

# THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON

Newsletter Winter 1998 Issue 11



Dear Fellow Turners

**C**hange has been the byword of my year so far. It began just before the Election Court with the resignation of Barry Field, who for health reasons was unable to become Upper Warden. This was followed in November by Nigel Woodwark's resignation, also for health reasons.

Both these events caused great sadness for all of us, particularly as they involved two members of eminent Turner families. I know I am expressing the thoughts of the entire Livery when I say how much both of them are missed. We send them every possible good wish for their future health and happiness, and sincerely hope they will soon rejoin us in our future activities.

To complete the trio of misfortunes, Dennis Shaw has had to retire, due to the family moving to Lincolnshire. This again was a great disappointment for us as Dennis was really warming to his theme! We will miss him too, and I should like to thank him most sincerely for all his good work on the Company's behalf. We wish Dennis and his family every happiness in their new home.

Happily, we had great talent waiting in the wings, to fill these positions. Colin Field leaped into brother Barry's shoes, proudly waving the Field family banner, and became Upper Warden. Then in November, when Nigel had to leave us, I was delighted when John Slater accepted our invitation to become Renter Warden, in spite of his onerous commitments at the Ministry of Agriculture, especially during our six

months' E.U. presidency. Then the remaining vacant position of Master's Steward was filled by Christopher Tyler. He has already set a splendid standard for this role which his successors will do well to emulate.



The Master at the Livery dinner, by Liveryman - Cartoonist Alan Gillett

To complete our new team, Lieutenant-Colonel John Salmon has joined us as Clerk. In March he will also become Clerk to the Spectacle Makers with whom we share the office at Apothecaries' Hall. After careful examination by both Companies we have jointly concluded that a shared Clerk would readily suit each of our needs. I am very confident that John Salmon, with our full support, will fulfill his joint role admirably. I also believe that the added benefit of an office manned five days a week will better equip us for the future.

With best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely

Peter Worlidge

## COMING EVENTS

\* **Gardner Williams Banquet**  
Monday 23rd February 1998

\* **United Guilds Service**  
Friday 27th March 1998

\* **Court Meeting (morning) & Court Luncheon**  
Tuesday 31st March 1998

\* **Craft Meeting - Register of Professional Turners**  
Friday 3rd April 1998

\* **Ladies' Dinner**  
Thursday 30th April 1998

\* **Election Court & Dinner**  
Thursday 21st May 1998

\* **Election of Sheriffs in Guildhall**  
Wednesday 24th June 1998

\* **Turning Competitions, Apothecaries' Hall**  
Thursday 24th June 1998

\* **Court Meeting (afternoon)**  
Thursday 9th July 1998

The Turner

# The Turner

## THE MASTER'S YEAR

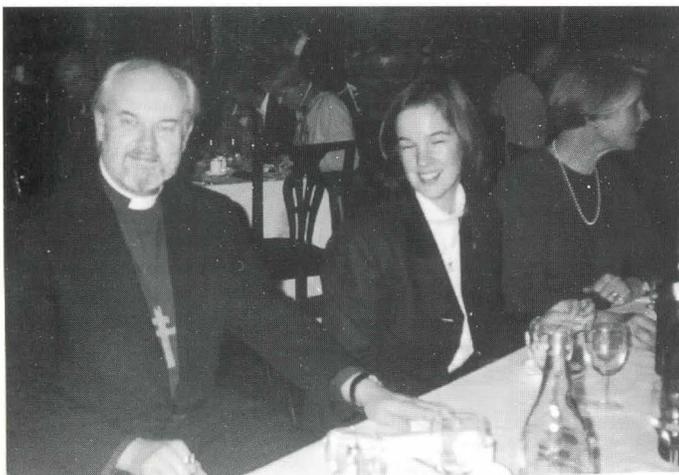
*Peter Worlidge focuses on the high points*

I have enjoyed many memorable moments as Master, but two events stand out in particular. First, our Patronal Service last November. We are very privileged to hold this celebration of our patron saint at St Bride's. The site of the church spans two thousand years' development of an island people. We always receive the warmest welcome from Canon John Oates, our Honorary Chaplain, and his staff, who together with the famous St Bride's choir, all help to ensure the continuing success of this important event on our calendar.

