorary Liveryman of the Turners' Company, after the excitement of opening Wizardry in Wood in 2012 and presenting awards, could not have flattered and touched me more!**

Even with a passion for turned wood I was overwhelmed by the incredible standards of creativity and craftsmanship that the Company was promoting. A turner friend of mine even came from Hawaii to see it, arriving on our doorstep with a suitcase full of tropical woods to share!

I still cannot quite get my head round it! In the 19th century, the Company gave the honour to Gladstone, Disraeli, Lloyd George and, in 1872, to Angela Burdett Coutts (see page 16); in the 20th century to Theo Fabergé; and in the 21st to me! So, I was keen to give the Company a place in the sun during my year as Lord Mayor.

It began, not in the sun, but in a downpour, on 7th November 2013, when the largest and longest vehicle in my Lord Mayor's Show was none other than the Turners' entry. How proud I was! I did not expect to have much of an opportunity to say thank you in person. As there are so many Livery Companies, the Lord Mayor does not usually see them individually more than once and a few, hardly at all, because the travelling takes up a third of the year.

There is the veritable conga line of inward visits from Presidents, Prime Ministers, Finance, Energy and Foreign Ministers, Governors of Central Banks, Regulators and Ambassadors, for whom the Lord Mayor provides a sort of matchmaking service for UK-based business. Then there are the other stakeholders in the mayoralty like the armed forces, cadets, students in the City schools, City workers, charities, cultural organisations, London Boroughs, market operators and SMEs.

Then there were my own programmes in my 686 Plan (I was the 686th Lord Mayor) – the Power of Diversity, Tomorrow's City (on sustainable development and finance), the Charity Leadership Programme (where the Lord Mayor's Consort took the lead) and the Lord Mayor's Appeal. Other things were squeezed into the diary like sessions to promote STEM subjects to the young and the Commonwealth Games!

On average, I was doing twelve meetings and events a day, quite often delivering three or four speeches. One day, I did seven speeches on seven different topics. However, I was never at a loss for words with the Turners, even though I was often completely amazed. Their enthusiasm was infectious and a turner is very articulate. I was totally inspired by Ray Key and Stuart Mortimer to whom I had the honour of giving awards on behalf of the Company. Their reputation is global and reflects so well on the UK and the Company.

Needless to say, I was looking forward to the Turners' Dinner in Apothecaries' Hall and had prepared a merry speech for the occasion.

The intimate atmosphere and the warmth of the assembled friends was such that I hardly had to look at my script – it was such a family occasion (my godson was there). Imagine my joy to be presented with a Ray Key pagoda of concentric boxes, one on top of the other, turned from a single piece of wood, with a historic silver band round the base, engraved with my name. It sat on my round table in the Mansion House and was a real ice-breaker with visitors.

It was also a great honour to open the new offices in Skinners' Hall - and focus on the engine room of the Company, having been dazzled by its outward face. The 2014 Craft Competition was, indeed, a dazzling outward display and I was thrilled to see the entries, hand out the awards and to be able to enthuse about wood in another speech! But I also had a new role, for which I felt quite inadequate – that of a judge!

The Company had created a new category of the Lord Mayor's Award and set the competition challenge on the theme of my Lord Mayor's Show, "The Energy of Life", linking it with the City so it became "The Energy of Life in the City". The finalist entries were spectacular in their ingenuity and creativity. Unsurprisingly, they were all to a very high standard of craftsmanship, but as they were so very different, how could you compare them? I was very drawn to a chess set with the pieces turned in a dark wood and a light material. The dark pieces were of old buildings in the City of London and the light pieces were of the new, iconic buildings.

However, I was fascinated by a turned, hollow wooden cube by John Edwards with a red lid, the handle of which represents the top of the Monument (to the Great Fire). I found an alternative finial in gold inside. Circles on the sides represent coins, paving (streets paved with gold), the time zone (offset circles with a small working clock) and the ripples of energy. The whole box is textured with symbols, the Catherine Wheel of the Company's coat of arms being prominent. I nervously asked for advice and was told that it was my decision! I gave the award to the box and there was a chorus of approval but we felt that every entry was so deserving!

When I put the box down, I was sad to see that it was not for sale. It was such an unusual and imaginative piece that I could understand that the Turner would want to keep it and show it. Imagine my surprise and delight when it arrived in the Mansion House with a note from John saying he would like me to have it! I have offered to let him show it, when he wishes!

John's brilliant cube picks up the strength of the City, capitalising on its time zone between the US, Asia and the reason that so many companies locate here to do business in Europe, Middle East and Africa. He captures the City as a global financial centre and the personal energy of City workers. It plays to the Power of Diversity programme that I started which is still continuing.

The programme is a collaboration to make sure that all talent can rise and reach its full potential. He also captures the City's built environment and paved open spaces, reflecting my Tomorrow's City programme and sustainable urban development. I set up these programmes in order to include as many people as I could and feel the objective was achieved. I'm still working on these themes because people keep asking me to speak.

