



# THE TURNER

THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS OF LONDON

2014

On 29<sup>th</sup> May 2014, Ascension Day, I became the 344<sup>th</sup> Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners. Only 344 Masters in the 410 years since our Royal Charter in 1604 because for most of our first 160 years it was usual for Masters to serve for two-year terms. For many years before 1604 we believe that two Wardens governed the Guild of Turners and in the earliest times we know that in 1179 “the gild of strangers of which Warner le Turner is elderman” owed 40 shillings for not being properly licensed by the King. What an honour and a privilege to continue in a succession spanning at least 835 years.

I am hugely indebted to the long line of distinguished Masters who have preceded me leaving the Company in such good health, and to our capable Clerk, Wardens, Master’s Steward, Committee Chairmen and Members, Beadle, Almoner, Archivist and Chaplain with whom to share the responsibilities of office. And I owe special thanks to Rhidian Jones who has proved to be yet another outstanding Master of the Company and whose wise counsel will be available to me as Deputy Master.

My first experience of turning came in the 1960s when, as a young engineer in a modern aluminium rolling mill, I learned about lathe production of the micron finishes and cambers of mill rolls that are needed to produce sheet to the necessary gauge, flatness, surface finish and temper.

One of my very first assignments involved production of high-strength, heat-treated aircraft sheet for the supersonic Concorde. Later, as a REME TA officer, I became aware of the Company’s support for military craft skills when my Field Workshop won the Southern Craftsman competition. Later again, while Director General of Fair Trading, I learned about King Edward III’s decree that “wooden measures, as well for wine as for ale” should only be made by “turnours” – with marks of their own. We are indeed the Company that brought you the pint and to this day we have a wonderfully living art or mysterie of turning to celebrate.

Craft and City – and the unique City of London. Here the Turners’ Company continues to develop its enviable reputation following our quadrennial Wizardry in Wood Exhibitions and this year, in October, we shall be mounting our biennial Turning Competitions at Carpenters’ Hall. Once again we shall be able to showcase the ingenuity and skill of craft turners, old and young. I do hope you will all come along and bring your friends too.

Craft, City and Charity are our watchwords. Our charity is in good health, financially sound and able to achieve great things through its generous donations to colleges, schools and aspiring turners. We have lathes in many parts of the country giving you all the opportunity to see how much our contributions are appreciated. Do please try to make a visit in the course of the year.

The Turners’ Company is famed for its living craft and its friendliness, for its hospitality, its vitality and its sense of fun. You, the members of the Company, make it so and I thank you for doing it effortlessly and with such style. We have a full programme of formal and informal events to which we can look forward and I do hope that many of you will be able to introduce new members to the Company in the year ahead. We have so much of which we are proud and so much to share.

I am looking forward to sharing many more happy moments with you all.

Master Col. John Bridgeman CBE TD DL



Photo: Jon Murell

**Issue 39**

Remembering Assistant Nigel Woodwark and Liveryman and Gold Medalist Geoff Brandon

Rhidian Jones recalls the highlights of his Year as Master, which ended on a Welsh note

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The extraordinary Victorian story of PM Ashmead Burdett-Coutts and the Baroness

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The Sentiment for Richard Gardner Williams

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Howe Committee reports on our wide support of the craft. Announces 2014 Turning Competitions

The Charity Committee takes stock during a busy year. REME Battalion Prize 2014

Livery Committee events spanned from the Mary Rose to the Royal Yacht Britannia

Reports from the ASM and Finance Committees

Successes for our Golf and Shooting teams

Woodturning skills in the early Bronze Age investigated by Freeman Stuart King in BBC film

## Honorary Assistant Nigel Glendinning Woodwark

After many years' brave battle against the insidious creep of Parkinson's disease, Honorary Assistant Nigel Woodwark slipped quietly and uncomplainingly away on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2013, aged 62.

Nigel Woodwark became a Liveryman in 1973, joined the Court in 1990, and by 1997 had reached the office of Renter Warden, supporting Peter Worlidge as Master. The other members of the Court knew of the progression of Nigel's illness and felt that it would be fitting for him to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather Sir Stanley Woodwark and father, Richard Woodwark.

The Court, therefore, decided that Nigel should be accelerated into the Mastership in 1998. Nigel, however, having been told on medical advice not to engage in any mental nor physically challenging roles, as to do so would hasten the development of his Parkinson's disease, declined the appointment and retired from the Court, being made an Honorary Assistant. Nigel's inability to accept the office of Master was both a personal and a family disappointment.

Nigel was a man of gentle manner committed to the Company, its management, and the projects, that were being formulated



at that time, to promote the Art and Craft of Turning. His counsel was valued and his announcement that he had to resign from the Court, in order to engage in a quieter and less stressful life, was received with great sadness.

Some one hundred family members, friends, sporting and business colleagues gathered in Norwich for a service of celebration, at which the Company was represented by Past Master Rob Lucas and Freeman Peter Mitchell – Nigel's brother-in-law.

Chosen representatives addressed different facets of Nigel's life – but all spoke consistently of the high-quality contribution or advice he provided, whether to his extensive family or in his work as finance director for Eversheds solicitors.

His sporting ability and leadership were spoken of, at Charterhouse School and beyond, in both football and cricket, and the lifelong friendships established from his early years living in Ealing. Not least were the several mentions of his forthright attitude, his unfaltering good nature, and his acute sense of humour accompanied by an infectious giggle!

Subsequently, reminiscences were swapped, initially in a local pub and then after repairing for refreshments on a gloriously hot summer's day to his home in nearby Saxlingham Nethergate. Here, we were made very welcome by his family, and where Lyn Woodwark's extensive and beautiful garden, so enjoyed by Nigel, was much admired.

**Freeman Peter Mitchell**  
**PM Colin Field**

## Liveryman Geoff Brandon 1923 - 2013



Geoff Brandon with PM Peter Ellis

With the passing of Liveryman Geoff Brandon, the Company has lost one of the staunchest of supporters of the craft of turning.