With the Lord Bishop of London preaching to us - he is a magnificent speaker - the occasion was so very special that I thought a brief reminder of his inspirational sermon may be of interest. I hope so! The Bishop reminded us how the Turners had survived difficulties with courage and tenacity, very much in the tradition of our patron saint. He saw her courage and intellect in defending her Christian convictions as opening up new possibilities in life for women, through her faith, to which our Company motto refers: *By faith I obteigne*.

He told us how he went on a challenging pilgrimage with an East End group, shepherded by Bedouins, to visit the relics of St Catherine preserved in a desert monastery in Sinai. Travelling with this highly diverse group, living in the open air with few of the necessities of life available, quickly broke down barriers between people. Travelling in Sinai, however well organised the trip, brings you face to face with your fears and prompts you to explore the need for courage in life: the need to avoid the well-defended, do-nothing life, which he felt was a marked feature of our own times.

He concluded by suggesting that all those who understand the quality of courage in life owe it to future generations to pass on that understanding, with a preparedness to go beyond our present experience in risk and engagement in search of a fuller life. He felt this



*The Bishop of London at the very sociable lunch in Apothecaries' Hall after the Patronal Service*

was very much in the spirit of St Catherine. He closed quoting the hymn we then sang: *Father hear the prayer we offer, not for ease that prayer shall be, but for strength that we may ever live our lives courageously*. It was truly inspirational!

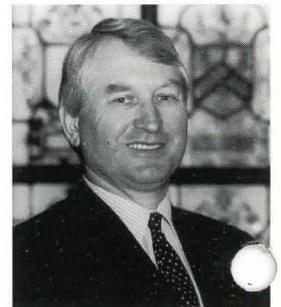
For totally different reasons, but also entirely memorable, was the Lord Mayor's children's fancy dress party, at the Mansion House. The age limit was 6 - 11 plus one chaperone. I took my two grandsons. There were 532 children and 311 adults present. It was marvellous - and quite wonderfully organised by an army of Mansion House helpers. My party consumed ten eclairs (I had one!). The occasion wound up with a conga all round the Mansion House led by the Lord Mayor. The great Annie Gale (the Lord Mayor's principal assistant) brought up the rear - about half a mile behind!

It was sixty years since I had last been to that particular party as a very small Chinaman in 1938!

## THE NEW CLERK

**D***ennis Shaw introduces John Salmon, to whom he handed over the Clerkship of the Company*

John Salmon is the son of a professional soldier who has himself completed thirty years' military service. Educated at Haileybury, he was commissioned from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, in December 1969 into the Queen's Regiment, the County regiment of Surrey, Kent, Sussex and Middlesex. He served with the 3rd Battalion in Great Britain, Northern Ireland (five tours), Germany, Gibraltar and Belize, besides participating in exercises in Kenya and Canada, before taking command of one of the Regiment's two Territorial Army battalions in December 1988.



*John Salmon, at Apothecaries' Hall*

John won a competitive undergraduate vacancy from Sandhurst and read Law at Manchester University from 1970 to 1973. Also a graduate of the Royal Air Force Staff College (1980) and the Joint Services Defence College (1988), he held staff appointments at the School of Infantry and in the Ministry of Defence. For the last six years he has been closely associated with the Defence Medical Services, and was awarded the OBE in the 1997 New Year's Honours List.

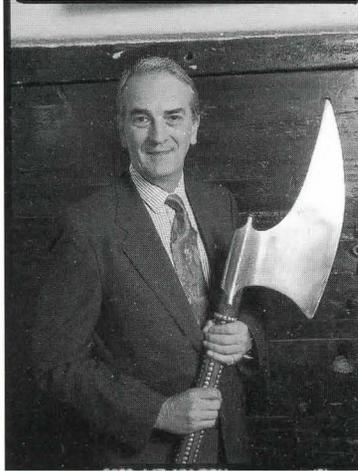
John and his wife Cheryl, who were married in St Giles, Cripplegate-Without, have just celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. Their son, Duncan, graduated from Newcastle University and is now on his commission course at Sandhurst. Georgina is at Corpus Christi College Oxford, reading Classics. No longer an active sportsman John maintains a keen interest in cricket and professional football, and still enjoys a gentle cross country ramble, as well as philately, steam railways, archaeology and pottering about in the garden.

