



# THE TURNER



NEWSLETTER OF THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON June 2009

Dear Fellow Turners

I am very pleased indeed to have the opportunity to serve as Master of the Turners' Company in 2009/10. The Company's history and traditions have great appeal. It is quite something to be the latest in a line of Masters stretching back hundreds of years into medieval times, with the role which the Turners have always had of supporting our own craft and playing our part in the governance of the City of London. And I am also glad to fill a position once held by my father, Frank Roberts, who was Master in 1973/4, and will be remembered by some of the more senior members of the Livery.

Of course, the role of the Turners' Company is not just to maintain tradition. Much of what we do looks to the future, particularly in encouraging and developing the craft of turning. The exhibitions we run, like the very successful Wizardry in Wood in June 2008, and the bursaries we offer each year, provide unique support to a small but growing number of British craftsmen and craftswomen whose skills should be more widely known. There will continue to be a role for the Turners' Company which no other body is in a position to fill.

I must confess to having no turning skills myself, unlike the many distinguished professional and amateur turners in the Livery. If I were to engage in our time-honoured craft, my lack of natural aptitude would be a real risk to health and safety. But to enjoy a violin concerto you do not need to play the violin. I have started a modest collection of turned pieces; and also find that they make well-received and not hugely expensive presents.

I have rather more hands-on experience of the City. When working on export promotion and trade policy in what was then the Department of Trade and Industry in the 1980s and 1990s, I helped to advise the Lord Mayor of the day on overseas visits. More recently, I have chaired the trade policy committee of International Financial Services London (the City trade association for financial and professional services) and its Brussels counterpart the European Services Forum. I still retain a professional contact with this world, as a part-time adviser on trade to the international law firm Covington and Burling.

The City is going through a hard time at present. Serious mistakes have been made, mainly through over-confidence. But I do not buy the argument that the British economy has become over-reliant on financial services. The City has a natural competitive advantage in this field, for reasons of history, geographical location, the global links of businesses established locally and the skills of those who work there. When the recession passes, as pass it will, the City will still have its vital role as the motor of the British and of a significant part of the global economy. We in the Turners' Company should be counted among those who resist unmerited criticism of the City. The ability and enterprise of those who work there will enable it to play as significant a role in the Britain of the future as it has in the past.

Any new Master, and certainly this one, knows that over his year he will need the help and support of his fellow Turners - the Wardens, the Court, the Past Masters, the Clerk and the Livery as a whole. I also know that our Company is the kind of fellowship where that help and support will be readily available.



*Christopher Roberts*

## Issue 33

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## William A Thurlow 1922 - 2009

Bill Thurlow passed away on 31<sup>st</sup> March at the age of 87 years after a couple of months of declining health. He was one of the longest-serving members of the Society of Ornamental Turners, having joined in 1970 and in that time contributed greatly to the organisation.

He served on the Council of the SOT first as an ordinary member from 1979 to 1986. He became a Vice-President from 1986 to 1993 and he also performed the duties of Treasurer from 1988 to 1993. He was then made an honorary Life Member.

His greatest initiative was opening up his extensive and well-equipped workshop to run the annual Society Seminars from 1991-6, to teach the centuries-old but largely forgotten Craft of Ornamental Turning to a new audience. In recognition of his services to turning he was made Freeman by Presentation of the Turners' Company in 1984.

He will be missed by members of the SOT, the Turners' Company and the Wealden Woodturners. At his funeral his popularity was reflected by the attendance of a large number of friends, including a group from the Turners' Company.

Everybody who met him would always comment that Bill Thurlow was one of those people who was always a gentleman, kind and generous to all. Our thoughts at this time are with his family and particularly his constant companion of 20 years, Barbara Frost.

**Nick Edwards**



## Edward Ernest Field 1920 - 2009

Affable, witty, kind and considerate are the words most commonly associated with Edward Field, Past Master, who died peacefully after failing health on 18 March 2009. In a life spanning a wide range of interests, as well as years, he touched a great many who were united in their admiration for a man who never let his achievements suppress his natural humility and desire to help.

Edward (Ted, Eddie or Teddy as he was invariably known) was born in South London and educated at Emmanuel School before entering the City, joining an accountancy firm.