The Turners' Company introduced me to the Association of Wood Turners of Great Britain and I am keen to be useful as a special friend. Between them they are enthusing me even more to champion the craft and even to try it myself!

I was set to join the Clerk at the Max Carey Trust for a beginners' course in March but the Government sent me to Mexico as a "green finance envoy", so I had to miss it. The timing was bad, but on the other hand, I was about to start the Mexican electricity restructuring and market implementation, so the timing was brilliant!

There is nothing like being denied an opportunity to make you want it even more! I obviously won't be starting my turning with pagodas or cubes but I do aspire to achieve a candlestick! As an Alderman, I represent the small, but perfectly formed ward of Candlewick in the City (the next door ward to Dowgate, where the Turners have their office). As an electricity lawyer, I love candle light – yes, it is romantic but it is also an insurance policy in case the lights go out!

**Dame Fiona Woolf**

## MASTER IN TURNING - STUART MORTIMER

### **The second-only elected Master in Turning in modern times, Stuart Mortimer was nominated for this prestigious award by the Company and major associations within the craft of turning.**

When you know and understand the totality of Stuart's commitment to the craft, his selfless giving to help others, his promotion of the craft and his unfailing support of the charitable work of the Company, not to mention the outstanding excellence of his work, you will understand why this was a unanimous vote.

Liveryman Reg Hawthorne, Past Chairman of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain:

"Stuart is an outstanding candidate for his constant dedication and support for the craft. He's passionate about youth training and bringing them into the craft.

"Hosting youth training weekends at his home and workshop for many years, wonderfully supported by Linda, the Turners' Company and the AWGB joined in this endeavour with the aim of extending it around the country. Youth training courses are now held in several locations.

"Stuart's generosity is well known, not only for young people, but for a constant stream of visitors arriving at his workshop, accepting his freely given invitation to come along for a day or so to sort out their problems. His generosity extends to being one of the first to come forward when there is a request for turned pieces for a charity event, which are always a great draw. His unique style, design and technical ability means that his work is keenly sought and his work resides in many major collections and museums around the world.

"He has also undertaken many commissions including candlesticks for Winchester Cathedral and the finials for the thrones on the Royal barge used for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee River Pageant. Stuart is a great professional and international turner, much sought after

as a presenter in seminars around the world, demonstrating with humour his unique brand of turning, which invariably has a twist somewhere! His popular sought after book on spiral turning is the definitive publication on the subject. I can endorse this personally because I know of one copy that resides with a turner as far away as Hawaii."

And from Freeman Ray Key, President of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain:

"I became aware of Stuart in the 80s, when he entered woodturning competitions I judged. These were the big woodworking shows at which he won numerous awards. It wasn't long before he was judging and demonstrating.

"In 1997 he achieved entry into the Guinness Book of Records when he turned the largest bowl in the world from a single piece of wood at an American show. The Sitka spruce bowl blank was eight feet in diameter and weighed 5600 pounds, after chainsaw trimming this was reduced to two tons before being mounted on the lathe.

"Bob Bohlen, a major US wood collector, donated an international collection of turned wood to the Detroit Institute of Arts in the year 2000. It was a photograph of one of Stuart's pieces that adorned a huge banner at the entrance to the Institute. Since this time Bob Bohlen has gifted other collections and in February another Bohlen Collection will go on show at the Peabody Essex Museum, Salem, MA. The book that will be published, along with this collection, will feature Stuart's work on the front cover."

Like Reg, Ray endorses Stuart and Linda's generosity to visiting turners, offers of instruction to almost anyone, plus his legendary whole-hearted commitment to youth training. Stuart is unanimously respected by his peers in the world of woodturning and is a deserving recipient of the 2014 award of Master in Turning.

**Past Master Peter Ellis**





"Pink Shell" by Stuart Mortimer

# WIZARDRY IN WOOD 2016

**“A magnificent display of turning, world class” is how Wizardry in Wood 2012 was described, and we are delighted to update you on the exciting plans for 2016.**

The exhibition will once again be held at Carpenters’ Hall, in the City of London, from 11th - 15th October, by kind permission of the Carpenters’ Company.

To mount and run this exhibition we will need a great deal of help from our Liverymen and Freemen, so please put the dates in your diary now and keep them free. We will shortly be emailing all members of the Company to find out who will be willing and available to assist.

The Carpenters’ Livery Hall has been booked from Monday 10th to Monday 17th October 2016. The schedule is to move in and set up on Monday 10th. Judging the Competitions, the official opening and the evening City reception will take place on Tuesday 11th. The Company reception will be held on the evening of Thursday 13th October.