# The Turner

## THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY

*Christopher Tyler reports*

Some years ago, our Editor came to the Tower of London and interviewed me about life as the "Resident Governor and Keeper of the Jewel House" - one of the more unusual appointments held by a member of the Company! Recently she asked me what I was doing since finishing my term of office and she then invited me to interview myself (as she was very busy), write a brief note about that and include a photograph; the only one I could find was from the Tower, holding the Yeoman Gaoler's axe outside the door of St Thomas More's cell.



I now am the Secretary of the Royal Humane Society which was founded in 1774 by a group of London doctors interested in research into the resuscitation of "those apparently dead, whose breathing or pulse had ceased". They devised early techniques but had to negotiate a change in the law, under which the Coroner allowed no one to go anywhere near a body "fished" out of the Thames until he had completed his inquiry - by which time the doctors were wasting their time.

The next stage was to publish the techniques on notices along the banks of the Thames and the Serpentine, and to offer a cash reward to anyone who could prove that they had rescued someone whose breathing had stopped and whom they then revived using the published methods. However, this was soon defeated by the old lags of London who would work in twos and threes, one falling in the river and the others rescuing him and claiming the reward! The Society therefore changed to giving medals or written "Testimonials", which it still does to this day.

Nowadays, we give some 400 awards each year for cases ranging from a simple life-saving from a gentle river to a heroic rescue from a crashed and blazing helicopter. Our top award is a Silver Medal which, together with our Bronze, are authorized to be worn in any service uniform on the right breast. There are also three levels of "Testimonial", according to the degree of bravery, and we give one Gold Medal each year for the most meritorious case from our own and the various Commonwealth humane societies.

Among many brave or tragic cases, we get some delightful ones. One casualty, whose breathing and pulse had stopped, was diagnosed (by lifting his eyelid and flashing a torch in his eye) as being brain-dead; however a later examination established that the eye was glass, and after treatment he made a full recovery.

The youngest award winner in our history was a four-year-old boy, who was in a car driven by his grandmother on holiday in Portugal when she lost control and drove over the edge of a steep 40-foot embankment. The car rolled over and came to rest precariously against a tree, in danger of falling a further 20 feet. Grandma did not dare move and stayed in the car, trying to signal SOS on the horn with her foot, while the boy climbed over the back seat, turned off the engine, got out of the car and climbed back up to the road through thick brambles. He stood out in the road waving his arms and, after three cars had driven round him, one stopped and the occupants took over.

If any reader would like to know more about the Society or how recommendations can be made, please do phone: 0171 836 8155.

## CALLING ALL GOLFERS!

The Turners' Golf Day has been arranged for Friday 5th June 1998 at West Hill Golf Club, near Woking in Surrey.

The competition is open to all Turners who are in possession of a valid handicap certificate. It will be an 18-hole event, starting with coffee on arrival from 8.00 a.m. Golf starts at 9.00 a.m., followed by lunch and prize-giving. The day will end at around 4.00 p.m. The cost will be £50 per person.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact Liveryman Alan Godfrey at: 53 Clarence Street, Egham, Surrey TW20 9QY; telephone 01784 431240. The final date for entries is Friday 15th May 1998. Please let Alan know if you can make it. Turners and guests are very welcome.

## ST CATHERINE'S LODGE

In October 1997 Liveryman George Keiffer was installed as Master of the Lodge. New members are welcome. Please direct enquiries to the Secretary, Liveryman Peter Johnson: 01707 656 020.

## THANK YOU ... & PLEASE

Many thanks to all contributors to this newsletter. Please send contributions - words, pictures, suggestions - to: Penrose Halson, 18 Thayer Street London W1M 5LD; Telephone 0171 935 6408 Fax 0171 486 3817.

# The Turner

## THE HARD WAY ACROSS NEW ZEALAND

**A**s you read this in warmth and comfort, Liveryman Mark Hatt-Cook is steering his solo canoe down a gorge of turbulent white water in South Island, New Zealand. Or he may be sweating as he runs or bicycles up a mountain at top speed: he and his New Zealand partner have to cover 250 kilometres in two days. Mark is a qualified Arctic survival instructor, and was Regimental Colonel of the Royal Marines Reserve; nevertheless, Penrose Halson wondered why a 55 year-old solicitor is tackling one of the toughest races in the world. He told her:

I've visited New Zealand often, and been impressed by the place and the people. A friendly Kiwi suggested I try the coast to coast race, which is a part of the national heritage. It seemed a good idea - at the time!

