



# THE TURNER



## CHARITY NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON

Spring 2007

Issue 27

### From the Master, Penrose Halson

Every year, the 107 City Livery Companies give over £40 million to charities: an astonishing amount from a total membership of around 41,000 (the last published figures are for 2002: 40,471 Freemen and Liverymen gave £42.8 million).

The Turners' Company lacks the inherited land, buildings, possessions and capital which enable some Companies to give munificently. However, the Finance Committee husbands and increases the donations made to our Charitable Trust. The most spectacular windfall was the Gardner Williams legacy: £40,327 received in 1948 (when the Company's general investments were a mere £4,329).

The Company focuses on five areas. We support the **Lord Mayor**, giving to both the charity he chooses and the continuing Lord Mayor's Scholarship Fund; **City** charities, such as the Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund, and "our" City church, St Bride's, whose rector, our Honorary Chaplain, conducts our Patronal Service; the **Armed Services**, through trophies to the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers, and awards to the training arms of the Navy and the Royal Air Force.

In addition, each **Master** of the Company has an allocation to give to charities of his or her choice.

Our fifth area is our **Craft**. The Charity Commissioners class the support of a traditional skill such as turning as a valid charitable activity - and it needs support. Cheap, mass-produced, imported wooden bowls make life as difficult for U.K. turners in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as did the change from turned furniture legs to square ones in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The Court recently decided to emphasize donations to the Craft, in order both to foster the *art or misterie* of turning, and to combine supporting our Craft with helping disabled people.



Photographs by column top to bottom. Left: the Lord Mayor, Alderman John Stuttard; the Lord Mayor's landau at the Royal Cornwall Show; Company bursary winner Joey Richardson; African Blackwood & silver box by Cecil Jordan presented to the Lord Mayor, Livery Dinner 2006; Liveryman Alan Gillett as Victorian rent-collector, Ironbridge; Foord Flowers, gift to the Company by Past Master HQ Foord; REME winners of Turners' Shield; audience at 2006 Turning Competitions. Centre: Turners' crest; Turning Competitions winning entries; turning at Street Forge Workshops; Turning Competitions winning entries; naval award-winners. Right: Sheriff Kevin Kearney; St Bride's church; Company loving cup; Master Master Mariner, the Princess Royal, on board HQS Wellington; teenage turners; turner in anti-shavings hat.

We have given a computer-assisted lathe to the disabled students of Treloar's College (founded by Lord Mayor Treloar), and four lathes to the Street Forge Workshops, where the lives of disabled adults are transformed by learning to make saleable work.

The Company also promotes turning through financial and administrative support of the Register of Professional Turners (which has 224 members), bursaries to promising turners, grants to teenage turners, demonstrations and exhibitions, competitions with prizes of trophies, money and prestige, and the provision of lathes (plus training and help with maintenance).

Almost daily the Clerk receives a persuasive letter or glossy brochure requesting money for a good cause. The Company cannot give to all; but we want to give as much as we can to charities which fall within our scope.

You, Liverymen and Freemen, are likely to give to well-known charities direct; so we select smaller, specialist organisations and individuals which you are unlikely to know of. I am very grateful to Liveryman Matthew Gaved, helped by Freeman April Weiss, who have put together the information on pages 2 and 3 about the vital work which we support. Some of the charities would welcome a visit from you, so that you can see for yourselves the marvellous effect that your contributions can have (their websites are listed on page 4).

Last year the Company gave £25,843 to charitable causes, an average of circa £130 per member of the Company. Could we not increase this to, say, £30,000 in 2007?

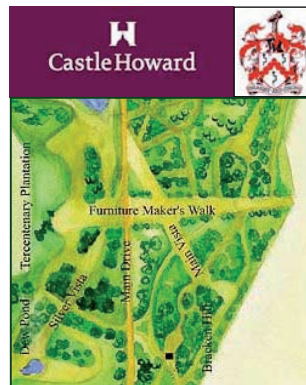
As Master, I have been hugely heartened by the interest, enthusiasm and commitment of so many Freemen and Liverymen; and I know that many of you will respond to my appeal to you to support our Charitable Trust to the best of your ability.