His contribution to the Society of Ornamental Turners and its link to the Company was immense.

Geoff was without doubt one of the main pillars on which the SOT was built, having joined the Society

in 1949 at its second meeting. He served with distinction as its President for 30 years from 1964 to 1994.

Geoff was apprenticed to Vauxhall Motors Ltd in 1939 and then had a number of jobs concerned with automation and robotics for the automobile industry, ending up as Group Managing Director of VS Remec.

He was a Member of both the Institution of Mechanical Engineering and the Institution of Engineering and Technology and was a Chartered Engineer.

He had numerous connections and associations with various outside organisations in his professional life particularly with the local Technical College and University, where he was a visiting lecturer for over 30 years. He was also a member of local model engineering and woodturning clubs and indeed was President of Bedford Model Engineering Club for two years.

He served on the Company's Craft Awards committee (later to become the Howe committee) for a period of 35 years starting before even becoming a member of the Company. He was presented with the Company's Gold Medal in recognition of this service.

His eye for design always held him in good stead and he won numerous medals and cups within the Company, the AWGB and the SOT. He had his own "trademark" design for the artefacts and spent many hours sketching and planning before turning commenced.

Geoff was married to Beryl for 48 years until her very sudden death some 20 years ago. He was fortunate to share the friendship and companionship in later years with Joyce Woodard, to whom we send our sympathies.

Geoff died on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2013 and his funeral was attended by members of the Company and the SOT as well as a large group from his other activities. We shall always remember him as a fine engineer, turner and one of life's true gentlemen.

**Upper Warden Nick Edwards**

# My Year As Master

With the end of my magisterial year in sight, the Editor of *The Turner* presented me with the considerable challenge of compressing the high points of this very busy time into a thousand words. So what have been the ten “treasures” of my year as your Master?

## 1. Domestic Support

My wife Monica proved a loyal and indispensable partner as Mistress Turner. At the simplest level she not only kept me looking presentable at a succession of white tie dinners, but also ensured that at the end of a year of such fine dining I am lighter in weight and have lower cholesterol than when I began. Her contribution, however, extended far beyond that and I thank her for it. Whilst it was a wonderful and rewarding experience for both of us, her role now is to shoot me if I volunteer to do anything similar in the future.

## 2. My Colleagues

The burdens of office were also greatly lightened by being shared with some willing and talented colleagues. My Wardens, John Bridgeman and Nick Edwards, and the other Committee Chairmen, shouldered their tasks most effectively, and my Deputy Master, Peter Gibson, was a constant companion and source of guidance, as was his wife Di to Monica.

The Master's Steward, Nick Somers, discharged his duties with cheerful efficiency, despite himself serving with aplomb as the inaugural Master of the Arts Scholars as the 110<sup>th</sup> livery company. In the background ensuring the Company's affairs remain in order and that every event runs smoothly is the Clerk Alex Robertson, ably backed by his assistant Becca Baker and the Beadle, Steven Grundy. I thank them all for their service to me and our Company.

## 3. A Turner Lord Mayor

We have been fortunate to have a Turner in the Mansion House for the first time since 1949. The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE, has not only led the City with distinction, but because she is one of our Liverymen I was invited to a number of special events. I had the honour of sitting next to her on several occasions, and every time I saw her she expressed her pride in being a member of our Company.

## 4. The Craft

A focus for corporate pride is our living craft. This is both a privilege and a responsibility in that, as it is the foundation of our existence, we must use our resources to the best of our ability to foster and promote it for the future.

To that end I attended meetings of the AWGB, RPT and SOT and the Harrogate Woodworking Show, and met many practising turners, but the most rewarding visits were to present certificates to graduates of the youth training courses co-sponsored with the AWGB. It is indeed heartening to see the skills being passed on to the younger generation.

## 5. Charity

The Company's Charity raises funds and makes grants to aid many good causes but a major theme is supporting the craft of turning in educational establishments, including several schools for those with special needs. Visiting such schools is a most interesting and uplifting aspect of being Master.

The positive spirit and achievements of the pupils in the face of daunting disabilities, and the dedication of the teachers, carers and support staff are most impressive. An outstanding example of such a school is Treloar's in Alton, Hampshire, which caters for severely disabled pupils. They are holding a Gala Dinner in Mansion House on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2014, which promises to be an excellent evening and deserves support.

## 6. The Armed Services

The Company has long-standing connections with the apprentice training schools of the Navy at HMS Sultan, Gosport, REME at Arborfield, and the RAF at MOD St. Athan, where we award prizes. I visited each of these establishments during my year and the high level of expertise being acquired there will also be of benefit to the students when they return to civilian life.

I also attended a number of other events connected with service charities and reserve forces, where it was inspiring to see the dedication of young cadets and their leaders, who devote so much of their spare time to instilling discipline and leadership skills which will help their charges become good citizens.

## 7. Livery Traditions

Representing the Company at functions run by other livery companies is a significant and enjoyable part of the Master's role. Not only does one cement old corporate relationships and make new personal friendships but opportunities arise to see a range of livery halls and learn how things are done elsewhere. A number of events now take the form of a lecture, many of which have been fascinating, followed by a reception.

## 8. Our Own Events

These provide an opportunity to try out what one has learned elsewhere while respecting our Company's unique traditions. I have also been well served by the Livery



Love spoons carved in lime by Adam King  
Left: Master's gift at Ladies' Dinner, Right: Mistress's spoon

Committee which has arranged several outstanding events at attractive venues during my year.

## 9. Looking to the Future

A Master's year speeds by so quickly that it is important to have an eye to the future. To that end I held a Strategy Day on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2013, the fruits of which are currently being progressed through the Company's committees.

## 10. Welsh Themes

I promised a Welsh flavour to some of our activities and celebrated the Patronal Festival in November with rousing Welsh hymns. At the Ladies' Dinner the entertainment was provided by Rhodri Jones, a brilliant young Welsh tenor studying for an MA in Voice at the Guildhall School.