Edward joined the Surrey Yeomanry in the 1930s and volunteered for the British Expeditionary Force. He was amongst those later evacuated from the beaches at Dunkirk. Upon his return and after officer training he was posted to the Royal Ulster Rifles, before joining the Field Artillery and latterly Montgomery's staff.

Having demobilised as a Major, Edward returned to the family business in Streatham. With a sound commercial mind and his unstinting sense of fairness and ethical business, Edward, together with his sons and other colleagues, grew the company. As Chairman, he led it to the Stock Market in 1985, by which time the company operated from 13 crematoria and 92 funeral directors, making it the largest funeral service company in the UK.

His community spirit led him onto the boards of St George's Hospital and Shoreham College, and also Magistracy on the Wallington Bench, of which he later became Chairman.

He was a keen carpenter and turner. His home workshop was his playroom and his lathes his toys. His love of turning was echoed in his love of the Worshipful Company of Turners. Rising steadily from Freeman of the Company, through the Livery from 1964, becoming Master in 1989, he was an active member of the Court of Assistants and familiar face at the many functions.

Edward recruited several members of his family to the Livery ensuring the Field name lives on in the Company. On the Howe Committee, Edward was instrumental in establishing the Bursaries to encourage up-and-coming woodturners.

A keen sailor, Edward won many trophies and for many years acted as a Trustee to the Island Sailing Club.

Edward married Marguerite, the mother of his four children, in 1942, but she sadly died in 1979. He is survived by his wife Joan, with whom he shared over 28 years of happy marriage; her three children; Edward's three sons Barry, Colin and Simon and daughter, Felicity; and their total of 19 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Colin Field**



As there are a number of Liverymen in the Company who like to go Game Shooting, the Master decided to organise a day's pheasant shooting. This was made possible as Liveryman Roger Owen's son, Charles, was fulfilling a dream after university of spending a year as a game-keeper. He ran a shoot at Buriton, near Petersfield, renowned for very challenging, high-flying pheasant.

The shots turned up at the 'Master Robert' Inn for an early breakfast and comprised the following Liverymen and guests: Rob Lucas, Colin Field, Charles Field, Jeremy Field, Nick Edwards and Kristan Fuglesang and Andrew Hutton (guests of the Master) and Simon Truelove (guest of Colin Field). We had a most exhilarating and fantastic day's shooting with many cartridges fired.

At the end of the day we had a bag of 92 pheasant and 4 partridge, so many thanks to Roger and Charles Owen for providing us with a most enjoyable and challenging day's shooting.

**Rob Lucas**

## Livery Dinner speech describes courage of REME soldiers under fire

Brigadier Brian McCall was one of the Master's Guests at the Livery Dinner on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

**M**y Lord Mayor, Sheriff, Sword Bearer, Honoured Guests, Masters, Warden and Members of the Livery, I am deeply honoured to be invited to dine with an organisation that has been in existence for over 400 years. You may be interested to know that you are officially older than the British Army as the oldest serving Infantry Regiment (the Royal Scots) was only created in 1633.

The Corps currently consists of approximately 9,300 soldiers and officers and constitutes just under ten percent of the Army. But what do we do? Well, the Corps' primary role is to support Equipment Capability in the Army. We carry out repairs and inspections, and recover and service all equipment, from a handgun to a helicopter. In essence, we keep the punch in the Army's fist.

As you will all have gathered from events in the media, the Army is engaged on two campaigns, one in Afghanistan and the other in Iraq. I am certain that you would not be amazed to hear that these theatres of operation bring with them many challenges. Our opponents are quick-thinking, agile and unconventional; the environment is austere and our equipment and military technology are being truly tested to the limits.



Over the past 5 years the Army has introduced a plethora of new equipment and vehicles, and also implemented numerous modifications to our existing platforms, in order to meet the challenges that we face. Indeed, it would be fair to say the Army has undergone a transformation whilst in contact. The implementation, integration and sustainment of this new technology have truly tested the skills and

technical proficiency of the Corps.

However, I am proud to say that we have not been left wanting. I continue to be amazed at the ingenuity, professionalism, courage and dogged determination that my young officers and soldiers demonstrate in order to get the job done. We may well be quick to criticise the youth of today, but when I see what they are capable of delivering I am somewhat humbled.