The Exhibition will be open to the public from Wednesday 12th until the afternoon of Saturday 15th. Tickets can be purchased on-line from: [www.wizardry-in-wood.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.wizardry-in-wood.eventbrite.co.uk).

As in previous Wizardry in Wood Exhibitions, top class Turners - 28 this year - have been invited to take stands in order to display and sell the finest examples of their craft. Information about these turners and examples of their work are featured on the exhibition’s website: [www.wizardryinwood.com](http://www.wizardryinwood.com).

Different craft associations will also be invited to participate. We are very pleased to announce that the principal static exhibition will be a special selection of wooden items from the Economic Botany Collection at Kew Gardens. This will be the first time that Kew Gardens has supported an exhibition in the City of London.

We are also fortunate to have secured the loan of fine selected pieces from The Daniel Collection. Formed by Shirley Sinclair and Jonathon Cuff,



‘Minimal Sculpture I’ by exhibitor Mark Sanger

this is the foremost collection of contemporary turned wood in the UK. In total, Wizardry in Wood will feature over 70 leading UK and international turners.

Other planned displays include a selection of the ‘Turners Company’s Treasures’, a loan of rare turned items from the 16th to the 19th century, a presentation by the Liveries Wood Group and a presentation by the Turners’ Company Charity Committee.

Each day that the exhibition is open to the public it is planned to have 10-15 minute Gallery talks on both the Kew and the Daniel Collections.

Work is currently in hand to raise sponsorship for this exciting and unique exhibition. We would be very interested to hear from any Freeman or Liveryman (or their businesses), who would like to know more about the sponsorship opportunities.

## **Nic Somers**

Chairman of the WiW 2016 Committee 2014-16

**The 2014 Competitions of the Turners' Company were held in Apothecaries' Hall. For the first time they were open to the public – a one day 'pop-up' exhibition which attracted over 500 visitors. The Competitions are held biennially. All entries to the 2016 Competitions will be included in the Wizardry in Wood 2016 exhibition at Carpenters' Hall.**



Competition judging in Apothecaries' Hall

## Competition winners featured on the centre pages (12-13)

### Top Row (left to right):

*Wassail cup and cover* by Stuart King (1st Prize in the Bert Marsh Senior Competition of the Worshipful Company of Turners); *Cube box with Clock* by John Edwards (1st prize in the Lord Mayor Fiona Woolf Open Competition of the Worshipful Company of Turners – see page 7); *Three legged stool* by John Burbage (1st Prize in the Competition of the Association of Polelathe Turners and Greenwood Workers); *Matching goblets* by Maggie Wright (1st prize in the Master's Competition of the Worshipful Company of Turners)

### Middle row (left to centre):

*Walnut Platter* by Nick Agar (1st prize in the Senior Competition of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain); *Wooden box* by David Batchelor (1st Prize in the Bert Marsh Novice Competition of the Worshipful Company of Turners – photo this page, bottom left)

### Bottom row (left to right):

*Viking sunset bowl* by Nick Agar (1st prize in the Felix Levy Competition of the Worshipful Company of Turners); *Pierced hollow form* by Thomas Streeter (1st prize in the Ray Key Competition of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain); *Box* by Richard Hoodless (1st prize in the Lady Gertrude Lawrence Competition of the Worshipful Company of Turners); *Decorated hollow form* by Thomas Streeter (1st prize in the Junior Competition of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain)



Above: With Master John Bridgeman, Fiona Woolf presenting the Master in Turning Award to Stuart Mortimer. Below: Fiona Woolf presenting First prize in the Bert Marsh Novice Competition to David Batchelor







# BARONESS BURDETT-COUTTS - HONORARY TURNER

**2014 saw the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of the greatest Victorian philanthropists: Angela Burdett-Coutts, described by Dickens “as the noblest spirit we can ever know”.**

Angela Burdett was born in 1814, the youngest child of Sir Francis Burdett and his wife Sophia, daughter of Thomas Coutts. She was raised in a stimulating household where the famous and the fascinating were regular visitors. Scientists, politicians, writers and artists were her father’s friends and Angela absorbed much from their presence in addition to the education deemed suitable for a gentlewoman.

Her father, Francis Burdett was a radical politician whose views and behaviour horrified his father-in-law the banker Thomas Coutts. Outspoken, charismatic and locked in the Tower for a couple of months, Burdett was the “frantic disturber” of his day. Yet it was Francis who instilled in Angela a respect for all life and a deep desire to make a difference and speak out on social issues.

In 1837, on the death of her step-grandmother, Angela inherited Thomas Coutts’ fortune (around £1.8 million) and the profits from his share in the Bank conditional on her taking the Coutts name and not marrying a foreigner. She was also barred from being an active partner in the Bank.

This was a source of irritation to Angela but the up-side was that she had the time and money to throw herself into the philanthropic schemes that were to become her life’s work. As her father had said, “Man’s eyes are given him to look forward,” so Angela wanted to devise schemes or support projects that would make a lasting difference, provide the building blocks for individuals to use to take those first steps towards ongoing change.