For the Master's gift I commissioned Adam King, the son of Freeman by Presentation Stuart King, to carve unique love spoons in the Welsh tradition for which he enjoys a worldwide reputation ([www.adamking.co.uk](http://www.adamking.co.uk)).

As the event took place on the birthday of the Mistress, (bizarrely for the second year in succession), I also asked him to create a special spoon for her to commemorate that.

John Bridgeman is, of course, also Welsh. So I am happy to pass on the flame of promoting Welsh culture to him, and both Monica and I send the new Master and Lindy every good wish for their year.

**PM Rhidian Jones**, Master 2013-14

# Members of the Company who did not return

## Remembering Wallis William Penn Gaskell and George Howard Foord

This is a tale of two men, solicitors and Turners, but also a story of Patrimony and of Argentine railways.

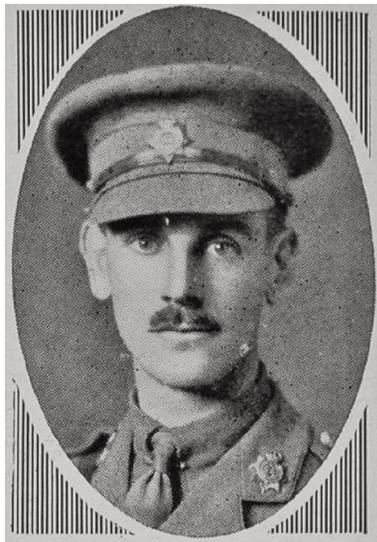
Patrimony is that wonderful tradition-enhancing practice through which Livery Companies can pass on knowledge and experience through the generations. Argentine railways are important because their development became synonymous with the resurgence of the Turners' Company.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century some eighty per cent of the construction, ownership and management of Argentine railways was British – all masterminded from London.

From this rich seam of talent and into the Company came Felix Fighiera, Thomas Penn Gaskell, Frederick Oldershaw Smithers, Sir Joseph Todd, Sir Charles Wakefield and of course Richard Gardner Williams.

### George Howard Foord

The story of Patrimony is also about the Foord family of Turners. Thomas Jennings Foord, a solicitor, was born in Wyre, Kent in 1806 and elected Master Turner in 1851, 1858 and 1868. His son Thomas Herbert Edward, also a solicitor, was born in London in 1853 and became Master in 1903. Thomas Herbert Edward Foord had two sons, George Howard and Herbert Quallet.



George Howard Foord was born in Forest Hill, Lewisham in April 1885. He studied at Cambridge where he earned an MA and in October 1906 (aged 21) he was admitted into the Freedom of the City of London by Patrimony in the Company of Turners "because he is legitimate and was born after the admittance of his father into the said Freedom".

By 1911, aged 25, George Howard was a practising solicitor in his own right and

in the Spring of 1912 he married Gertrude Florence Marshland at her parents' home of Painswick in Gloucestershire. (Florence's father was an architect and former London District Surveyor and had moved to the beautiful Old Court House, Painswick – reputedly still England's most haunted house!)

With his family's pedigree in the Company, George Howard Foord, solicitor and Turner was surely destined for great things and he was appointed a Court Assistant in May 1915, aged only 30.

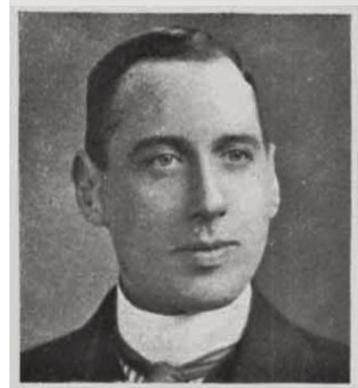
### Wallis William Penn Gaskell

Thomas Penn Gaskell of Argentine Railways fame was born in Paddington in 1842, the son of a wealthy Buckinghamshire farmer, William Penn Gaskell - political activist and one of the founders of the reform movement known as Chartism.

He was also a descendant of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania. Thomas became a Civil Engineer, went on to become Engineer of the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway, Director of the Buenos

Aires Pacific Railway and the South American Light and Power Company, Chairman of the Bahia Blanca Waterworks Company - and a Turner.

Amongst Thomas's children was Wallis William Penn Gaskell, born in Richmond in 1879 and who had become a solicitor's articled clerk in 1901. Solicitor and Turner Wallis Penn Gaskell secured admission to the Freedom of the City of London by Redemption in the Company of Turners in April 1909, aged 29.



By 1911, aged 31, Wallis William was a solicitor, living with his parents in Townshend House, North Gate, Regent's Park (this stunning home was the former home of Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema – amongst the most successful painters of the Victorian era) and in legal practice in Bishopsgate.

### World War One

Sadly, Wallis William Penn Gaskell and George Howard Foord never realised their potential in the Worshipful Company of Turners.

Wallis William Penn Gaskell was commissioned into the 24<sup>th</sup> (The Queen's) Battalion, the London Regiment. He died in France at Givenchy on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1915, aged 36 with no known grave, and is remembered in the Le Touret Memorial to the missing in the Pas de Calais region of France.

George Howard Foord was commissioned into the Army Service Corps and died at Gallipoli in Turkey on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1915, aged 31. He is remembered at the Lancashire Landing Cemetery on the Gallipoli Peninsular. He left a widow, Gertrude aged 32 and an infant son Roy Howard, aged two.

The Court resolved to send condolences to the parents of Lieutenant George Howard Foord and of 2nd Lieutenant Wallis William Penn Gaskell at its meeting in October 1915.

As far as we know these are the only two Liverymen who died through military action in either World War One or Two. We honour them today in this commemorative year of 2014.

### † DULCE ET DECORUM EST PRO PATRIA MORI †

Wallis William Penn Gaskell was one of ten children but there appear to be no further family links with the Turners' Company.

George Howard Foord's son Roy Howard Foord went on to become an engineer, emigrated to Australia with his family and died in Heidelberg, Victoria in 1984 aged 71.

