



THE TURNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON July 2012

I am delighted that it is my privilege to be Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners for the coming year.

I am conscious of the responsibilities I carry, but I have the assistance of two outstanding Wardens to ensure that I don't go too far wrong. However, it will be critical for me to have the support of the Court, Past Masters and the whole Livery as well, if I am to match the successes of my predecessors.

I am incredibly fortunate to be Master in, possibly, one of the most interesting and exciting years of this century.

The Company shared in the celebrations for Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee by assisting with the manufacture of finials for the thrones and banquettes on the Royal Barge and by our inclusion in a lunch with The Queen and senior members of the Royal Family in Westminster Hall on 5th June.

We will all be able to enjoy the Summer Olympics either by being there or through the media. As a Company we will hold the third Wizardry in Wood exhibition in October.

To ensure the success of this event every Company member living within travelling distance of London should plan on being involved in one way or another. For my part, I will also be attending functions, within the City and beyond, the prime purpose of which is to promote the work of our Company through the Livery network.

While the day-to-day business of running the Company is the responsibility of our Clerk, our committees undertake much vital work. The responsibilities of Committee Chairmen are considerable and time-consuming. I shall endeavour to give them all the support they need to carry forward the work of the Court. Any Livery member interested in assisting with the work of the Company by joining a committee should contact the ASM Committee (through the Clerk).

We are all aware of the three 'C's, our principal pillars of Craft, City and Charity, which underpin the existence of the Company. Whilst strong support of both the City and Charities is a fundamental function, we must remember that we are fortunate to have a living, flourishing Craft – particularly in the amateur sector – and must not overlook the fact that without the Craft the Company would not exist.

Another "C" leads me to our Communications Committee that, amongst other activities, is responsible for the website, the annual Newsletter and the bi-monthly E-Newsletter. Without contributions from Company members, these publications cannot be produced. Please submit articles of interest about the Company, the City and the Craft – or indeed, yourself.

Held in conjunction with Wizardry in Wood will be our 2012 Turning Competitions. This year, every entry will remain an exhibit throughout Wizardry. Recently and sadly, the number of entries from Company members has reduced. I therefore send a plea to all 'turning Turners' to enter the Company-only competitions.

To finish, I welcome our new clerk, Alex Robertson. He took over the reins from Edward Windsor Clive at the Election Court and comes to us from a senior position within the City of London Police.

During my first few months as Master, Alex and I will be learning the ropes together. We will do our utmost to ensure that the Company continues to run like the well-oiled machine that you have all been used to.



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Alan Mitchell

Many people in the world of British wood crafting regarded Alan Mitchell as 'The Governor'.

The respect and affection that came to him were based on the firm and fair way in which, over many years, he edited woodworking magazines and supervised woodworking shows.

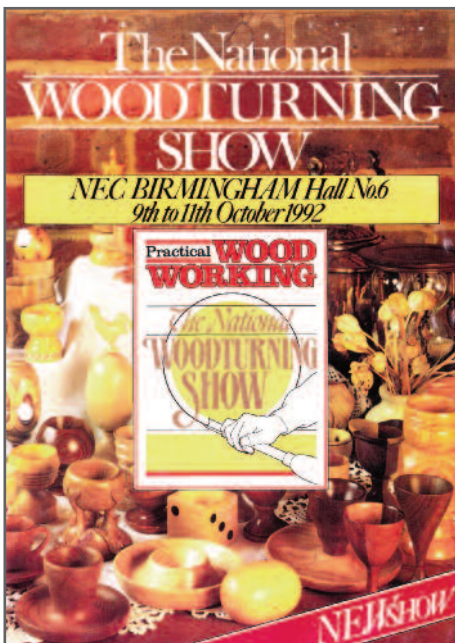
He tackled both these activities with a high degree of enthusiasm and competence. Verbally, his ideas were expressed in crisp English tones. His editorials, mini-sermons for the woodworker, are still a pleasure to read.

His obvious joy at being let loose with the power and subtlety of our language was almost Wodehousean.

Instinctively an artist, Alan was advised by his father, an accountant (and later, company secretary to the Aston-Martin Lagonda group) that book illustration would be a more realistic channel for his talents.

After a course at the Northampton School of Art, military service and a spell in the publications department of de Havilland Aircraft (at the time of the Comet), he joined George Newnes as a lay-out artist for their magazines, which included Practical Householder.

DIY had been almost unknown before WWII, and this magazine, with a print-run of about one million, was the main torch-bearer for this new activity.



In 1957, he married Josephine, and they set up house in St Albans. The two were intensely proud of their family, and latterly, Jo has attended, with Alan, several Company events, particularly the Patronal Service. Alan would have been the first to acknowledge that Jo exerted a profound and necessary stabilising effect on him, with the added benefits of lots of good cooking and fresh vegetables.

At the Craft Meeting in 1997, Alan gave the main talk entitled rather ominously 'Confessions of an Editor'.

