



THE TURNER

NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON September 2013

In accordance with our ancient Charter, on the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord to Heaven, which this year fell on Thursday 9th May, the Court did me the signal honour of electing me Master of the Mystery or Art of the Turners of London.

Following over four hundred predecessors in this office is a great privilege, but one in which the hand of history sits heavily upon your shoulder. Whilst grateful to be given this opportunity to serve, I am therefore conscious of the responsibility I bear.

Fortunately, the Company did not get where it is today by placing candidates in office without a supportive structure, and a process of familiarisation. I am delighted to be following an outstanding Master in Peter Gibson, whose counsel will be available to me as Deputy Master, and I have two capable Wardens with whom to share the burdens of office.

When I joined the Company over twenty years ago, I never imagined that I would reach this stage. It was Past Master Barrie Johnston who encouraged me to join. My only qualification for membership was being a partner in a City law firm using the name "Turner", but I welcomed the suggestion as both my Swedish wife, Monica, and I share the Nordic love of traditional wood crafts. Sadly, Barrie died last autumn, but he did live to see me progress within the Court, and I shall always be grateful to him for showing me the welcoming atmosphere of fellowship we share.

The Company has, of course, a very good motto of its own, but I propose to adopt personally for my year the motto of my rugby club, Ealing, *respice, prospice*, (look back, look forward). The Master's badge was given in 1877, when The Ealing Football Club was just six seasons old, by a committee chaired by Samuel Graham Bake, later Master in 1886. The reverse of the badge describes him as a Deputy Controller, a title associated with the railways. As both my grandfathers worked for the GWR (God's Wonderful Railway), each time I wear it I shall reflect on PM Bake's generosity with fondness, and evoke the unique smell of smoke, steam and hot oil in his and their memory.

The profile of the Company within the City has been greatly enhanced by three wonderful Wizardry in Wood exhibitions. At the same time, the work of the Company in its other two traditional pillars of supporting the craft and charity has also grown.

For the first time in nine years, the Company will be taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show in November when, having made Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE an Honorary Liveryman, we may have the chance to celebrate the first Turner Lord Mayor since Sir Frederick Rowland in 1949.

We have only two part-time staff, and, although their efforts are much appreciated, organising our float in the show and all the other activities of the Company can only be achieved through the hard work of volunteers. So do not ask what your Company can do for you, but what you can do for your Company.

My wife and I are very much looking forward to meeting as many of you as possible on the occasions of our Company's regular social calendar, and the events and excursions arranged by the Livery Committee. As the Upper Warden and I were both born and raised in the Principality, you should anticipate a Welsh flavour to some of our activities. Above all, let's have fun and at the same time do some good.

Rhidian Jones, Master



Photo: Gerald Sharp

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Peter Gibson recalls the highlights of his Year as Master

Celebrating the 100th birthday of Liveryman Julian Scott

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New Liverymen and Freemen admitted in Master's Year 2012/13

Wizardry in Wood 2012 highlights

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