It was estimated in 1881 that she had given between £3 and £4 million to good causes, which is several hundreds of millions by today’s reckoning. We will probably never know the “grand total” as many of her benefactions were made anonymously – she was the “Lady Unknown”.

In 1871, Angela was made a Baroness, a reward for her good works. She was the first woman to be honoured in her own right for philanthropic efforts. Her marriage at 67 in 1881 to William Ashmead Bartlett, a 29 year old American, caused her to forfeit the bulk of her fortune to her sister, having broken the non-alien clause relating to her inheritance. She continued her interest in philanthropy, although on a reduced scale. Angela died in 1906 and was buried in Westminster Abbey, following a funeral procession watched by thousands – many of those she had spent her life trying to help.

## **Angela and Philanthropy**

The range of Angela’s philanthropic work is impressive. From providing a gooseberry pie tea for schoolchildren to founding a bishopric in Adelaide, Australia, from paying for a bird table at the Bank’s premises at 59 Strand to building the immense Columbia Market in London’s East End. It would be true to say she made philanthropy a career and it is not surprising to learn she was known as the “Queen of the Poor”.

## **Education: silver medal**

Angela’s work in supporting education covered the whole spectrum. She supported the pitiful Ragged Schools for the poorest (as highlighted by Dickens). She funded her own junior schools in Westminster (of which an incarnation still runs today and bears her name). She devised a teaching scheme for rural areas, established evening classes with technical courses for those who had to work during the day (two of these are still in existence) and funded prizes for advanced study at Oxford University in her favoured science-based subjects.

The Three Rs were important but for Angela it was practicality that underpinned education – children had to be taught to care for themselves, before they could hope to take the next educational steps and Angela was the first to introduce cookery and sewing into the curriculum of elementary schools.

Angela never considered herself an expert in the fields which she funded, so she was always seeking out and listening to those with knowledge and experience of such projects.

That way her money was not wasted on madcap schemes.



A garden party given for members of the 1881 International Medical Congress in the gardens of Holly Lodge, the home of Baroness Burdett-Coutts

### **Housing: Columbia Square**

Angela was convinced that better housing would be a huge step forward in the fight against disease and there were two major domestic building projects which benefited from her funding.

One was Holly Village in Highgate - but the most significant was the development in the East End, Columbia Square.

She had the architect Darbishire design four blocks each of 45 flats. Columbia Square opened in 1862 and families benefited from gas and water, larger living spaces, laundry facilities, ventilation and better light sources and an efficient refuse disposal system.

### **Health: Victoria Park Fountain**

Angela understood the importance of the basics in promoting health. Thus fresh water supplies were vital, particularly as a deterrent to cholera. She paid for the improvement of water supplies and waste removal in a number of areas of London, particularly in Westminster, always taking expert advice and she had a number of public drinking fountains built. The most notable is the edifice in Victoria Park, Hackney.

It wasn't only humans who were to benefit from Angela's improvements to water supplies. Her love for animals and her concern for their protection led her to fund the construction of water troughs to quench the thirst of the many

working animals in London. She was one of the first patrons of the RSPCA and kept a varied menagerie of animals at her Highgate home.

### **Food: Columbia Market**

The vast Gothic edifice of Columbia Market was opened in Bethnal Green in 1869. It was described as “almost a Cathedral pile”. It was meant to provide a covered, hygienic and regulated site for the sale of produce at reasonable prices to the poor. Although constructed with the best of intentions and to Angela, making good sense, it was a rare failure.

Angela did not fully understand that the costers and their customers preferred their open-air street markets. It was a lifestyle totally alien to those she wanted to use it – no swearing allowed, no Sunday trading. She did not give in and handed the Market to the Corporation of London. Even the Corporation could not make a success of it and despite incarnations as a fish and meat market, it never succeeded and closed in 1885.

### **Building a Future: Irish Fishing School**

Angela always tried to break the cycle of poverty and make a lasting difference to people's lives, to create, as she put it “a situation of hope.”

The Irish suffered terrible setbacks with the potato famine and Angela set up relief centres in the 1860s where supplies could be obtained cheaply. She made the largest single donation towards the purchase of seed potatoes to revive the crops.

This was immediate remedial help but she did not want communities to be “treated as mendicants”. Angela lent money for the purchase of boats and nets to encourage the fishing industry in Ireland and set up industrial training schemes. She opened the Baltimore Fishing School in 1887. It was to be a re-learning of skills lost or put to one side by the native Irish.

### **The Church: St Stephen's, Westminster**

Angela's faith was very strong and it underpinned all her work. She built numerous churches including St Stephen's, Westminster, and another St Stephen's in Carlisle. She funded the construction or restoration of many others with a £15,000 donation to the Bishop of London.