However, the Foord family connection with the Turners continues to this day. George Howard's younger brother Herbert Quallet Foord was Master in 1924 and his first cousin once removed Anthony Herbert Foord, a distinguished pilot in WWII, became Master in 1970.

More recently a great great grandson of Thomas Jennings Foord and the son of Anthony Herbert Foord, Roland Foord, joined the Livery in 1981; and a great great great grandson of Thomas Jennings Foord, Thomas Leeper, joined the Livery in 1991.

### John Bridgeman, Master

# Their romance outraged Queen Victoria

## The story of PM Ashmead Burdett-Coutts and the Baroness

William Lehman Ashmead Bartlett Burdett-Coutts was Master of the Turners' Company for two years, from May 1888 to May 1890.

He was remembered earlier this year, at our 2014 Masters' and Clerks' Luncheon, when the Master of the Fruiterer's Company, Peter Cooper, presented the inscribed Livery medal of Burdett-Coutts to Rhidian Jones, Master of the Turners' Company.

William Burdett-Coutts was an American, born in Plymouth, Massachusetts in June 1851. But for much of his life he was known as Ashmead (his mother's maiden name) and at the age of 30 he took the surname of his new wife, Burdett-Coutts.

Ashmead's father died when he was two. When his widowed mother came to England shortly afterwards with Ashmead and his brother Ellis, they settled in Torquay. All four grandparents had been born in England and closeness to family may well have determined her choice. Torquay was also key to the extraordinary trajectory of the rest of Ashmead's life, which started with his mother Sophia meeting Angela Burdett, granddaughter of the banker Thomas Coutts.

In 1837, Angela Georgina Burdett had inherited most of her grandfather's huge fortune from her father's second wife - and former mistress - the actress Harriet Mellon. At the age of 23, Angela Burdett changed her surname to Burdett-Coutts and was the richest woman in England. Her fortune provided the funds for her life-long career as one of the greatest philanthropists of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Her philanthropy was strongly driven by social concerns, addressing poverty, medical and educational issues in particular. One singular act of kindness was to sponsor the education of the young Bartlett, first in Torquay, then at Highgate School in London. In 1870, at the age of 19, he was awarded the first scholarship to Keble College, Oxford.

The following year, in 1871, and whilst Ashmead was at Oxford, Queen Victoria appointed Angela Burdett-Coutts a Baroness and as a result, the first female member of the House of Lords.

In 1872 the Baroness was presented with the Freedom of the Turners' Company and 'proved to be a very generous and grateful friend to the Company ... and was proud of being a Turner' (*Roland Champness*).



An example of this generosity and her closeness to the Company came a few years later when, in 1878, the Baroness donated four of the twelve new bells of St Paul's jointly in her name and that of the Company.

Oxford University awarded Ashmead Bartlett a degree in Modern History in 1874 and an MA in 1876. During this period he also read for the Bar at the Inner Temple; but instead of pursuing a career in law he joined the private office of the Baroness.

In 1877, at the age of 26, he was sent by the Baroness to Turkey to organise the Turkish Compassionate Fund, just established by the Baroness to help Turkish victims of the Turko-Russian war who had fled to Constantinople. After recovering from typhus, Ashmead returned to England, only to be sent abroad again by the Baroness, this time to Ireland to help administer charitable relief to Irish fishermen.

In February 1881, when only 30, he married the Baroness, who was then 67 years old. Queen Victoria was outraged, calling it 'the mad marriage' and the Queen tried to dissuade the Baroness from marrying a man 37 years her junior. Hardly a surprising reaction. Perhaps the Queen also knew that, by marrying a foreigner, under the terms of her grandmother's will the Baroness would lose the rights to three-fifths of her remaining inheritance. Clearly none of this deterred the Baroness.

Making another connection between the Baroness and the Turners' Company, shortly after their marriage, in May 1881, Ashmead Bartlett was admitted to the Freedom and Livery of the Turners' Company.

Two weeks later he took the Baroness's surname by royal decree, although this did not include the right to the title of Baron. So it was as Ashmead Burdett-Coutts (plus his other three forenames) that he was elected to the Court of the Turners' Company on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1881.

In 1885 Ashmead was elected as the Conservative and Unionist MP for Westminster, which he remained until his death, 35 years later. In 1885 he also used his position in the House of Commons to help secure one of the Baroness's projects, the Hampstead Heath Act, which added Parliament Hill to the 300 acres of the Heath with open public access.

On 10<sup>th</sup> May 1888, Ashmead Burdett-Coutts was elected Master of the Turners' Company and for a second time on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1889. Double terms were common in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, less so in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and unusual in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In January 1890, whilst still Master, Ashmead Burdett-Coutts travelled to South Africa as *The Times* correspondent reporting on the treatment of sick and wounded soldiers of the British Army after the First Boer War. His reports and campaign in Parliament and the subsequent Royal Commission led to major changes in the organisation and professionalism of the Army Medical Corps.

After the Baroness's death in 1906 at the age of 94, Ashmead Bartlett-Coutts continued many of her philanthropic activities but also pursued other interests, including the railways. His Obituary in *The Times* explained that "he advocated a fuller and enriching system of railway statistics, as a stimulus to more efficient working as well for the information of Parliament". This initiative led to the passing of the 1910 Railways Act.

In the 1918 General Election, he was elected to Parliament for the last time. He was appointed to the Privy Council in April 1921. He died a few months later on 28<sup>th</sup> July at his home at Holly Lodge, Highgate, which the Baroness had also inherited from her stepmother Harriet Mellon in 1837.

The picture (part of a much larger canvas) shows the Baroness and her new husband in the garden of Holly Lodge hosting a party for the International Medical Congress in August 1881 (*by Preston-Tilt, courtesy of the Wellcome Library, London*).

**Assistant Matthew Gaved**

## New Assistants

### Assistant Gerry Thwaites



Gerry achieved his rather average academic results at Prior Park College, Bath and then, more successfully, at Fareham Technical College.