In the 1960s, he became editor of Practical Householder. He said that the magazine had been responsible for, besides many good features, some regrettable stylistic trends. On seeing one particularly hideous example, one of his sons declared 'I bet one of your readers lives there, Dad!'. Around 1980, Alan swapped editorial chairs, and moved to Practical Woodworking, by this time part of the IPC group.

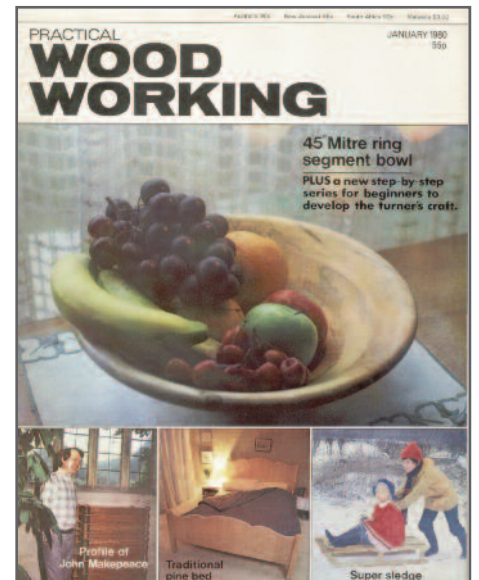
It was seen to be in a parlous condition with sales of only 140,000! There, he initiated Schools Competitions, Furniture Design Awards and National Shows: one for general woodworking at Wembley, and another in 1992 – in its first form specifically for woodturning.

The provision of free stands for the Company's Register, and for the AWGB, was a significant move to bring these organisations to the public notice.

Another project was the re-use of timber from the Norwegian Tree in Trafalgar Square, after Christmas, to make turned items for sale in aid of 'Children in Need'.

Alan gained his Freedom in 1998 and was raised to the Livery in 2000. He was asked to join the Howe Committee in 2002, in good time to guide the Company in creating the great and memorable show in 2004 to celebrate the 400 years since the grant of our Royal Warrant.

Essentially a rather shy man, Alan was eminently clubbable, and fellow Turners will recall how much he enjoyed their company and friendship at banquets and other events. His determined attack on the European and Andean wine-lakes was legendary.



Alan's sense of whimsy could strike without warning. One evening, after a Company dinner, we were walking along Victoria Street in St. Albans when the faintest of drizzles started. Alan stood in the middle of the road and bellowed to the heavens (well, spoke quite loudly) 'We are all going to be swept away in a mighty torrent!'

If Alan were to have read this piece, after a couple of herrumphs, he might have said 'Too many ***** words, dear boy!'. In this, the Governor would have been wrong. Not 'too many words', rather 'not enough space'.

The Court has posthumously awarded Alan Mitchell the Company's Gold Medal. This will be presented to his widow Jo, later this year.

Richard Gardner Williams Sentiment 2012

Richard Gardner Williams, aye he were a lovely lad,
gentle like his mother, serious like his dad.
Born in Cheshire, here in t' North in 1864,
Lincoln US President, time of Civil War.

His grandma weren't without a bob, fund holder in her time
and dad, he were a railway clerk,
on t' Great North Western Line.
Though later to accountancy, for t' railway, still in t' north,
when Richard, his only son, were born February 24th.

He went to King's School, Chester,
his interest, it were t' trains.
Engineering was his aim; he certainly had the brains.
He went down t' railway yard, t' ask what he could do,
they sent him on t' apprenticeship, at loco works, in Crewe.

When Apprenticeship were done,
he'd served indentured time.
Laird Brothers up in Birkenhead, were now the next in line.
The gaffer said,
"You're reight smart, drawing office is for you"
but drawing didn't hit the spot; he knew it wouldn't do.

Then engineering sales came up, for him, a job to take,
at Vacuum Oil Company; selling oils t' lubricate.
His boss were Charles Cheer Wakefield,
who later were't Lord Mayor.
His area covered Cheshire and counties up near there.

Petrol-driven motor cars, experimental in them times,
railway advancing at a pace, opening new branch lines.
Viscount Wakefield, him of Hythe, starts new company
He invites our Richard, for a chat, o'er a cup a tea.

Viscount made to Richard, best offer you could give,
latest member of the firm, a representative.
His business were in London, wi agents from t' railway,
of South America, would you believe, exotic, far away.

C. C. Wakefield firm were called,
went from strength to strength,
Richard earned a tidy sum, enough to pay the rent.
He lived in t' house called 'Invergarry' out
in smart new Pinner,
a clever guy now moved wi t' posh, no longer a beginner.

Now at the age of forty-nine, ambition was fulfilled,
his sponsor, Felix Fighiera, proposed him for t' posh guild.
Now Felix, he were t' Master and in his Master's year,
so Richard was accepted, of that, there was no fear.

Admitted to the Freedom, by payment of a gurt fine,
his chum the Viscount Wakefield were on t' Court at time.
In fact, there is good evidence, there was a railway clique,
but it's likely them there Turners,
were all posh and quite elite.

Like Dick Whittington, this red-haired lad,
had made the grade at last,
but self-made man, amongst them toffs, never forgot his past.
Saint Bart's, the church in Great Barrow,
he'd attended as a lad,
were in receipt of his donations, ensuring roof wu clad.