I am pleased to say that these qualities have been formally acknowledged and members of the Corps have been recognised on each of the operational honours and awards lists.

The most notable of these awards have been five Military Crosses and the highest award ever awarded to the Corps, a Conspicuous Gallantry Cross to Corporal Miller.

To demonstrate my point I would just like to share with you a snippet from Corporal Miller's citation: "On the return leg the convoy came under ferocious contact on a busy junction. The ambush, involving over 100 insurgents firing small arms and RPGs, destroyed a fuel tanker, caused two fatalities and severely damaged a low-loader carrying a SAXON and a Landrover.

"When Corporal Miller arrived on the scene in his unprotected soft-skin vehicle the noise of automatic fire, metallic ringing of bullets striking vehicles and repeated explosions of RPG warheads was deafening. Into the maelstrom drove Corporal Miller, carefully reversing his soft-skinned vehicle up to the vehicle casualty.

"Without hesitation he dismounted as the soldiers fighting for their lives under armour watched in fear for Corporal Miller's life. For the next 45 minutes he worked on the recovery task. He repeatedly ran to the Company Commander's vehicle to report his progress. Throughout this period he was

under continuous and very heavy fire from bullets which were often striking inches from him. In the course of 15 minutes five RPGs detonated on the vehicle no more than a few feet from him as he worked. It is a miracle he survived."

In all, Corporal Miller was exposed to enemy fire for nearly two hours. Corporal Miller displayed icy nerve, professional dedication and almost suicidal courage in an impossible situation. Why do I tell you this?

Well, the role that technology plays in these theatres of operation is critical to our ability to apply military force whilst providing acceptable levels of protection for our troops. It is vital that the soldiers and officers of the Corps are not only able to fight and survive in the modern battlespace, but are also capable of delivering technical effect when required. As I look around the room, I notice a number



of old friends who have served with the Corps. This presence can only serve to maintain and even strengthen the relationship we have. I do not underestimate the importance of this relationship and the support which you as a Company have provided to the Corps since 1943, when Major-General Rowcroft was awarded the Freedom of the Company.

The prizes you sponsor and award annually, in my opinion, can only serve to foster technical acumen and encourage the Corps to continue to strive for technical excellence. They recognise and reward many of the qualities that I mentioned earlier.

In a world where we face an unknowable and uncertain future; unknown threats and unknowable enemies, our relationship can only enhance the Corps' collective technical capability. I sincerely hope that the bond between us will go from strength to strength.

Thank you.

# The Company & the City



In the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, the constraints of the highly structured urban market in the City of London set limits on entrepreneurship. This was reinforced by the rules imposed upon the artisans and tradesmen by their own craft guilds.

Clearly such regulations were medieval in origin, but in the case of the turners, who only received their charter on 12<sup>th</sup> June 1604, the rules of earlier times were found relevant. New ordinances were published on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1608, having been duly approved by the Lord Chancellor and the Chief Justice of Common Pleas, which set limits on the size of the unit of production and on the free play of competition.

Ordinary Freemen of the Company could bind only one apprentice, Liverymen two on payment of a fine of five pounds and the Master, Wardens and Assistants could bind three, the third only with permission of the Court of Assistants and a payment of two pounds. The new ordinances also limited a master to hiring only one journeyman and forbade the hiring of labour not free of the Company. Finally, Masters were forbidden to open more than one shop, to engross wholesale goods or to contract for goods produced outside London, unless a member of the Company could not produce them.

There is clear evidence that, over time, the ordinances were not always consistently enforced. However, at the court meeting on

15<sup>th</sup> April 1630, in what was clearly a fit of reforming zeal, the Officers and Assistants reaffirmed their determination to enforce their ordinances – perhaps a timely warning for current Officers and Assistants to re-read the new Court Manual!

What is astounding is the speed of the decline in the fortunes of the Turners' Company during the English Civil War. Less than some 30 years after receiving its charter, the Company was to abandon one of its ordinances that required a sermon to be given when the Master and Wardens were elected in May.