He then spent the next couple of years meandering through life until joining the Royal Navy in 1975, where he was to work for the next 34 years focusing on maritime operations, training and recruitment. During his military career he undertook a number of operational roles in submarines and ships, also being selected for the role of Senior Engineer of the Royal Yacht Britannia and Command of a frigate during construction and acceptance.

Towards the end of his military career, he held two Command positions including Director Naval Recruiting and Commandant of the Defence College of Electromechanical Engineering. The latter rekindled his interest in apprentice training including turning and machining experience, although in metal rather than wood.

He resigned from the Royal Navy in 2007 to pursue a business career and started his own consultancy shortly after. Gerry is Deputy Chair of the Board of Governors at Cookham Dean Primary School and Deputy Chair of the Maidenhead Sea Cadets.

He is an active scuba diver and a passionate supporter of London Wasps. His wife Barbara works with BA and they have three daughters. Gerry and his family live in Cookham Dean. He was admitted to the Livery in 2009 and appointed as a Court Assistant in 2013.

### Assistant Nick Fisher



Nick was educated at Harrow School and then at Oriel College, Oxford where he read Jurisprudence and was a Byng Scholar. Before going up to Oriel he spent his gap year teaching geography at a Government backed “harambee” school in up country Kenya close to the Ugandan border.

He qualified as a solicitor in 1985. Nick has been in City private practice since then, specialising in banking and finance work with a particular focus on acquisition finance, mergers and acquisitions, restructuring and turnaround. He was involved in one of Asia’s largest acquisitions, of Cable & Wireless Hong Kong Telecom by PCCW. He has recently joined Druces LLP to lead its banking and finance group, having previously led and developed the London banking teams at Osborne Clarke and Simmons & Simmons, where he was head of banking and insolvency.

Nick was brought up in Sevenoaks and now lives near Tonbridge. He is married to Alexa and they have four children. Since 1998 he has been a trustee of and now chairs the Colyer-Fergusson Charitable Trust, which supports young people in Kent suffering from poverty of opportunity. Nick is an honorary member of the 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Edinburgh’s Own Gurkha Rifles Regimental Association and for a number of years was a volunteer at the Toynbee Hall Legal Advice Centre, the oldest free legal advice centre in the UK.

His leisure interests include skiing, flyfishing, sailing, tennis, opera and rowing (being a member of Oriel’s Tortoise Club). Nick was admitted to the Livery in 2007 and appointed as a Court Assistant in 2014.

## New Offices at Skinners’ Hall



In 1999, the Company moved into office space in Temple Chambers – not too far from Apothecaries’ Hall. These offices were not ideal, however, as the building was in dire need of refurbishment. In 2010, the Company moved into slightly smaller offices in the much more pleasant surroundings of Skinners’ Hall on Dowgate Hill, where we found a cordial welcome.

Because of our 70 year-long association with Apothecaries’ Hall, many members of the Company would like to see the offices within the precincts of that Hall, but it has proved impossible for the Society of Apothecaries to find space for us.

Having lodged for nearly 4 years on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of No. 9 Dowgate Hill, early in 2014 we took over a large room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor of that building, which has become our meeting room.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April this year we exchanged offices with the Management Consultants’ Company and now occupy two rooms across the 1<sup>st</sup> floor landing. During office hours, access to the Turners’ office and

meeting room is through the door of No. 9 – slightly down the hill from the Skinners’ main door at No. 8. Outside the door of No. 9 (*archway on the far left of the photo*), visitors will see the brass plaque announcing the presence of the Worshipful Company of Turners.

Ring the Turners’ Company door bell to gain entrance and, once inside, climb to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. It is, however, still possible to gain entrance through the main door of the Hall, although it is necessary to climb to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, walk along the corridor to No. 9, and then descend the stairs to the Turners’ office.

The Company now has better office space than ever before, as well as our own meeting room, which could be used by other livery companies for a suitable fee.

The Company is most grateful to ATG Media for donating the furniture for both the office and the meeting room to the Turners’ Company Charity, and, in so doing, providing a more efficient and pleasant environment for our staff to work in.

**PM Peter Gibson**

Although the Turners’ Company has used Apothecaries’ Hall for Court Meetings and formal dining since the end of the 1939-45 war, we have, except briefly, never had offices there.

Prior to 1985, the Clerk occupied premises in 1 Sergeants Inn (now a hotel) until Richard Woodwark became Clerk that year and found offices in Amersham.

# New Freeman and Liverymen

## Freemen

### Freeman Kevin Bentley



Kevin has had a career in journalism and as a politician and now runs his own PR Company. He spent 20 years at the BBC as a radio and TV producer and presenter working on a variety of radio stations and regional

TV and presented reports in the early days of News24. He left the BBC in 2000 to set up what has become an award winning PR company with his wife, Karen, also a former BBC journalist. He is a Colchester Borough Councillor and also Deputy Leader of Essex County Council where he looks after Economic Growth and Infrastructure for the county. Kevin is also a Past National President of the Round Tables of Great Britain and Ireland.

*During Master's Year 2013-14, Alan Cook, Patricia Spero and Chris Turpin were admitted to both the Freedom and the Livery.*

## Liverymen

### Liveryman Alan Cook



Alan deals in antique weapons and is a Liveryman of the Gunmakers and the Arts Scholars, where he is on the Court. He is also a member of the Guild of Freeman, the Ward of Cheap, the City Livery Club, the

Royal Society of St George and a Freemason. Alan first turned at technical college, a fruit bowl, at 14, which he brought along to the Master when interviewed. Initially he worked for BEA, then Trusthouse Forte, helping to open the first duty-free shops at Heathrow and Gatwick. He was a manager with Tesco for ten years, managing its largest stores. He then left to work in South Africa, but due to the unrest in Soweto he never actually went. As a stop-gap he became a minicab driver where he met Mr D Donald, an antiques dealer who changed his path and introduced him to the world of antique weapons. After six years together Mr Donald died and Alan took over the business. Alan has dealt in antique weapons for 30 years and has no thoughts of retirement. He still continues to attend arms fairs both here and in the USA.