His life improved wit Turner mates, ascending like the lark.
He moved his home to posher place, at side of Regents Park.
He never sought to rise in t' guild or join Assistants Court,
though he attended functions and gave t' guild his support.

T' were sad when Richard passed away,
he really weren't that old.
He was a thoughtful lovely lad, had a heart of gold.
He made sure sister Martha and Edith, lovely wife,
had sufficient to sustain them, for t' rest a natural life.

The rest you know were in a clause, of gift, within his will.
By God I bet that gave you Turners,
one hell of a great thrill.
The sum I heard, it is a lot, in this year forty-seven,
would make an ordinary bloke like me,
think he were in heaven.

This benefit to Turners, that comes from his estate,
should give you an investment, you cannot underrate.
I hope that all you Turners appreciate this gift,
and chairman of finance committee handles it with thrift.

But he wants you all to celebrate his birthday when it's due.
To have good food, to think of him, enjoy a drink or two.
So use it well for charity, to give kids bread and jam
and drink to Richard Gardner Williams,
in Piam Memoriam.

Peter Ellis
(To be read in a Northern accent)

The Clerk's Farewell

A party was held on 8th May as a farewell to Edward Windsor Clive, who has retired as our Clerk. It was held in the private dining room of the Royal Exchange with his wife Grania also attending. Edward was presented with a Stuart Mortimer signature piece of a Spiral Twist Vase in English Yew with an Ebony base and finial. The Master made a speech and Peter Ellis also provided a poem.



The Clerk's Tale

"Clerks are in an honourable profession which goes back to the beginning of recorded history. Till Clerks wrote it down, there was no recorded history."

I never expected to be a Livery Company Clerk but, after 20 years in the Army and almost 15 years in the City I was looking for a new challenge when I read the advert for the Turners' Company in a Sunday paper in 1999 and applied.

I cannot say I knew much about the Company though had, by chance, been to the Livery Dinner in about 1988. I have to commend the wisdom of the Selection Committee of the time.

I have greatly enjoyed working in the Company over the last almost 13 years, with so many nice people and such good ideas floating around.

Arranging Mansion House Dinners in 1999 and 2004, the Float in the Lord Mayor's Show in November 2004 and the first two Wizardry in Wood exhibitions, as well as the routine annual events has been challenging but interesting. They have been made so much easier by all the help I have received from so many of the Company. It has given me immense pleasure when an event has gone off well.

There have, of course, been some downsides. Writing about 300 sets of minutes would be one of those!

I have been Clerk during a fascinating period as the Internet has moved from the possession of a few, subject to regular crashes and very slow, to the present position where it is a necessary tool to so many and has required different ways of managing communications.

The email has been a blessing for the rapid distribution of information but is also a curse as it has made it so easy to send too much. I start a new week with a vast set of emails to review and the danger of an important message being lost is always there.

We cannot ignore it, however, and the benefits are so great that the use will surely increase and events fees become easier by on line payment. This will be for my successor to take forward and I am sure that Alex will do a great job. I do wish him well and consider him very lucky to have such a delightful new career.

The Court have honoured me by awarding me the Livery of the Company so I will not disappear from Turners' events and look forward to seeing everyone in the future.

Edward Windsor Clive

Clerk of the Turners' Company, 1999-2012

The Lesser-Spotted Ancient Clerk

In the City of London's fair square mile, special breeds exist, their territory marked by guilds, I think you've got the gist. Clad in raiment, always dark, with badge upon the chest, distinguishing them in the flock, bearing the crest of the nest.

Master birds they come and go, annually they migrate, back to the flock, obscurity, pretty hard to take. But the Lesser-Spotted Ancient Clerk stays hardy all year round, mapping out the future year, ensuring the nest is sound.

Seen at City water holes, gathering in groups, marshalling the Master Birds, picking out the routes. Nodding, bowing, spinning round, greeting visitors, introducing newest chicks to the Company's laws.

Like its fellow Clerical Birds, the Moderns and the Greats, the Lesser-Spotted Ancient never makes mistakes. Recording actions of the flock, for posterity, setting seeds and crumbs on table, for their revelry.

Turner birds, an ancient breed, gather mainly wood, working hard, to foster the craft, for the social good. This flock would struggle to survive without the Spotted-Clerk, working for the good of those who strive to make their mark.

Clerical birds do congregate, to sup and share their tales, fellowship with different breeds, females with the males. A bird-land Mafia some would say, controlling all the flocks, another thought, just whipping-birds, taking all the knocks.

The biggest bird in City flocks, who has the greatest plume, is the Mayoral Bird, with the largest nest and the biggest meeting room. The Clerical Birds once a year ask Livery Birds to attend, and choose which preening Mayoral bird, should Guildhall nest ascend.

But today we are all at table, clucking and eating great fare, to thank our own Lesser-Spotted, for his time and his work and his care. His role as our nest-minder will shortly come to an end, when a newer Lesser-Spotted, will to the nest ascend.