An order of 15<sup>th</sup> April 1630 acknowledged that the sermon “hath hitherto been neglected because the Company hath been poor and indebted”.

**“What is astounding is the speed of the decline in the fortunes of the Turners' Company during the English Civil War”**

In 1640 and again in 1642 the City of London raised substantial loans, first for the King and the second for Parliament. In each instance the Turners' Company was assessed to pay less than two-tenths of one percent of the total, a sum that

suggests the Mayor and Aldermen recognised the parlous state of the Turners' finances.

Individual turners such as John Gace and John Wallington prospered by becoming contractors to the Parliamentary Army, but those who remained in retail suffered greatly during the war years because “as workmen enlisted, customers were hard to come by and taxes were great”. Sounds familiar?

**Peter Ellis**

## & Beating the Bounds of St Bride's

At Saint Bride's on 19<sup>th</sup> May, at the end of a service of thanksgiving, members of the congregation were handed thin bamboo canes. Canon David Meara led his flock - looking like a gardening club about to plant broad beans - into Fleet Street.

Opposite St Dunstan-in-the-West we stopped as David read a prayer “for all who work in this part of our parish, especially those engaged in banking and in the legal world”. Then we raised our canes and beat the ground three times, proclaiming with each blow “Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's land-mark”!

We prayed and beat and cursed at the Temple church (where we were fortified with an excellent talk and a glass of wine), again at Bouverie Street, and finally outside the Irish Club, on the corner of Tudor Street and Bridewell Place.



### Canon Meara's Grace at the Gardner Williams Banquet 24<sup>th</sup> February 2009

On Shrove Tuesday the Turners meet  
To celebrate a special feast:  
The Gardner Williams annual treat,  
Our spirits high, from work released.

We gather here on Pancake Day  
And ask God's blessing on what we're given  
The hors d'oeuvre, pudding and entrée  
Before Lent comes and we are shriven.

So bless, Lord, all who're here tonight  
The food, the wine, the joy and laughter;  
Let's in good fellowship delight  
And let's forget the fasting after.

**Amen.**



# & the Bells of St Paul's

**From** 1872 the Turners practised a policy of bringing into the Company distinguished public figures who were not necessarily connected with the craft of turning.

Among those enjoying this entry, by presentation of Honorary Freedom and Livery, were such illustrious names as the Rt. Hon. William Ewart Gladstone (1876), King Leopold II of the Belgians (1879), Sir John MacDonal, Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada (1885) and the Rt. Hon. David Lloyd George (1920).

However the very first to be admitted to the honorary freedom, at the Guildhall in 1872, was perhaps the most remarkable. She was Angela Georgina, Baroness Burdett Coutts, who was admitted to the honorary freedom for her work in “promoting the moral and social improvement of the people”.



Baroness Coutts proved to be a particularly generous and grateful friend of the Company. In 1876 she donated a sum to provide four bells (Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6) to form part of the new ringing peal to be hung in the north-west tower of St Paul's Cathedral.

She presented them in the name of the Company and had the Turners' arms, coupled in a unique badge with her own coronet, cast in relief on each side of the bells. (It has been estimated that this donation would be worth over £40,000 today!)

On Maundy Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2009, the Company's Livery Committee organised for the Master and some 20 members of the Company and their guests to visit St Paul's Cathedral to see the Turners' Bells. St Paul's has the second largest ring of twelve bells in the world, that are hung for change ringing, and visits are rare and a great privilege – but then we suspected that we might be allowed in!

We were welcomed and given a magnificent tour by the eminent bell-ringer, and Treasurer of the Guild of Ringers of St Paul's, Philip Rogers. After an introduction to change ringing in the ringing room, we climbed Sir Christopher Wren's narrow spiral staircase to see and hear more of the magnificent bells. As well they stayed silent – otherwise we would all have been deafened.



It is difficult to do justice to the memorability of the occasion. We had a splendid lunch at a nearby hostelry organised by our Learned Clerk and in the afternoon were given a VIP tour of the Cathedral itself. We were all able to see how St Paul's is a talisman of British History.