### Liveryman Tim Johnson



Tim was educated at Eastbourne College and read Economics at Guildhall University. Having completed Officer Training at Sandhurst, Tim served five years in the Black Watch (RHR) serving mainly in

Shropshire and Hong Kong. It was while in Hong Kong that Tim married Fiona Hamilton, eldest daughter of PM Andrew Hamilton. On leaving the army in 1995 he embarked on a career in the City, first training with Kleinwort Benson Private Bank before moving to Rathbones Investment Management in 2000. Tim and Fiona live in North Hampshire with their two boys aged 14 and 12 and their 9-year-old daughter. Tim's main interests away from financial markets include field sports, particularly shooting and fishing, and he is a very keen skier when the opportunity arises. He can often be found working on projects in his shed which latterly have included some very rudimentary woodturning projects, but he says that it may be some time before any work can be exhibited!

### Liveryman Paul Logan



Paul grew up in North London and was educated at Harrow County School for Boys and Kingston Polytechnic, where he gained a BSc in Geology. He also has two degrees, in Mathematics and in Psychology, from the

Open University, where he has taught courses on the geological evidence for climate change. Paul has spent 36 years as a geologist in oil and gas exploration. He found the first oil field in the East Irish Sea and he also found over one billion barrels of oil in the Rift Valley of Uganda and one of the largest gas fields to be found in Kurdistan, northern Iraq, since the end of the Gulf War. Previously he spent two years in Angola as General Manager for BHP Petroleum. He is currently Chief Geologist for Heritage Oil in London. His hobbies include, archery, shooting, gardening, genealogy, model railways, mountain-walking and hypnosis. Paul is a Freemason and member of St Catherine's Lodge and a Fellow of the Geological Society and of the Royal Society of Arts.

### Liveryman Patricia Spero



Patricia is a classically trained professional harpist with a degree from Trinity College of Music, London and post-graduate training with the Russian harpist Maria Korchinska. She now concentrates on recording

and recital work, with twenty albums currently in production, ranging from classical to modern music. She also composes and records her own meditative harp music. She was recently nominated for the title of 'Best Female Artist' at the Classical Brit Awards.



About eight years ago she was introduced to woodturning, and is now a committee member of the RPT, with work in many galleries in the UK and America. Her work is purely decorative using mostly English woods, and enhanced with inlays, piercing and colouring.

### Liveryman Chris Turpin



Chris is an investment manager and has worked in the Square Mile for almost 20 years. He is currently Managing Director of First State Investments and responsible for its business in the UK, Europe and the

Middle East. He holds an MA from the University of Edinburgh where he studied Comparative Religion. He specialised in ancient Near Eastern languages and religion. Whilst at Edinburgh Chris played a lot of hockey and represented both Edinburgh and Scotland at the British Student Games, receiving a Blue in 1996. Chris lives with his wife and two young children in Reigate, Surrey. Outside of the Turners Chris is a member of the Guild of Freeman of the City of London, Bread Street Ward Club and the City Livery Club.

# Richard Gardner Williams Dinner 2014

The Sentiment, given by Peter Gibson, Deputy Master 2013-14

Master, Upper Warden and members of the Worshipful Company of Turners. We are all here tonight thanks to the generosity of one man, who bequeathed the major part of his considerable estate to the Company on his death in 1931.

We actually know remarkably little about Richard Gardner Williams. He remains something of an enigma although, thanks to the digitisation of more and more public records, additional facts are emerging.

Were I to give this Sentiment a title, it would not be “Who do you think you are?”, but rather “Who do we think that Richard Gardner Williams might have been?”.

Should RGW, as I shall refer to him, miraculously appear before us, we could not be completely certain of the way to address him.

He was born and baptised Richard Gardner, the son of Mr and Mrs Williams of Tranmere in Cheshire. Gardner was his second given name. We know that when he became a Freeman of the City, on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1913, he signed his name “R Gardner Williams”. From other documents, copies of which I have managed to locate, we know that he declared his surname to be Williams. So we can reasonably assume that some time during his life he decided to use his second given name in preference to Richard.

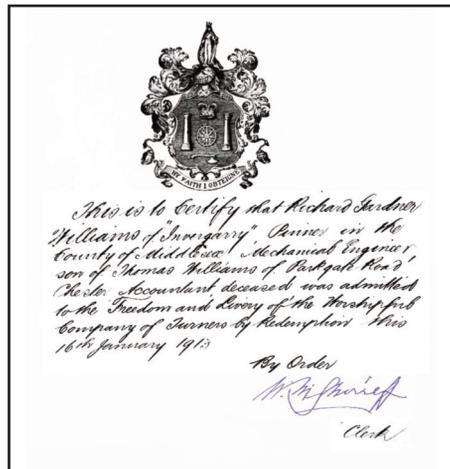
Past Master Roland Champness, in the first edition of our history, reports that “Richard” was thought to have attended King’s School Chester, but recent evidence indicates that this was not the case.

In his 1917 application to the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for membership, Richard Williams states that from the ages of seven to eleven he attended Mrs Allenby’s private school at Boughton Grange in Chester. He then moved to another private school, Mr Tinkler’s, also in Chester. Whilst at Mr Tinkler’s RGW attended technical classes at the Crewe Mechanics Institute.

After this, a little before his 16<sup>th</sup> birthday, RGW became an apprentice at the London and North Western Railway Crewe Works. The records show that he commenced work on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1881 and was taken on for one month’s trial, starting at 6am each morning and being paid 6 shillings a week. His month’s trial must have been successful as he remained for 5 years. He then moved

to Laird Brothers at Birkenhead Iron Works, where he was employed as a draughtsman for two years.

After leaving Laird Brothers, RGW’s I Mech E application glosses over his time with CC Wakefield & Co., describing the period from the age of 23 to 46 as when he had “subsequently been engaged on several commercial and partly mechanical undertakings”. Of course, as this was an application for membership of the primary professional engineering institution in the country at that time, only mechanical engineering experiences were of relevance.