His work it has been legend, renown throughout his breed, newer Lesser-Spotted, consult him to succeed. As Clerking bird to the Clerking birds, he's held a special place, the twitter in the City flocks say not easy to replace.

So set no spikes or sticky mess upon the window-sill, support the Lesser-Spotted Ancients' work within the guild. Managing the nest and flock, is not an easy task and a Guild, without a Clerical Bird, is unlikely e'er to last.

PM Peter Ellis

Appointment of New Clerk



Alex Robertson

Our new Clerk

The Court, at its meeting on 14th March, approved the appointment of Alex Robertson as our new Clerk, replacing Edward Windsor Clive who retired on 17th May after 13 years with the Company.

Alex recently retired after 32 years with the City of London Police where he rose through the ranks to become Chief Superintendent.

His remit included responsibility for policing all major events such as the Lord Mayor's shows and the ceremonial occasions at Guildhall, Mansion House and St Paul's Cathedral plus more spontaneous events such as the recent G20 demonstrations.

He was responsible for developing and implementing the "Ring of Steel" which saw

the use of cutting-edge technology to prevent and deter terrorist attacks in the City.

He wants to continue working in the City where he is very conscious of its history and is keen to uphold its traditions.

He lives in Wanstead with his wife Diana, who is Deputy Head of a large primary school and they have two children, both at university. Alex joined us on 16th April and overlapped with Edward for a month before taking over as our Clerk on 17th May.

Alex says that he greatly looks forward to becoming the Clerk of the Turners' Company and to meeting the members of our Livery.

Andrew Mayer

Company Golf

The Company was fortunate to enlist the support of Liveryman Peter Godding as the new Company Golf Society Secretary/ Captain when he took over in 2011 from his long-serving predecessor, Past Master Rob Lucas.

Within a short time of accepting the new role Peter issued a programme for 2011, which turned out to be the busiest year for some considerable time. His personal enthusiasm and energy in this role is a fine example, to all new Liveryman, of the commitment one hopes and expects others will provide to the Company.

Last year's events were too numerous to describe in detail; but in outline we lost to St Catherine's Lodge for the first time and did sufficiently well in the Inter-Livery Prince Arthur's Cup to be invited back in 2012, not something we Turners have always achieved.

We also came third in the Newsome-Smith Trophy at East Berks G.C., did tolerably well in the Ray Jeff's Cup at Hartley Wintney and achieved a very good third place in our first team outing (see photo above) at The Dowgate Hill Challenge at Worplesdon G.C.



Our Company Golf Day at Woodcote Park in May 2011 was a superbly organised event and the main prize for the winning male was a wonderful bowl made and donated by Freeman Mark Baker, who has kindly agreed to create another piece for the 2012 event, which will be held in September.

This, together with the Company Cup, was deservedly won by Peter Godding, a fitting reward for both his excellent score and his hard work throughout the year. Peter's wife Jan came third in the Ladies Section and they can be seen in the photograph proudly displaying their awards.

We are looking forward to another exciting year and, true to form, Peter produced the programme for the year in January.

We are always looking for new recruits for the Golf Society. Please come and join us; we are in for another fun year with Turners' Golf.

Peter Ellis

Wizardry in Wood

Art • Beauty • Skill • Mystery



The Worshipful Company of Turners

EXHIBITION OF THE FINEST
CONTEMPORARY TURNING

WITH A UNIQUE HISTORICAL BACKDROP

Wednesday 17th - Saturday 20th October 2012 at Carpenters' Hall in the City of London

This will be the third Wizardry in Wood exhibition following the success of the other two in 2004 and 2008 to showcase the Turners' Company support for the Craft, the City and our Charities.

The setting will again be the magnificent Carpenters' Hall on London Wall close to Moorgate station.

The emphasis this time is on the best of our contemporary turners in the UK with an historical backdrop.

In putting together this event one is struck by just how resourceful and skilful the early turners were in the 800 years of the evolution of the Turners' Company. But then, to see just how good the work of today's turners is, evokes a further source of wonderment.

They have taken the classic shapes, materials and techniques of their forebears and applied their own expertise, talent and training to produce the most stunning creations to be displayed at Wizardry in Wood. Twenty of the finest turners will be present exhibiting their work.

We are fortunate to be able to exhibit turned items from historic collections when turned wooden items were a necessity of everyday life. There will be a montage about medieval turners in the City of London at a time of the ascendancy of the Guilds and the Turners' Company, with exhibits from the Museum of London and the Guildhall.

From a slightly later period there will be a display of turned items from the fabulous Mary Rose which sank in 1545. The wreck acted as a 'time-capsule' and the items are preserved in pristine condition. There will be a live demonstration of how these items would have been turned some five centuries ago.

The late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw not only the Industrial Revolution but also the emergence of the amateur scientist. Turning moved into an ornate phase almost "because they could".



An outstanding promoter for this newly popular style was the family Holtzapffel, who provided three generations of Masters for the Turners' Company.

Their heritage of examples of ornamental turning were donated to the South Kensington Science Museum in 1930 and we are fortunate to have a large selection of these artefacts at Wizardry in Wood, the first time they have been on public display.