Members of the Livery will, I am sure, be aware that church bells are tuned very, very accurately. The bells of St Paul's were cast at the Taylor Foundry at Loughborough - one of the oldest bell foundries in the world. Church bells are tuned, mouth upwards, on a vertical lathe – how fitting that the Worshipful Company of Turners should maintain such a keen interest.



**John Bridgeman**

## Visit to the Guild of Flemish Turners

In late 2007 Freeman Stuart King had identified a creation by the Guild of Flemish Turners, known as the Angel's Lathe, as possibly being suitable for inclusion into the planned 2008 Wizardry in Wood exhibition.

In December 2007 and again in February 2008, I visited Belgium, met the creators of the lathe, the Chairman of the Flemish Guild and some of the presidents of their five regions, and agreed its inclusion in our exhibition.

During this visit I was also taken to the Museum of Wooden Hats in Diest, the creation of a famously gregarious Belgian turner called Omer Hannes. It struck me at the time that this museum would be a marvellous venue to visit with a group from the Company and resolved to arrange this after Wizardry in Wood.

Once the Flemish Guild knew that the Master Turner would be in the party (seen wearing a turned wooden hat in the photo below), they determined to raise the level



of the event and stage their own exhibition in the cloisters of the famous basilica at Scherpenheuvel, combining the themes of the Passion of Easter, turning and eggs.



In addition to the work of both Flemish and British turners the exhibitions also included a display of Fabergé Eggs from the St Petersburg Collection, a turning demonstration by Liveryman Stuart Mortimer, a demonstration of the making of Belgian chocolate eggs and the re-enactment of the medieval egg dance accompanied by bagpipes, as shown in the work of the 16<sup>th</sup>-century Flemish painters Jan Steen and Pieter Bruegel the Younger.

The 'Home Team' comprised the Master, Rob Lucas and Judy, Renter Warden Peter Ellis and Lynette, Chairman of The Howe, Peter Gibson and Di, Past Master Penrose Halson and Bill and Liveryman Stuart Mortimer and Linda.

On Friday we visited the university library in Leuven to view its collection of ancient and medieval books and then enjoyed an evening meal with Luc Knapen in a traditional Belgium pub, in the atmospheric surroundings of student-filled Leuven.

Saturday was a hectic round of events starting in Diest with the hat museum of Omer, who is a cross between Groucho Marx and Albert Einstein (seen in the centre of the photo to the left).

There were also displays of the beautiful works of three other Flemish turners, one consisting of working cameras and other instruments all made of wood.

After lunch we attended the press opening and preview of the exhibition and saw the making of wooden and chocolate eggs (photo below). From mid-afternoon we attended the dramatic demonstration to the Guild, by Stuart, of the turning of open twists.

This was followed by a formal evening of speeches from the major contributors, including our Master, the formal public opening of the exhibition, a public demonstration of the egg dance and finally a dinner provided by the dean of Scherpenheuvel church and more speeches.



At around midnight we tumbled happy but exhausted into our beds. A great weekend, which should, in the future, include many more of the Livery.

**Peter Ellis**

## Golf Day

We have a new venue for the Turners' Golf Day 2009. This will be held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August at Knole Park Golf Club, Sevenoaks, Kent.

The course is located within 1,000 acres of outstanding parkland, home to the finest deer herd in the South East.

Knole House, occupied by the Sackville family, is one of the greatest National Trust properties in the country and provides a perfect back-drop to this challenging course.

We hope that this change of venue will be well supported by members of the Company who, as usual, are encouraged to bring guests if they so wish.

Full directions to the Course will be sent nearer the time, but it is very accessible being only one mile from the M25/A21 junction.

The format will follow that of recent years. After a welcome cup of coffee and a bacon roll there will be a morning round of a Stableford competition off full handicap, followed by a three-course lunch with prize giving. Those that so wish may then play an afternoon round.

The total cost is £65 per head, a very reasonable figure bearing in mind the quality of the course. This cost does not include alcoholic refreshments (but the bar staff will be very willing to sell these to you!).

So that we can obtain an approximate idea of numbers could you please me know whether you hope to be able to play and, if so, with or without guests.

**Andrew Mayer**

[andrew.mayer@eur.cushwake.com](mailto:andrew.mayer@eur.cushwake.com)

## My Year as Master

By the time you read this newsletter, my time as your Master will have ended. It has been a fascinating year for Judy and myself, with many highlights. It has also been a great privilege and honour to have been your Master and I thank you for your unfailing support during my year of office.