This work extended overseas with the founding and funding of bishoprics in Adelaide, Cape Town and British Columbia.

Angela believed passionately in the educational role of the Church and she supported schools which were attached to parishes and many children were sponsored by her, as the sons of poor clergy. Indeed her aim was to create whole communities around these ecclesiastical benefactions, all aimed at promoting self-help.

### **Angela and the Livery Companies**

Although reluctant to be caught in the public eye, Angela was recognised for the work that she did. In 1872, the City of London made her their first woman Freeman. Edinburgh followed suit in 1874 (Angela's grandfather, Thomas, had been made a Burgess of Edinburgh in 1813). She was also given the Freedom of the City of Manchester as a thank you for her efforts in promoting the native textile industry.

Within the City of London, Angela was recognised by several City Livery Companies. In 1872, she was presented with the honorary freedom of the Turners' Company, “for her work in promoting the moral and social improvement of the people”. She was very proud of her membership of the Turners' Company and gave generous financial gifts to fund prizes for turning in stone and ivory, for diamond cutting and polishing.

In 1881 Angela supported an exhibition of turned pieces and the Company's annual competition. In 1876 she gave £375 to provide four bells to form part of the new peal in St Paul's Cathedral in the name of the Turners. Each bell has the Turners' Company arms and Angela's monogram on it.

In 1873, Angela received the honorary freedom of the Clothworkers' Company, through her interest in the cloth industry. She had established a sewing school in Brown's Lane to provide work for elderly seamstresses – they gained government contracts. This school also became a social centre and welfare network for the area, supplying nurses, food, comforts and providing clothing for girls going into service.

Angela supported the struggling silk weavers of Spitalfields – arranging for assisted emigration for those who wanted it. To aid the Lancashire



textile industry she sent a cotton gin to the Gold Coast to promote cotton production with the raw material being sent to the northern mills.

In 1880, the Haberdashers' Company gave Angela the honorary freedom for her charitable work and in 1894, the Coachmakers did the same.

The Coachmakers had been impressed with Angela's encouragement of technical education among those engaged in the London coach building industry. Both these Companies recalled her contributions to education. Indeed Angela's response to the Haberdashers honouring her touched on this work – she called receiving the freedom a compliment to those of her sex who were engaged in educational work in the metropolis.

Angela established the Westminster Technical Institute in 1893 which offered practical courses in subjects such as plumbing and road carriage building. Today it forms part of Westminster Kingsway College and its catering department has a new teaching kitchen named after Angela. For her, practical education was of vital importance.

### **Angela and the Duke of Wellington**

Angela lost her parents within a few days of each other in 1844. The Duke of Wellington became her close friend and mentor. Ever practical, he encouraged her to be familiar with the way the Bank was run, even though she was not allowed to be an active partner. When she asked him whether he felt she should press for Coutts to close an hour earlier in line with other banks, his response was, “not one clerk will seek instruction at that hour...he will go to the public house, the coffee house, the play house or other...resort of vice and idleness”.

Wellington was unsure about a number of Angela's schemes – Urania Cottage for fallen women in particular. He was keen, however, for her to take on projects that would make a real difference. Wellington was a foil for that other great mentor in Angela's life, Charles Dickens. They were the pen and the sword and there was some rivalry between them for Angela's attention, which Dickens won as the Duke aged.

Angela's and Wellington's marriage was rumoured and in 1847 Angela proposed but the Duke said no – he was 77, she 33. He remained in some ways like an admirer with

his gifts of gloves and flowers; and a staircase which he had built between her room and his at Stratfield Saye still exists.

In 1851 Wellington wrote “it does amuse me mightily ...to find a veteran 82 years old, deaf with all, turned into a lover!”. There has been a persistent rumour in both families that the couple married in secret.

When Wellington died, Angela privately viewed his coffin and Wellington's son gave her one of the death masks: “to no other ladies but you, that is votre affaire.” A correspondent sent a verse to Angela on the Duke's death with the lines, “While Nations mourn for him/ I grieve for thee.”

### **The Oriental Club**

Founded in 1824, the Oriental Club appointed Wellington as its first and only President. He had served in India and Angela's grandfather, Thomas Coutts, had many customers who played their part in the East, whether as soldiers, merchants or administrators. A number of the Founding Committee of the Oriental Club were Coutts customers, including Sir Pulteney Malcolm, Lord William Bentinck, Sir Alured Clarke and Sir Thomas Hislop. Another, Sir George Staunton, accompanied his father on Lord Macartney's embassy to China in 1792. Aged 12, Staunton learned enough Chinese to impress his hosts and he was the only member of the embassy able to speak to the Emperor in Chinese.

Coutts has its own little piece of the orient: in our Board Room at 440 Strand hangs the beautiful 18th century Chinese wallpaper said to have been given to Thomas Coutts by Macartney on his return from China. It was originally hung in the family's private rooms at our former home 59 Strand and would have been familiar to Angela.