Moving into more recent times, the private collection of the late Theo Fabergé will be exhibited. Theo was not only the grandson of Peter Carl Fabergé, he was an Honorary Liveryman of the Company and his was a lifelong passion for lathes, wood and turning.



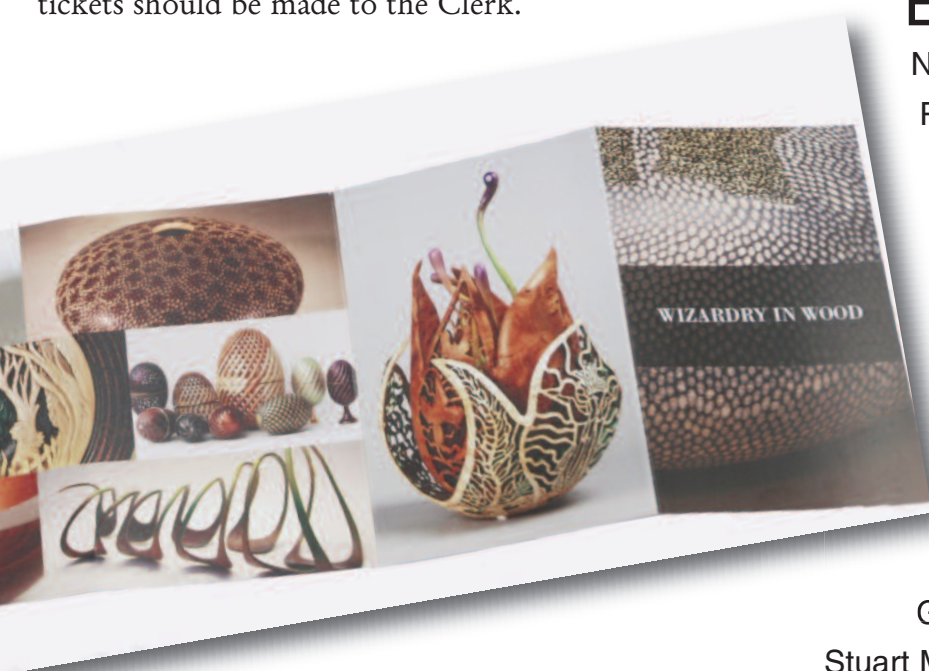
Our close links with the wood-turning fraternity will be shown with stands by the Register of Professional Turners, the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain, the Society of Ornamental Turners and the Association of Pole-lathe Turners and Greenwood Workers.

The Company's charitable activities will be shown with a flashback to similar activities of 100 years ago.

New for this show will be a display of all the entries in the prestigious Company Turning Competitions.

There will be a wine and canapés evening reception for Company members and their guests with an official opening by Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE at 6.30pm on October 16th.

The cost will be £20 per head and applications for tickets should be made to the Clerk.



The Exhibition will then be open to the general public October 17th-20th from 10.00am to late afternoon.

Members of the public may purchase discounted tickets at £5.50 for the public days on-line at www.wizardryinwood.com or by applying to the Clerk.

Tickets may also be purchased at the door on the day at £6.50.

Entry for Company members and their partners on public days is by a pre-ordered free ticket available on application to the Clerk.

There will be another evening reception on 18th October when we entertain our fellow Livery Companies.

www.wizardryinwood.com



Exhibitors include:

Nick Agar

Peter Archer

Bob Chapman

Paul Coker

Margaret Garrard

Dennis Hales

Mark Hancock

Dennis Keeling

Ray Key

Stuart King

Carlyn Lindsay

Gregory Moreton

Stuart Mortimer

Tracy Owen

Gary Rance

Guy Ravine

Joey Richardson

Les Thorne

Robin Wood

Rosemary Wright

Turners' Company

Theo Fabergé Collection

Mary Rose Trust Collection

Register of Professional Turners

Society of Ornamental Turners

Association of Pole-lathe Turners and
Greenwood Workers

Holtzapffel Collection (Science Museum)

Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

The Company set up a Charitable Trust in 1974, utilising some of the funds generated by the Gardner Williams legacy. Since then, the value of the Trust has grown considerably and it has also benefited from new funds in the form of donations and legacies.

Since 1995 the Trust Deed has stated that the Trustees are to use the Trust income to support “such charitable institution or institutions or such charitable purpose or purposes as the Company shall from time to time in its absolute discretion think fit”.

The Company’s Finance Committee manages the Charity Fund and, in conjunction with the Standing Committee, it is tasked with agreeing each year what funds can be distributed to support projects, which have been recommended by the Master’s Steward, (who was tasked with examining all the requests for our financial support from outside agencies) and also the Howe Committee for craft awards.

Past Master Penrose Halson undertook a review during her year as Master and recommended that a specific Charity Committee should be formed to focus and coordinate the Company’s charitable efforts and to emphasise more forcibly the importance of this activity.

The Court agreed and the Committee was set up in 2006 with Past Master Andrew Mayer as Chairman.

Under Andrew’s guidance, the charitable activities of the Company have been expanded and all cases for support are thoroughly scrutinized and formally approved.