I finished last year with our Livery Dinner in December when I was very pleased to welcome, on your behalf, the Lord Mayor, Alderman Ian Luder, one of the Sheriffs, George Gillon, and the Director of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Brigadier Brian McCall (see page 3). It was a very successful evening with excellent speeches from our two principal guests.

In January I was able to take my two granddaughters, Elisabeth and Sophie, to the Lord Mayor's Christmas Fancy Dress Party at the Mansion House. This is an amazing event; over 400 children attend and it is immaculately organised by the Mansion House staff. Fortunately, I did not have to wear fancy dress! The girls had a marvellous time and were entertained all afternoon by a variety of activities finishing off by dancing the 'conga' around the Mansion House, led by the Lord Mayor.

During my year I wanted to visit all those schools or adult training centres where we had donated lathes. I nearly succeeded. Chairman of the Charity Committee Andrew Mayer set up a wonderful visit to Valence School in January which proved really worthwhile (see below). Peter Gibson, Chairman of the Howe Committee, and myself have also been to visit Hereford Headway, an organisation looking after the rehabilitation of

people with head injuries, and Street Forge in Suffolk which looks after disadvantaged individuals. You will be pleased to know that our lathes are being used well and the recipients are most grateful for our practical support for their needs.



Finally, in April we had our Ladies' Dinner. We were blessed with a gorgeous, sunny evening, so we were able to meet our guests in the courtyard at Apothecaries' Hall. My guest speaker had everyone in fits of laughter with his exploits in the Army and our two musicians were outstanding. Altogether a lovely evening which Judy and I and our family really enjoyed. A fitting end to a glorious year. Thank you all for making it possible.

**Rob Lucas**

## Charity: Visit to Valence School

With the establishment of the Charity Committee and the appointment of Past Master Peter Venn as fundraiser, the amount of money that can be spent on charitable gifts has increased and the Company has bought a computer-guided lathe for the pupils of Valence School. On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January a party from the Company went to the school to see the lathe in operation.

Following a very interesting introductory talk from the Headmaster, Roland Gooding, we had lunch with the staff and students in their dining hall. The school has ninety students all of whom are severely disabled, the majority being in wheelchairs.

Many are unable to control movement of their limbs so it was an experience for us to see how they managed an everyday task such as eating. Some had to be fed by members of the staff but others were able to use extremely ingenious electrically-guided pieces of equipment to help them actually put the food on to, say, their spoon, move the spoon to their mouth and turn it to enable them to eat the food. It made us

realise how very fortunate we are.

The school is run by the Kent Education Authority and is situated in a large Victorian house. Much of the school has been extended and adapted to comply both with ever-increasing student numbers as well as with modern Health & Safety requirements.

We had a tour of the school when we saw some classrooms, bedrooms (the majority of students are weekly boarders), their gymnasium and swimming pool.

Now the pupils get a far better understanding of a lathe as they can see their articles actually being produced.

We ended our tour in the Design & Technology department. This is run by a most enthusiastic and competent teacher, Martin Cooper.

Mr Cooper explained that the school aims to teach the students the GCSE curriculum. As far as Design & Technology is concerned, they are given broad guidelines as to the type of article that needs to be designed. All the design work is carried out on the computer and the production is carried out on the lathe that we donated.

The lathe can be programmed to use any one of six different cutting tools and the students demonstrated to us how they design objects and then watch the production taking place on the lathe.

The lathe has made a considerable difference to the students. Having had it installed for less than one term it is clear that more and more are being taught how to use the lathe, both in school lessons and in their extra-curricular time.

Before we donated the lathe there was only very rudimentary design capability and no production whatsoever.

Indeed Mr Cooper had to ask the parents if they would pay to enable him to send the designs to a factory for the articles to be produced. Now the pupils get a far better understanding of a lathe as they can see their articles actually being produced.

Every member of the Company who visited the school that afternoon felt that our money had been very well spent.