### **Tracey Earl**

Archivist, Coutts Bank

# LIVERY COMMITTEE REPORT 2014-15

## **From ‘daylight robbery’ to the craft of bell-making, members and their guests enjoyed some stunning events in the 2014-15 Master’s Year.**

### **Cricket**

An Inter Services Cricket Match took place on 3rd June 2014. Thanks go to Court Assistant and Livery Committee member Gerry Thwaites for organising this event.

### **Behind the scenes at The Royal Opera House**

Forty seven Turners (including their guests) attended a “Behind the Scenes” tour of the Royal Opera House on 15th October 2014. The visit included access to dressing rooms and costume stores and from the comments received, everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves: “The Royal Opera House made a special effort to ensure we missed nothing and even delayed their rehearsals to allow our party to take a proper look at the auditorium and the Royal Box” said one of our group.



After the tour Turners enjoyed lunch in the Amphitheatre restaurant which was opened specifically for our party. Many thanks go to Livery Committee member Fred Bain for organising this well attended event.

### **The Musicians’ Carol Service**

It was Past Master Penrose Halson who started the tradition of Turners joining the Worshipful Company of Musicians for their Carol Service and for our Master to read one of the lessons.

As you will be aware, this has now become customary and we were once again invited to attend the Musicians’ Carol Service at St Michael’s Cornhill on 10th December.

This was, as always, a wonderful start to the Christmas season and offered Turners the chance to enjoy not only the atmosphere of this magnificent 17th century structure (with 19th century fittings), but to listen to the professional choir, and to marvel at the sound of the recently (2010) restored organ. Of course, most importantly, this service enabled us to enjoy fellowship with the Musicians’ Company. Turners took supper afterwards at a nearby hostelry.

### **Presentation on the Brinks-MAT Robbery**

As many members will recall, The Brink’s-MAT robbery occurred early on 26 November 1983 when six robbers broke into the Brink’s-MAT warehouse at Heathrow Airport, London and stole £26 million (£75 million in today’s money) worth of gold, diamonds and cash. At the time, it was described as “the crime of the century”.

Delivered by Ian Brown at the Union Jack Club in Sandell Street, London on 18th February, this event was well attended and very well received.

Comments included “What a wonderful evening that was. It could not have been better. The club was a revelation, such an interesting and comfortable place, just right. And the talk was marvellous, stuffed with fun and information at the same time, a terrific mixture!”

Once again grateful thanks go to Fred Bain for organising this presentation for Turners and their guests.

### **Weekend workshop at the Max Carey Woodturning Trust, Portishead, Bristol**

The Max Carey Trust was formed to provide an opportunity and facilities for people to be educated in woodturning.

The 'Mill' is a former joinery shop which had been disused for almost 20 years following the closure of the building and joinery business owned by the late Max Carey. Max had a lifelong passion for woodturning and when diagnosed with cancer he wished to see the workshop used for the benefit of fellow woodturners.



In conversation one evening Max and Stuart Bradfield agreed to set up a charitable company, develop the workshop, and provide modern equipment and accommodation. Training and development packages now include an Apprenticeship Programme, a Journeyman Scheme and an Artisan programme.

Following the very popular visit by members of the Court in 2013, a follow-up weekend was arranged in March 2015 for all members of the Company. Limited to a maximum of 16 people, the packed full programme included an introduction to the work of the Trust, woodturning demonstrations and most importantly for our members, hands-on turning opportunities!

Turners stayed at the local Premier Inn and enjoyed dinner at the local bistro, Bottelino's on both the Friday and Saturday evenings together with their tutors Stuart Carey and Harry Childs.

On the Saturday evening we invited June Carey (Max Carey's widow), John Ruffles and Mary Ashton (both Trustees and Tutors from The Trust) to dine with us. Special mention must also go to both Stuart Bradfield and our Clerk who, together, ensured that this event ran smoothly.

### **An evening visit to the Bells of St Paul's**

On 13th April 2015 Turners made a return visit to see the Bells of St Paul's. The event was well attended and all present seemed to enjoy the itinerary. The Cathedral staff went out of their way to welcome us, and we were escorted by David Bassford, the secretary to the bell ringers, and Martin their Bell Captain. We were shown the bell chamber and our attention was drawn to the four bells donated by the Turners' Company in 1878. We are happy to report they are both safe and sound!

We were then treated to a bell ringing demonstration and had the privilege of hearing one of our own bells. Evensong was very enjoyable with some beautiful music and we were seated in a reserved area in the choir stalls which was a genuine treat. We are very grateful to Cathedral staff for their hospitality and their generosity in giving their time. The visit was followed by dinner at Harry's Bar, a well known haunt of Turners! Thanks go to Livery Committee member Bill Morris for organising this event.