*Penrose Halson*





Turners felt humbled and cheered by their visit to Street Forge Workshops in Suffolk. We saw severely disabled adults learning to use four lathes contributed by the Company: if MS confines you to a wheelchair, it is immensely satisfying to be able to turn a wooden bowl and then see it sold in the shop. Outsiders can visit, and learn turning too, at weekend lessons.



Castle Howard's arboretum has 6,500 hardy woody plants, including an avenue of the English trees used in furniture-making, planted by the Furniture Makers' Company. Liveryman and professional turner Malcolm Cobb is turning door knobs in each wood, to show visitors the different colours – golden yew to creamy sycamore – and their many wonderful patterns of grains and burrs.

## Beneficiaries of The Turners' Charitable Trust



### Teenage Turning

"Elf 'n' Safety" means that turning is now seldom taught in schools. So the Company supported a weekend when ten teenagers encamped in the garden of world-renowned turner Stuart Mortimer. Ian Fenton wrote: "With Stuart it was all go, go, go; we didn't stop until the hollow vessel I had turned was finished and off the lathe. I had managed, with Stuart's help, to turn a nice sized hollow vessel within an hour and a half." The teenagers were gripped by Les Thorne's demonstrations (above), were fed regularly by Linda Mortimer ("brilliant cooked breakfast", "three huge plates of sandwiches"), talked non-stop when not learning, and went away full of food and knowledge, after "an opportunity I hadn't even dreamed of".



The Turners' Shield goes to the winners of Exercise Southern Craftsman, a competition for REME Volunteer units of Southern Command. Last year's winning team (above, with then Master Andrew Ciclitira) could not form the usual Guard of Honour at our Livery Dinner as most of them were in Iraq. The REME Regimental Colonel, Richard Bennett, wrote: "I felt honoured to be present as the Lord Mayor presented the award .. and to discover the emphasis which you place upon your association with the Corps of REME". Turners reciprocate the feeling. We also continue to support the Royal British Legion.

### Turning Competitions

Winning a prize – cash, a medal, vouchers, a bursary, a trophy – is both a great incentive and a selling point. The Company's Turning Competitions reward turners of the finest work; and our Bursary awards encourage turners who want to develop their skills (e.g. Bursary winner Joey Richardson, bottom left with Sheriff Kevin Kearney). Judges Geoffrey Brandon and Peter Ellis (below left) and visitors to our biennial Turning Competitions (next in 2008) view stunning examples of our Craft.



### MUSEUM OF LONDON



We commissioned Freeman Stuart King to demonstrate turning on his Leonardo lathe at the Museum of London. We also gave to the Building Crafts College, the City of London Freeman's School, City & Guilds, and Robin Wood (for his book, *The Wooden Bowl*). A visit to the Museum's Medieval Gallery is highly recommended.

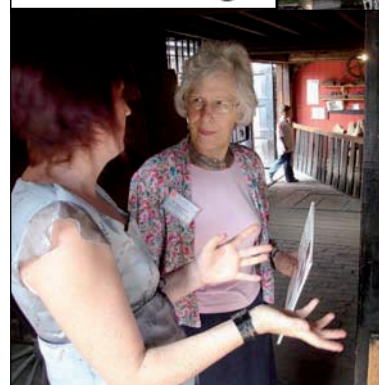
### St Bride's Fleet Street *fifty years on...*



Largely destroyed in the 1940 Blitz, St Bride's is celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its rededication. The Company contributes the collection taken at our Patronal Service while we listen to the famous St Bride's choir (left). We also give to the Musicians' Company, for sharing in their carol service in St Michael's Cornhill, another jewel of a City church. We contribute to the United Guilds service in St Paul's, when the Liveries pack the cathedral (and the St John's Ambulance in attendance look anxious). St Bride's holds services, concerts, lectures, sermons, parties, exhibitions – it hums with life.