The Howe budget for craft activities now comes out of the Charity Fund and its budget is approved by the Charity Committee each year. However, the management and investment of the Charity Fund is still under the control of the Finance Committee.

The Charity Committee concentrates on supporting those activities and organisations laid down by the Court, namely:

- The Lord Mayor’s Charities.
- City institutions, particularly those involving the Master.



Students at Ruskin College, with Rob Lucas and Stuart King

- The Armed Services.
- The Master’s Charity (the Master is allocated £1,500 to distribute to his/her chosen charities).
- The Craft.

2011 was a very busy year for the Charity Committee with a very wide range of donations being made to Schools and other organisations. These are detailed below so you can see where your money is spent in supporting our craft.

2011-12 Activities

Headley Court, Leatherhead

This is the Services Rehabilitation Centre for wounded personnel. We have donated a bench lathe to the Occupational Therapy department to help in providing an activity which enables our disabled Servicemen to learn a new skill.

There is a member of the RPT who is wheelchair-bound and we will be arranging for him to go to Headley Court to demonstrate what can be achieved on a lathe whilst sitting down.

Cockpit Arts, Deptford

You will have read in recent E-newsletters that we are supporting two turners, Eleanor Lakelin and Frank Boggis-Rolfe, with a grant to work in a studio where they can get expert tuition in marketing and business skills as well as enhancing their turning abilities.

The Charity Committee has recently agreed to support up-and-coming turners at Cockpit Arts, subject to suitable applicants, over the next three years.

Ruskin Mill College, Nailsworth

Freeman College, Sheffield

Plas Dwbl College, Pembrokeshire

These three Special Needs Schools cater for students who are on the Autistic or Aspergers spectrum; their curriculum is centred on land-based and woodland crafts.

We have provided grants to build suitable outdoor premises, a treadle lathe and pole lathe tools plus expert tuition by Freeman Stuart King.

Committee

Marsh Academy, Kent

Past Master Andrew Mayer visited this new Academy School and was impressed with their woodwork department and what they were teaching their pupils, but he noticed that they did not have a lathe.

A case was submitted to the Charity Committee and the Academy now has a Record Power lathe plus tools and is extremely grateful for our support.

Oakley School, Tunbridge Wells

John Andrews, our Company Accountant, brought this Special Educational Needs School to our attention and Past Master Andrew Mayer visited the School and recommended that it is worthy of our support.

As a result, the School has been provided with an Axminster Jet Lathe with tools and accessories. In due course we will ask a member of the RPT to visit the School to demonstrate the lathe's full capabilities.

City of London Academy, Islington

A Liveryman, Chris Scott, wrote to the Clerk saying that he had met the Chairman of the Governors of the Academy at a dinner and mentioned the Turners' "Lathes for Schools" programme.

Past Master Mayer and myself visited the Academy. What was of specific interest to us was the fact that it had a Special Needs School embedded within

its grounds and all the pupils were totally integrated. We therefore recommended to the Charity Committee that the Academy should be given a Boxford computer-controlled lathe and a plain turning bench lathe. It has been most grateful and the pupils are using both lathes extensively.

Ian Mikardo School, Tower Hamlets

The Company has made contact with NASEN, an Association that deals with Special Educational Needs Schools, to let us know if there are any suitable Schools for us to help.

We were put in touch with Ian Mikardo School, a School that deals with boys who have been excluded from normal Schools for a variety of reasons. The syllabus is geared to vocational training, particularly working with wood.

I visited the School and recommended that we donate a pole lathe kit and bench lathe to them. We will also follow this up with a visit from an RPT member to provide tuition for staff and students on how to fully utilize the equipment.

London Green Woodworking Centre, Hackney

We were approached by them for support. They are a small, voluntary organisation working in Abney Park Cemetery and teach pole lathe turning and wood carving to a wide variety of people.

I visited the Centre with Assistant Nic Somers, we were very impressed by the dedication and enthusiasm of the teaching staff. We recommended that the Charity Committee support the Centre by purchasing a selection of wood-turning tools.

The Future

The Charity Committee is looking at a number of new projects for the coming year and exploring whether we can employ a system of mentoring to the Schools and other organisations to whom we have donated lathes. The aim is to keep in touch with them and to form long-term relationships. If you are interested in helping out, please let the Clerk or a member of the Charity Committee know.

Finally, we could not continue to support the Craft at this level without your contributions to the Charity Fund.

Please keep giving.

Thank you very much.

Rob Lucas,

Chairman of the Charity Committee

PS from PM Penrose Halson

In only five years, the Charity Committee has achieved the wonderful results described above - and more, for it has also supported some individual Turners, and events such as the City Red Cross Christmas Market.

This magnificent range of activities is attributable to the dedication of the Committee's first two chairmen: Past Masters Andrew Mayer and Rob Lucas. Andrew set up the fledgling Committee, seeking out schools where a lathe would be valued and used; and Rob continued and expanded the work.

They have both travelled hundreds of miles, written innumerable letters and reports, made telephone calls, organised discussions and visits and chaired meeting after meeting.