We continue to look for a variety of events that will appeal to members and guests of all ages and that fit around increasingly busy lifestyles. We are of course always happy to receive your ideas and suggestions for consideration although we can't promise to make them all happen!

The committee would like to thank all members and their guests who have supported the activities of the past year and we look forward to welcoming you to future events.

### **Sarah Fabergé**

Chairman, Livery Committee 2014-15

# WELCOME TO NEW FREEMAN & LIVERYMEN



## **Nick Abbott, Freeman**

Nick was educated at Stowe and St John's College Cambridge, where he read Classics and Archaeology and Anthropology, and spent far too much time on the river coxing his College boat.

He served his articles in London before returning to the family firm of solicitors in Chelmsford, from which he retired as Senior Partner in the early 1990s after some fairly dramatic heart surgery. He recommends pacemakers to anyone who will listen, whether they need them or not. He is now on his fourth one. Enforced retirement gave him a few years to practise "proper law" as a part-time Chairman at the Employment Tribunals.

While his four children were still very young he and his wife, Liveryman Kathleen, bought a 25 acre wood in Essex which they have managed themselves with the help of friends and a firewood merchant. It was through working in this wood that the two of them became interested in bodging and chair making.

Nick drew up the constitution of the original Polelath Turners Association and was one of its early Chairmen. It has now grown to cover all greenwood crafts and its annual general meeting weekends, known as the Bodgers Ball, regularly attracts half its total membership of some 800 souls. Several Masters of the Company have visited the event and some have come back for more!

Nick and Katie have between them had their chairs voted Best in Show five times out of the last ten years. They both took part on the Company's Float in the Lord Mayor's Show in the celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the granting of the Company's Charter, as well as demonstrating at Wizardry in Wood.



## **Paul Coker, Liveryman**

With interests in science, technology and all things mechanical but also with a creative streak, Paul Coker's career as an ornamental and rose engine turner was almost inevitable.

After working in the nuclear world at the Royal Naval College Greenwich and then in process and product development at Weetabix, in 1986 Paul took the plunge, leaving a 'proper job' to become a full time professional turner at the age of 32. At the same time he became a house husband looking after daughter Amy aged 5, whilst his wife Ann returned to work for a couple of years.

Paul joined the Society of Ornamental Turners in 1984 and the Register of Professional Turners in 1989, after being invited by Felix Levy, and soon after joining the Freedom of the Turners' Company.

The long delay between the Freedom and the Livery was waiting for the right time in life and career to fully become part of the craft and belong to its long history.



### **Brigadier Bill O'Leary TD DL, Liveryman**

Bill was educated at TS Indefatigable, a Naval Boarding School on Anglesey, before entering the Royal Navy. He then joined Ford Motor Company as

a Design Engineer, specialising in the design and development of Fuel Injection and Powertrain Intake Systems.

He joined the Territorial Army as a REME soldier in 1981 and was commissioned in 1988. Moving up through the ranks, he went on to command 103 Battalion REME between 1999 and 2001.

A number of Full Colonel tours followed before promotion to Brigadier in January 2012. He was appointed as Aide de Camp to Her Majesty the Queen in February 2012, and a Deputy Lieutenant for the County of Buckinghamshire in July 2013. He is currently serving as the Assistant Deputy Military Secretary at the Army Personnel Centre.

He left Ford Motor Company in 1992 to be the Business Development Manager for a major automotive design and manufacturing company based in Geneva, with responsibility for the global Ford account.

He is Chairman of both TA Golf and REME Golf, Chairman of the Territorial Army Rifle Association and Vice Chairman of the Army Rifle Association. He is also a Military Member of both Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire RFCA Committees.

He lives in Tetsworth, close to Thame in Oxfordshire, and married Anita, also a serving Army Reserve Officer, after meeting her in a shell scrape on Salisbury Plain in 1992. They have no children or pets, just holidays!



### **Helen Wells, Liveryman**

Helen was introduced to the Turners by Past Master Penrose Halson. Educated in this country, Canada and the US, Helen has found it hard to escape the family tradition

of education in one guise or another.

Disappointed by the quality of her own experience of English teaching at A level but inspired in equal measure by those who had taught her in elementary and university contexts (Sacred Heart School, Halifax, King's College, London, York University, University of Connecticut), Helen set out to share her passion for books, for reading, for all matters Medieval and her general enthusiasm for the written and spoken word. This led to posts at Malvern Girls, Stamford, and following an interlude in the US, to Gresham's (The Fishmonger's Foundation) in the remote fastnesses of North Norfolk. From here she married into Oundle School (the Grocers' Company), finding herself soon at the whiteboards in the English Department.

She cherishes family time with her three rapidly growing children - Hugh, Beatrice and Cecily - now all in senior school. She is a member of the Lay Ministers and Intercessors team both at Peterborough Cathedral and in the local parish church.