That great symbol of the Industrial Revolution, the Iron Bridge at Telford, is the focus of the cluster of museums and Georgian houses run by the Ironbridge Trust. A "living museum" is a replica Victorian town, complete with bank dealing in £ s & d, a sweet shop selling humbugs (by the penny), a school where strict discipline is practised on visitors, a forge, and a carpenter's workshop equipped with a lathe given by the Company. We continue to maintain it (the photo shows the Master handing over cheque) and to train the carpenter who operates it to make souvenirs for visitors. They can also experience Victorian rent-collection, by rent-collector and Liveryman Alan Gillett, disguised in false whiskers (see page 1). A fascinating holiday, for adults and children.

### Ironbridge



### The Lord Mayor

The chosen theme of the Lord Mayor, Alderman John Stuttard, is "City of London, City of Learning". The Company supports the Lord Mayor's Scholarship Scheme, which continues from year to year helping overseas students to study in the UK's financial services industry. At our Livery Dinner (photo) the Master gave him a cheque for the Scheme and for his main personally chosen charity, Voluntary Service Overseas (for which he taught English in Brunei between reading Economics at university and starting his career as an accountant in London).



Lord Mayor Treloar was the Cornish Lord Mayor who founded Treloar's – Treloar School and Treloar College, both for disabled students. When Lord Mayor last year, Sir David Brewer chose Treloar's as his charity; and many Livery Companies, Turners included, support its wonderful work. The Master visits in February, and is always moved by the dedication of the staff and the happy atmosphere. Other interested members of the Company are welcome to visit.

### Sheriffs' & Recorder's Fund

The Sheriffs' Fund was established by the Sheriffs of the City of London in 1808, the Recorder's in 1931. The combined Funds give grants to ex-offenders and their families who need urgent help. A former drug addict leaving prison had no clothes suitable for a job interview. No clothes, no job – and a likely return to prison. The Fund gave him £250; he got clothes and job. He now counsels drug addicts, and gives thanks to complete strangers who cared enough to help. Small, vital grants go to individuals and projects: HMP Rochester received £4,000 for a workshop where prisoners repair bicycles, and a computer repair shop which helps train and rehabilitate young men.



### The Master's Choice

Last year the Master's chosen charities were St Paul's, the RNLI, the Children's Magical Taxi Tour (holidays for sick children) and the Chiltern Open Air Museum. This year's choices are the Taxi Tour, St George's chapel at Windsor Castle (an evening of haunting music, fascinating tour and convivial dinner), Friends United Network (mentoring for young people) and HQS Wellington, historic headquarters ship of the Honourable Company of Master Mariners, which needs repair. The Master Master Mariner, the Princess Royal, presided at a fund-raising evening on board.



# Please support our Charitable Trust

## From the Chairman of the Charity Committee, Past Master Andrew Mayer

Charitable giving is a very important requirement of every Livery Company; and the Lord Mayor, with his civic team, extols us all to be as generous as we can.

Much of our charity expenditure has been in support of events organised by the Howe Committee, which promotes the craft of turning both within and outside the Company. However the Court strongly believes that we should be increasing our charitable activities. Indeed, this is one of our *raisons d'être*. Furthermore, many people who are not members of Livery Companies believe that they exist only as “up-market dining clubs for the well-off” and it is very important that Livery Companies generally, and particularly ones like ours that actively promote their craft, redress those misconceived views.

To that end the Master has established a Charity Committee which I have been invited to chair. One of its members is the Chairman of the Howe Committee (Assistant Peter Ellis), and through him we can maintain a strong liaison between the two Committees.

At the first meeting of the Charity Committee, in November, we agreed the main purposes of the Charity Committee:

### 1 To consider and decide on recommendations for charitable giving

Recommendations can come from committees or individual members of the Company.

### 2 To investigate ways of increasing contributions to the Company's Charitable Trust

Three years ago we had to reduce the amount the Company gave to charitable causes. Our finances were reasonably healthy, but were dented by the state of the stock market. Financial ups and downs are inevitable; but we do not want our charitable giving to suffer. Other Livery Companies raise money through auctions, 100 clubs, special charitable events, raffles, sales of cards and other merchandise, etc. Please let me know *your* good ideas.