Richard Gardner Williams was admitted to the Freedom and Livery of the Worshipful Company of Turners by Redemption on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1913 and a Freeman of the City of London on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1913.

At the time of this application in 1917, RGW declares himself to have been Managing Director of the Lea Valley Engineering Company in Waltham Cross, Essex, a small concern with about 30 employees. I have, so far, been unable to locate any information about this company.

We have also over many years tried to discover the source of RGW’s fortune. Although I have now found evidence that he held a number of shares in the Great Western Railway (left to him by his father) it may also be that as Managing Director of even a small engineering company he purchased or received shares that he was subsequently able to sell at a good profit.

A number of other facts have also come to light. On the night of the 1891 Census, RGW was staying at the London Hotel in Queen Street, Hull, where he described himself as a commercial traveller.

On a similar night in 1901, he and his wife Edith were residing in Argyll Mansions, Willesden; where RGW declared himself to be a mechanical engineer. The census return also reveals that he was earning enough to employ a living-in servant described as a cook/domestic. In 1911 he and his wife had moved to Pinner where he continued to employ a live-in domestic servant.

Champness tells us that by 1918, RGW was living at 10 St Mark’s Square, Regents Park, even in 1918, not one of the cheapest areas of London in which to live. The house is worth £3.3 million at today’s prices; but it could of course have been rented.

One mystery that remains is how RGW was employed in those 23 years from leaving Laird Brothers in 1888 until becoming Managing Director of Lea Valley Engineering around 1910.

Champness’s own researches revealed the CC Wakefield & Co. connection but, if RGW’s I Mech E application is to be believed, Champness appears to be wrong in recording that RGW retired from CC Wakefield in 1930.

When Roland Champness was Master in 1939, RGW had been dead for only 8 years and it was another nine years before the Company actually received the bequest on the death of his wife.

In 1939, the Wakefield archives were part of the Castrol archive and stored in London. The majority of these records were destroyed during the war and therefore further research into the Wakefield connection is something of a challenge.

When RGW died, his estate amounted to a little over £43,000 of which the majority ultimately came to the Turners’ Company. Although comparisons cannot be exact, £40,000 in 1931 equates to about £4 million today.

Master, before we pass the Loving Cup and toast the memory of our benefactor, may I present you with a copy of Richard Gardner Williams’ award of both Freedom and Livery of our Company - on the same day in 1913 (see panel). This was signed by the Clerk at the time, William Sherriff, who was very nearly at the end of his 46-year tenure as the Turners’ Company Clerk.

# Communications Committee

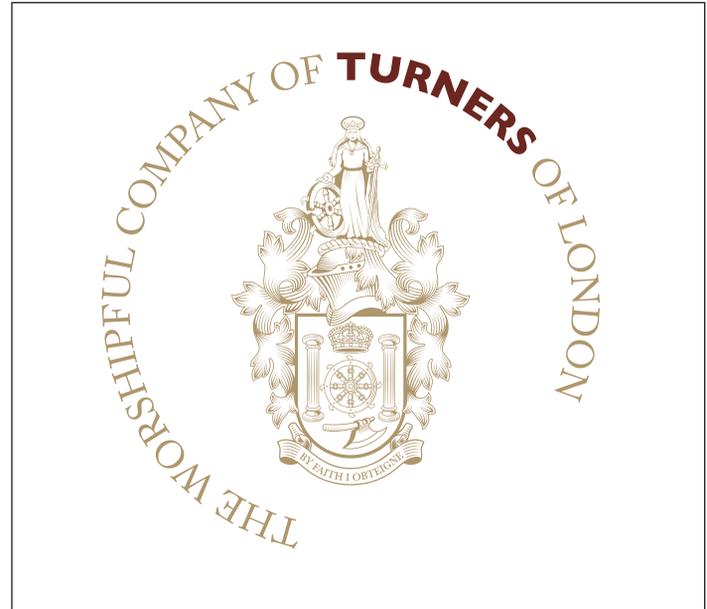
Back in 2012, after the success of the Wizardry in Wood exhibition, it was agreed that the Company would benefit from a review of the visual way it presents itself in print and online. We decided to create a corporate identity, which would retain the tradition that we all want to protect, but which would also have an updated look.

Straight Forward Design had just finished a successful campaign for the Turners in the design of the 2012 Wizardry in Wood brochure. We were happy to approach them with this new brief, which they undertook with enthusiasm and energy.

We think that their new design both upholds our traditional aspect, and also embraces a modern way of looking at the Craft, the Company, and the City where we live and work.

A report from Becky Ford of Straight Forward Design follows.

**Assistant Will Tyler**, Chairman, Communications Committee



Straight Forward Design was approached by The Worshipful Company of Turners at the end of 2012 and asked if we would like to be involved in a corporate identity overhaul. Our brief was to create a new look and feel, with an easy-to-use guide on how the brand should be used at all times.

The existing identity is difficult to work with and its communications fragmented. The visual language needed bringing into the 21<sup>st</sup> century whilst still respecting its ancient heritage and traditional nature. We had worked with the Company before on the communications for the Wizardry in Wood 2012 exhibition and were delighted to have the chance to work with you again and on a really big design challenge such as this.

We began by establishing the brand characteristics of the two elements of the Company; one being the historic guild (traditional, respected, supportive, fraternal) and the other being the craft of turning (artistic, innovative, momentum, natural).

An audit of existing communications took place, looking at different uses of the logo, the Company title, the website, all brochures, leaflets, stationery, newsletter, menus and meeting documentation.