Hobbies are many and varied, ranging from churches and architecture, to pen and ink drawing, cookery, cake icing, choral music, classic detective fiction and growing as many David Austin roses as the garden can accommodate. The family share a love of France, Eastern Canada, books and lively and constant conversation. Her husband, Mark, is the real craftsman as he makes violins and cellos and has done so for many years.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT 2014-15

### **The Finance Committee oversees and manages the finances of the Company and of the Charitable Trust. The responsibilities were 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 Master's Steward Andrew Neill, Assistant Nick Fisher, Liveryman Lionel Anderson and Liveryman Nigel Luson.

An Investment sub-committee, under the chairmanship of Andrew Neill, 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 £4.63m and generates income of some £175k each year. This covers the administrative costs of the office including 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 £590k, 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 the Company itself.

Larger gifts, such as the lathe given to Norwood Ravenswood School in 2014 and costing over £19k, are generally financed by an appeal, a specific fund-raising event or by generous individual donations.

The Committee also advises the Court on strategic matters that emerge from time to time. During the 2014-15 year it considered three main points that emerged from the Strategy Day held in October 2013.

The first was the future resourcing needs of the Company to maintain the level of its activities over the next 5 – 10 years. Secondly, whether a different model of membership fees, such as through quarterage, should be adopted, and finally whether there is a place for sponsorship as a means of financing some of the Company's activities. All of these strands of work are ongoing and further comment will be made once they have been completed.

Past Master Richard Levy retired from the Finance Committee on 29th May 2014 having chaired it for many years. Richard's contribution has been considerable and his wise counsel greatly valued - the Company owes him a great debt of gratitude.

I should also like to thank the Clerk, the Company Accountant, my fellow Committee members, and all those who work towards ensuring our finances remain healthy and in good order.

**Assistant Andrew Sindall**  
Chairman, Finance Committee

**On a gloriously sunny Spring day in April 2015 The Worshipful Company of held their annual 'Rifleman's' Day' at Bisley in which five teams participated.**

Our team comprised Derek Stimpson (Team Captain; Gunmaker, Turner & Arts Scholar); Alan Cook (Gunmaker, Turner & Arts Scholar); Alice Stimpson (Gunmaker & Arts Scholar); Nic Somers (Turner & Arts Scholar); Mark Bridge (Arts Scholar).

Following an excellent bacon and eggs breakfast and safety briefing at the Army Target Shooting Club, the five teams set out for the ranges. Five disciplines were shot.

**Black Powder Pistol.** This was shot on the 25 metre range using modern replicas of the Remington New Model Army revolvers. These fired .44 calibre lead balls, the same as the 1863 originals that were used in the American Civil War. Each shooter fired twelve shots with the best ten counting.



Nic Somers taking aim

**McQueen.** This is a sniping competition shot at 300 yards with Accuracy International ten shot 7.62 rifles with telescopes. The target is a head-size card mounted on a pole. This is held up for only 3 seconds, against a mock castle which has numerous windows and battlements. The rifleman has only 15 seconds to reload before the target re-appears in any one of the openings. With the wind gusting, it was not easy. Derek Stimpson, our team Captain, had the highest score with 82 out of 100, winning a medal.



The shooting teams

**Target Rifle** was shot at 900 yards using a 7.62 single shot Target Rifle on a bi-pod with aperture target sights. Two sighting shots were fired and then ten to count. The wind coaches are vital and the wind was brisk and variable, so it was hard work to keep central on the target.

**Stalkers Test.** This is the standard test used by the British Sporting Rifle Club to simulate woodland deer stalking. It was shot at 100 metres with a .223 telescoped sporting rifle at a life-size Roebuck target. Two shots prone, then off sticks - two sitting, two kneeling, two standing and two off the bench.

**Running Boar.** The target is a realistic depiction of a life-size wild boar. At a distance of 50 metres, it appears for just 4 seconds as it moves across the shooter's front. During this time the shooter, who is standing, has to fire one shot using a .22 telescoped Sporting rifle.

When shooting finished, we all returned to the "Army" for a cream tea and the presentation of prizes by John Jackman, Master Gunmaker.

The winning team scored a total of 1868 out of 2500 and took home the champagne! Our team came an acceptable second with 1746. As well as winning a medal for the Black Powder Pistol, our Team Captain, Derek Stimpson, also had the highest individual score on the day with of 426 out of 500. On behalf of all the guests who participated, I send our thanks to all at Gunmakers for organizing such an enjoyable day's sport.

**Nic Somers**  
Upper Warden 2015-16

The Turners' Company  
Skinners' Hall  
8 Dowgate Hill  
London EC4R 2SP

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[www.turnersco.com](http://www.turnersco.com)  
[clerk@turnersco.com](mailto:clerk@turnersco.com)  
020 7236 3605

—  
[@wizardryinwood](https://twitter.com/wizardryinwood)  
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