I never imagined that so much would be achieved so fast by so few. The Company owes a great debt to both Chairmen, and to the hard-working members of the Charity Committee.



The Boxford lathe at the City of London Academy, Islington

My Year As Master

A Master's year is a short year; it's much shorter than any other year.

The reason: "times flies when you are having fun".

It's a great year indeed, meeting with people that you normally wouldn't meet, visiting places you normally wouldn't visit and being part of the vibrant world of the Livery Companies of the City of London.

At the beginning of my year as Master, I listed my five main tasks for the year ahead as:

1. Maintain the high standards set by previous Masters.
2. Encourage stronger fellowship through the Company.
3. Maintain our strong financial position.
4. Greater involvement with our Charity Committee.
5. Maintain our connection with the Craft and the Services.

I'm famous for being modest, or not ... but I think that I have managed to achieve most of my targets, even if not all. In any case, I have tried my best ...

Without going into full details of all those great things that we have done over the year, it would be wrong for me not to mention some.

My year started with the traditional visit to Ironbridge, where your newly appointed Master was thrown together with approximately one hundred other Masters and their spouses for a weekend of hard work and a lot of fun. It was a great experience, educational and gratifying.

Soon after that I was invited to Her Majesty's Garden Party, a most impressive event when one is squeezed with three thousand others under a canopy at the beautiful garden at Buckingham Palace.

From then onward it was back to work. The real work of the Company is done at committee level and here again it was a pleasure (and a privilege) to see the wonderful work done by the various committee Chairmen and their members.

Our various events were all a great success.

The Livery Dinner in December at Skinners' Hall, the Musical Evening at the Royal Albert Hall and the Court Ladies Dinner were all great successes and most enjoyable events.

We also had visits to the Houses of Parliament, the College of Arms, the Charterhouse and the Mansion House.

The most important activities were no doubt the activities of our Charity Committee. The donations, either in the form of cash or of lathes, are surely doing us proud wherever they were aimed at.

Our connection with the Craft has been stronger than ever. We have recently hosted the RPT craft meeting at Apothecaries' Hall and are looking forward with great anticipation to the Wizardry in Wood exhibition in October.



The 2011 Livery Dinner. Master Ilan Krieger with (l. to r.) Sheriff Alan Yarrow, Upper Warden Peter Gibson, the Lord Mayor David Wootton, the Master's guest Alex Gilady, Renter Warden Rhidian Jones and Sheriff Wendy Mead.

I am also delighted that the work of creating the Master in Turning lifetime achievement award, initially reported last year by the Deputy Master, remains on target for the first awards to be made in conjunction with our major Wizardry in Wood event, this year.

*Regrets? I have had a few, but then again, too few to mention...
I did what I had to do and saw it through without exemption...
And more, much more than this, I did it my way...*

True, those were the words of Frank Sinatra, but they do reflect how I feel!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many members of the Court who were always there with good advice and words of support when really needed, including my two Wardens.

I would also like to thank the Deputy (immediate Past) Master for holding my hand and guiding me through the labyrinth of our Livery's life, and our learned Clerk for organising my life.... Where would I have been without him, without his knowledge of the Company and of all the other Livery Companies?

At the May Court Meeting we elected Assistant Peter Gibson as our new Master. I can only hope that he will enjoy the same level of support that I have had from you all. We also officially installed our new Clerk.

You are all aware that our Clerk, Edward Windsor Clive has retired after thirteen years of excellent service. We have been fortunate to secure the services of our new Clerk, Alex Robertson. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Alex and wish him all the best for the future.

On behalf of the Company, I would also like to thank Edward for his most splendid gift of a new Beadle's Staff; seen with Edward and our Beadle in the photograph to the right.

Yours ever,

Ilan Krieger

Common Hall: Election of the Lord Mayor & Sheriffs

Common Hall is a term used to describe a gathering of Liverymen, and often associated with an election. Most will understand it to mean the two elections held each year at Guildhall to elect the Sheriffs and the Lord Mayor.

The Election of the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor in Common Hall occurs each year on Midsummer Day (24th June - Sheriffs) and Michaelmas Day (29th September - Lord Mayor).

Both Common Halls follow a similar pattern, and arrangements for the Livery are broadly identical at each.

The election of Sheriffs

Two Sheriffs are elected by the Livery each Midsummer Day (24th June), unless a weekend (thus Monday 25th June 2012). They take office in a ceremony at Guildhall on 28th September (followed by the so-called 'Sheriffs' Breakfast').

There is normally one Aldermanic and one non-Aldermanic Sheriff, but if the number of Aldermen below the chair who have served as Sheriff dwindles, then from time to time there are just two Aldermanic Sheriffs (not so in 2012).

Unlike the election of Lord Mayor, this is a real election by the Livery. The Court of Aldermen do not interfere.



Photo: Clive Totman/City of London Corporation

If there is more than one non-Aldermanic candidate, by a resolution of Common Hall in October 2011, the candidates will be strongly encouraged to accept the result of the count of hands at Guildhall in June. In both June and September the Guildhall is invariably packed to capacity for Common Hall. There is considerable spectacle, and it is an interesting and historic ceremony.