**Andrew Mayer**

## The Company's Fifth Bursary Winners

**Awards** totalling £9,352 were announced by Court Assistant Rhidian Jones at the RPT Craft Meeting held at Apothecaries' Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2009. The scheme aims to help capable UK resident turners achieve their personal aspirations and advance the craft. Rhidian, who worked with Liveryman Alan Mitchell and Freeman Stuart King on the award recommendations, said:

"We received an impressive fourteen applications all of which had merit, but we decided to concentrate the fund where it would have most impact. So we made an award of £4,500 to **Nick Agar**, who was

outstanding, and an award of £2,000 to **Sarah Thirlwell** to enable her to develop her distinctive style. Four further awards totalling £2,832 were made."

Nick Agar, 42, already a considerable artist and craftsman, wishes to develop his website, acquire and develop more equipment and tools, attend courses, and write a book on artistic woodturning, to help him become a world-recognised turner. Nick also exhibited some of his innovative pieces at last year's Wizardry in Wood exhibition (left photo).

Sarah Thirlwell (right), 30, a craft lecturer at Staffordshire University, uses laminations of coloured recycled plastics and wood. She sought funding for equipment, overseas study visits and developing new designs.

**Simon Hope** and **Tracy Owen**, both established turners, each received awards of £1,000 to develop and explore new techniques, and **Leon Lewis**, a young turner of



promise for the future, and **Rosemary Wright** received minor awards.

Summing up this year's awards, Rhidian said: "The bursary committee members were excited by the work we saw, and look forward to seeing the future fruits of this investment by the Company in the craft."



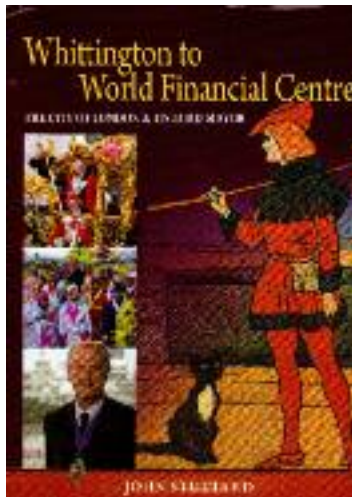
The stamina of Sir John Stuttard is quite staggering. As Lord Mayor from 2006-07, his programme demanded 764 speeches, 133 media interviews, 466 formal lunches and dinners, 100 nights outside the UK in 23 countries – a total of almost 2,000 engagements, ranging from opening public conveniences to welcoming the Queen.

Yet at the end of this punishing year, rather than put his feet up, he wrote the definitive book about the City of London and its Lord Mayor: *Whittington to World Financial Centre*.

The book encompasses London as the world's financial capital, the role of the Lord Mayor, the Corporation and the City civic, volunteering, charity and the Lord Mayor's appeal, promotion of the City abroad, the sub-prime crisis and Northern Rock, and the City Livery Companies.

It is a mine of information: discover what the Chief Commoner does; how the Appraisal Panel assesses Aldermen; how the Lord Mayor gathers jokes; why certain countries are chosen for overseas visits; which traditions were established by Richard Whittington in the 15<sup>th</sup> century; what Sir John thinks about the relevance of Livery Companies; why he mentions the Turners' Company – and much, much more.

*Whittington to World Financial Centre* is published by Phillimore & Co. Ltd ([www.phillimore.co.uk](http://www.phillimore.co.uk)) ISBN 978-1-86077-586-4 at £25.



## Clerk's Notes

This year is the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the building of London Bridge and there will be celebrations on 11<sup>th</sup> July. There will be a need for some marshals, and volunteers are requested. Please let me know if you are interested and are available on that Saturday and I will pass your name on to the organisers.

We are sad to report the deaths of Past Master Edward Field and Freeman Bill Thurlow (see page 2) and Past Master Brian Burnett (his Obituary will be in the next issue of the Newsletter) and also of Liverymen Oliver Stonehouse and Eric Marshall.

For your diaries, you should note that there will be a reception and demonstration of turning at Apothecaries' Hall on 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Invitations for this will be sent out shortly.

We congratulate our Honorary Chaplin, David Meara, on his appointment as Archdeacon of London..

Company silk ties are now available to Liverymen at £15. Please contact me if you would like to order one.

## Book Review