

Worshipful Company of Turners

Upper Warden: Toast to the guests: Livery Dinner 18 December 2017

Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, Alderman, Master, Fellow Warden, Fellow Turners, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my privilege and pleasure to welcome all our guests this evening.

Ahead of this duty I was invited (possibly instructed) to attend a course at the Guildhall where the message was for heaven's sake be brief. I shall, therefore, refer to very few of you individually for fear of an embarrassing omission.

Masters and Prime Wardens you are especially welcome.

Collectively you are representing:

- our near neighbours here in Dowgate Hill;
- five fellow members of the Liveries Wood Group;

- a number of livery companies who have and continue to provide us with accommodation from time to time;
- historic trading and competitor relationships;
- toolmakers for our craft and here I thank Master Kenneth Cooke of the Cutlers of Hallamshire for journeying south to be with us this evening
- Here at the home of the Skinners who are always at sixes and sevens we have representatives of most of the liveries from forty-nine to fifty three who help keep us in order at fifty one in the order of precedence. Lord Mayor, in view of recent events at Old Trafford you can be assured the Turners will not be fighting in any procession
- The remaining liveries represent many of our newer relationships and show that we are trying live up to the theme of diversity and inclusion!

Most of you have furnished us with your CV. This Upper Warden has already gone very green reading them, so collectively I will echo what I think my late grandmother would have said to you: “You are all very talented young people; you have done extremely well in life. Well done”

As a Man of Kent I cannot let this group go without special recognition of Master Carpenter Rachel Bower, who, born in Hythe is a Maid of Kent.

You are in most cases joined by your noble Clerk. Where would we be without our Clerks?

Masters, Prime Wardens and your Clerks you are most welcome

The Turners Company is proud to have had a close link with each of our defence forces. Tonight we welcome:

- Col Clare Phillips from the Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers;

- Captain Peter Towell from HMS Sultan the Navy training establishment, Portsmouth;
- Squadron Leader Gareth Thomas RAF St Athan; and
- Representing the civil side of our safety, Commission Ian Dyson of the City Police.

Lastly I mention the Uppingham group. Lord Mayor, as a former pupil, current member of the Foundation Board and I believe as current fee-paying parent I hope you will be pleased to know that at least one Turner here tonight received a respectable education!

TURNERS ALL and TURNERS ONLY please stand and drink the Toast to

Our Guests.