Nigel Pullman, Livery Committee

Nigel Pullman's career started in the Army, followed by the Financial Times where he held managerial posts. He is a Past Master of the Worshipful Company of Leather-sellers and was Clerk to the World Traders. He is Deputy Chairman of the City's Livery Committee, and stood for election as the non-Aldermanic Sheriff in June this year.

Supporting the Arboretum at Castle Howard

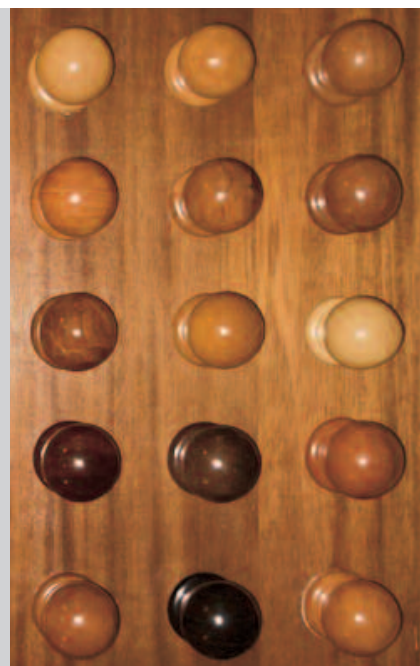
The Turners have supported the Arboretum at Castle Howard with donations from both the Company and the Liveries Wood Group.

In 2010 the Group (the Turners, Carpenters, Furniture- Makers, Upholders and Joiners & Ceilers) raised £20,000 for the Arboretum, through an ambitious project, Branching Out.

To commemorate this gift, the Arboretum has planted a grove of katsura trees near the entrance.

The katsura (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) is a graceful small tree whose leaves emerge in spring with a delicate pinkish hue.

In the autumn, the leaves turn a rich butter yellow, and the tree emits a wonderful and pervasive scent of toffee! The Arboretum's katsura were wild collected in China, and then grown by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.



Another gift to the Arboretum is thanks to the skill and generosity of Liveryman and Gold Medallist Malcolm Cobb.

He has turned a knob from each of the woods used in English furniture-making.

They are displayed in the Arboretum's Education Centre, giving visitors an effective way of distinguishing the many and various woods.

Penose Halson



Edward Windsor Clive, his gift of a new Beadle's Staff and our Beadle, Steve Grundy.

Finials for the Royal Barge

Fine turning gets everywhere, even on to the Spirit of Chartwell which, for the Diamond Jubilee River Pageant, was transformed into the Royal Barge and carried the Royal family down the river on a wet June 3rd: six turned finials graced the thrones of the Queen and Prince Philip, and an adjoining banquette.

They were sponsored jointly by the Worshipful Company of Turners and the Company of Arts Scholars.

The finials started with the Liveries Wood Group: the Turners, Carpenters, Furniture-makers, Upholders and Joiners & Ceilers.

At the end of February, the Jubilee Pageant committee approached Steve Chapman, Liveryman of the Upholders and M.D. of Albert E Chapman Ltd, Upholsterers and Soft Furnishers by Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen. Could he make the thrones for the barge? Yes, he could; but with only three months to go, Steve called on his fellow Liveries Wood Group member, the Turners, for help.

Chairman of the Howe Committee Nic Somers approached Liveryman and supreme turner Stuart Mortimer, who generously agreed to turn the finials. Stuart produced six finials in English oak, traditionally designed in the shape of a chalice, so realistic that it looks as if you can take the lid off.

The top of each finial is shaped as an acorn, on a base of spiral fluting, and around the rim of the chalice is a rope



twist. On each left-hand finial, the twist and fluting have a left-hand twist, and on the right-hand finial, they twist to the right.

Emails flew back and forth between Stuart, Nic, Steve Chapman, the Jubilee committee's PR department, the barge's designer Joseph Bennett (a film set designer) and the next vital player, Valerie Kaufmann.

Valerie was enlisted by Nic as she belongs to his second Company, the Company of Arts Scholars, and is also a director of Plowden & Smith, Conservators by Royal Appointment to Her Majesty the Queen. Valerie had the unenviable task of painting the finials to match the deep red velvet of the thrones.

Upholstery velvet has a relatively shallow pile, but even so it changes colour according to the light, and

Valerie had to paint and repaint to meet Joseph's perfectionist standards.

The finials had been transported from Stuart's workshop in Hampshire to Valerie at Plowden & Smith's workshop in Wandsworth for painting, then to Steve's Barnet workshops to check the fitting on the thrones, then back to Plowden & Smith, for gilding by Anthea Bisson.

All operations were conducted with great care and secrecy, everybody concerned having had to sign a non-disclosure agreement. A huge sigh of relief went up when they were finally delivered to Joseph Bennett for him to sign them off.

Congratulations to Nic for organising this original and demanding project.

Penrose Halson



Stuart took three hours to turn each finial. He used a special tool to cut the lower screw threads for fitting the finials to the thrones.



Valerie Kaufmann made four special mixes of paint, including such colours as Deep Garnet and Monarch, to achieve the right match.