### 3 To help members of the Company and their families in times of need.

The Company History tells many stories of grants made to distressed Turners, their widows and children. In 1630 the Company bought 240 chairs from two poor members who had not managed to sell their wares. Even though the Company had a Hall to put them in, clearly such an over-supply of chairs was due to charitable reasons! Today, it may be money that is needed, or help in finding a job, attendance at a funeral, or a visit to a sick member.

### 4 To produce Charity Newsletters informing members about the Company's charitable giving.

This is our first Charity Newsletter. Has it given you a good picture of the Company's charitable activities? What would you like to know more about? I should be very interested to hear your views: [andrew.mayer@eur.cushwake.com](mailto:andrew.mayer@eur.cushwake.com)

## From the Almoner, Past Master Colin Field, and the Deputy Almoner, Past Master Peter Venn

As the Company's Almoners, we can answer your questions about gifts to the Charitable Trust. One commonly-asked question is “How can I most effectively contribute to the Trust?” The answer is a standing order registered for Gift Aid, which gives the Company 28p more in every pound and is administratively simple. The Clerk can provide the paperwork.

A further option is a bequest in your will – the choice made by Richard Gardner Williams, who is “gone but most certainly not forgotten”! Bequests are a very tax-effective form of giving, and they reduce Inheritance Tax.

Bequests should be to the *Charitable Trust of the Worshipful Company of Turners of London* rather than to the Company itself. If you have remembered the Company in this way, or are thinking of doing so, do please let the Clerk know.

Money is not the only gift which benefits the Company. The Company History lists a wide range of objects which members have donated, from the ship's decanter engraved with the Turners' crest, used at the top table, to the stained glass window showing the Company's armorial bearings, in Apothecaries' Hall.

Others give their expertise and their time: Assistant and architect Andrea Cenci di Bello and Liveryman, Gold Medallist and turner Malcolm Cobb have combined their skills to refurbish the Clerk's office – complete with turned barley-sugar twist columns.

Many Livery Companies levy quarterage, a compulsory annual fee. The Turners do not (and long may this last!). Since 2003 we have asked new Freemen to give an annual minimum of £150 to the Charitable Trust. If you do not have a standing order, we shall be in touch with you hoping that you may be able to set one up. However, if you are not in a position to do so, or would rather contribute in some other way, we shall understand.

Coupled with all this “asking” is a commitment from the Company to help any member in need. If you know of any such need please let us know: anything you say will be in the strictest confidence, and we shall seek to find a way of assisting. [cfield@btinternet.com](mailto:cfield@btinternet.com) and [petervenn@burbagedulwich.com](mailto:petervenn@burbagedulwich.com)

If you have questions specific to the Chairman of the Charity Committee or to the Almoners, please contact them directly. Alternatively, the Clerk is a mine of information about all aspects of the Charitable Trust: [clerk@turnersco.com](mailto:clerk@turnersco.com)

#### Web sites:

Arboretum at Castle Howard: [www.kewatch.co.uk](http://www.kewatch.co.uk)  
Chiltern Open Air Museum: [www.coam.org.uk](http://www.coam.org.uk)  
Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust: [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)  
HQS Wellington: [www.hcmm.org.uk](http://www.hcmm.org.uk)  
Joey Richardson: [www.joeyrichardson.com](http://www.joeyrichardson.com)  
Lord Mayor: [www.cityoflondon.gov.uk](http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk)  
Museum of London: [www.museumoflondon.org.uk](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk)  
Robin Wood: [www.robin-wood.co.uk](http://www.robin-wood.co.uk)  
St Bride's: [www.stbrides.com](http://www.stbrides.com)  
Street Forge Workshops: [www.streetforge.org](http://www.streetforge.org)  
Treloar's: [www.treloar.org.uk](http://www.treloar.org.uk)