*The course sounds horrifically demanding! Are you going to be able to get fit enough?*

The race was designed to test the endurance of young athletes, I have lifted the average age not a little! The challenge of getting fit is a bit daunting. I go to the gym from 7.00 to 8.00 a.m. three times a week, and at the weekend I do long paddles and cycle rides. Worst of all, I've given up alcohol until after the race!

*What funds do you hope to raise?*

The knowledge that you have financial support helps enormously to sustain you. It would be very nice if through the generosity of the Turners £2,000 could be paid to the Trustees of the Company's Charitable Fund.

*What are the most daunting aspects of the race?*

The white water. The Waimakiri River is half a mile wide in some places, less than eighty feet in others. The volume of water varies from about 600,000 cu secs to 2.5 million cu secs according to rain fall (a cu sec represents a million cubic feet per second). In the gorges the volume of water creates huge turbulence and back eddies. I've trained at the artificial course at the National Water Sports Centre near Nottingham, on the Dart River in Devon, and the Waimakiri itself. These experiences give me much food for thought! There is a powerful incentive to avoid capsizing, as the water is very cold and in the gorges it is difficult to get out.



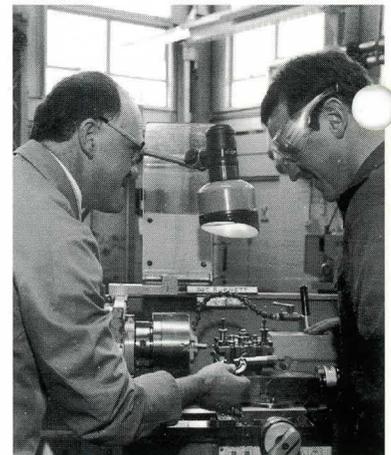
Mark Hatt-Cook with reconnaissance team

## COURT VISIT TO SEME BORDON

*A typically unbiased bit of reporting by the former Clerk, Dennis Shaw*

**T**he Turners' Medal for the best REME apprentice was, until 1997, presented each year to an apprentice from Princess Marina College at Arborfield. Changes in the Army's training organisation led to the demise of the College and its replacement by the Army Apprentices' College, which serves other Corps as well as REME and whose syllabus contains no technical training.

So the Turners agreed with REME that it would be better to find another training course which matched the aim of the Turners' Medal, ie to foster and encourage the craft of turning. The Basic Armourers' Course at the School of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (SEME) was selected; and the Commandant of SEME, Colonel Cliff Paskell, invited the Court to visit the School on 9th October last, an Invitation which was swiftly accepted.



*A practical lesson at SEME Bordon*

The visit was as interesting as it was enjoyable. Colonel Paskell and his command team briefed us on the challenge of running a large training establishment under the constraints of successive cost-cutting governments. Then we were let loose amongst students on the Basic Armourers' course: a very bright, enthusiastic and confidence-inspiring group of youngsters including a couple of young women.

For some of us this was a trip down memory lane (Past Master Cowper wore his Gunner tie) and the opportunity to see much military equipment added to the effect. Highlights were the latest main battle tank, Challenger 11, and the Multi-Launched Rocket System (MLRS). We rode over the Bordon Heath mud in an articulated over-snow vehicle, and watched Recovery Training using the latest wheeled and track recovery vehicles.

The warmth of the welcome we received and the courtesy extended to us were very touching, matched by the hospitality during lunch. However for some there was an even bigger thrill in store: a reredos entitled *Christ on the Battlefield* in the Garrison Church, painted in the sixties by David Shephard. Its size - some 10 feet by 15 feet - makes it rare, and the artist regards it as one of his finest achievements. Such a stunning work of art, in a delightful Garrison Church, provided a fitting end to a most successful visit to the Corps we "adopted" in the darkest days of the Second World War.

SEME and the youngsters on the Basic Armourers' course demonstrated that the Company had been most perceptive in choosing such a fine Corps!