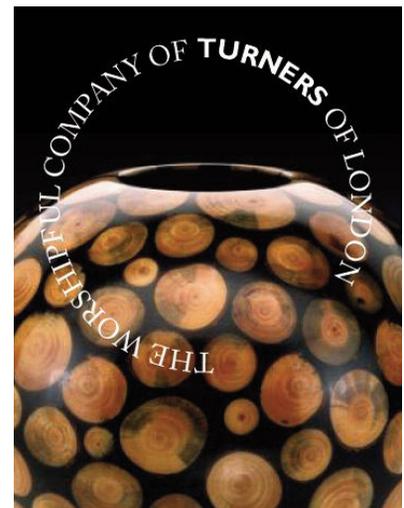
The critical analysis defined what worked well and what did not. We also compared the Turners' communication materials to best practice examples from the Companies of Drapers and Skinners.

The chosen creative route celebrates the historic brand mark of the Turners' crest but adds a contemporary touch combining a sans-serif typeface with a more traditional serif. The type 'turns' around, haloing the coat of arms, whilst celebrating the spinning nature of the craft. We felt this really tied together the two elements of the historic guild and the craft of turning.

We chose Gill Sans, designed by Eric Gill in the 1920s. This font is synonymous with London and the Arts and Crafts movement and evokes the spirit of craft without feeling too fussy. For the traditional serif font we chose Caslon, which evokes the spirit of historic London and feels established and refined.

When the original printers ceased to trade the original die stamp for the coat of arms disappeared. Since then, all communications have been branded with a logo from a scan of a photographed painting. This reproduction of the coat of arms lacked the attention to detail that a brand of this nature requires. We undertook the task of redrawing the logo to get a new die stamp created.

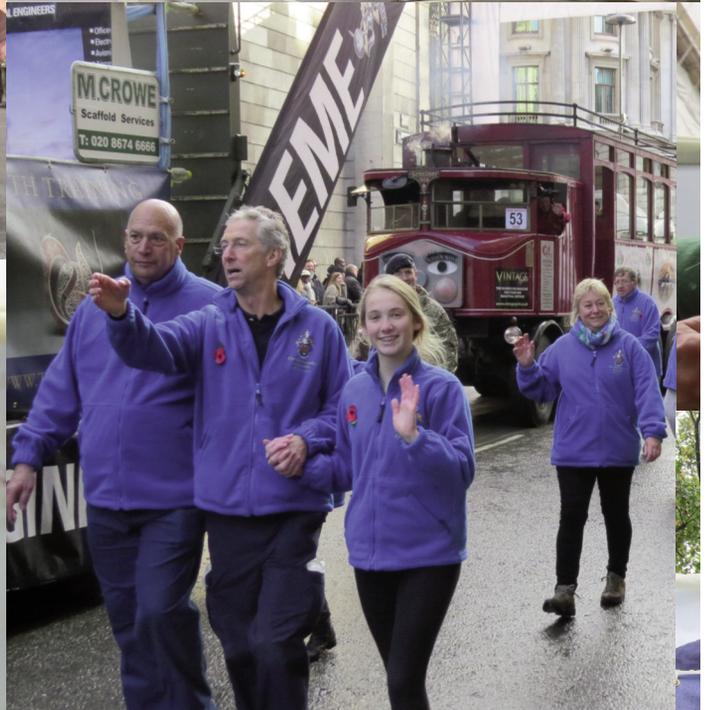
This was an incredibly laborious process of fine tuning and attention to detail, to get St Catherine, her wheel and the crest to the right level of craft, sophistication and character.



*Top right:* The new coat of arms with the 'Turning' Logotype, displayed in the monochrome palette. *Bottom Right* Example of the Logotype used alone, for contemporary craft events. *Top above:* detail of St Catherine's hand copied from detail taken from the stained glass window in Apothecaries' Hall compared with the previously used version (*below*).



# Lord Mayor's





# 's Show 2013



*Top centre:* The Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE and Honorary Liveryman of the Turners' Company (photo Clive Totman)  
*Below centre:* The Turner's Company and REME float approaching Mansion House.  
*Other photos, anticlockwise from top left:* REME team; building the float; float before the start of the parade; head of the REME horse sculpture; REME Brigadier Bill O'Leary; walking alongside the float: PM Ilan Krieger, Assistant Andrew Sindall and daughter Phoebe and Liveryman Joey Richardson; demonstration by Jon Warwicker; Liveryman Barbara Newman and PM Penrose Halson; Assistant David Batchelor; Assistant Sarah Fabergé; demonstration by Simon Hope; Joey Richardson and then Upper Warden John Bridgeman; parade of Turners' Company banners; Whiffilers' briefing.

# Howe Co

The Howe Committee is the craft committee of the Worshipful Company of Turners. It brings together representatives of the Register of Professional Turners, the Society of Ornamental Turners, the Association of Pole-Lathe Turners and the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain, to help the Company maintain links with and to support those involved in the craft of woodturning.

## Promoting the Craft

We followed with interest the winners of the Bursary awards made in April 2013 (Joseph Bloor, Matt Corbishley, Kevin Garwood, John Fells and John Turner). These five very promising young turners undertook training courses and all reported back to us on their enjoyment and the new skills and techniques they were mastering as a result. The principal Bursary winner, Mick Hanbury, went to France for three weeks and excerpts of his report are provided on the opposite page.

The Company supported the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain in providing training days for over thirty school children and students. What is particularly rewarding about these events is the length of time the students spend and the level of concentration they commit to making something they are proud of.

As they are introduced to the craft, their skills of planning and accuracy are developed, along with their personal qualities of patience and pride. One of these events, organised by the East Herts Woodturning Association, is described on the opposite page.

Many of those taking part say that they do not get the same sort of attention at school or college. The time and good humour of the tutors is a great credit to the craft and we hope that the students will go on to be successful in a full training environment.

The Company is now in the third year of support for Cockpit Arts, a 'talent incubator' project housed in former office and factory premises in Deptford. Candidates are supported in developing their skills in the craft while also gaining tutoring and mentoring in business skills. In February, past award winner Eleanor Lakelin was featured in the Sunday Times (*see opposite page*).

## Taking part in the Lord Mayor's Show

In May 2013, the appointment of Alderman Fiona Woolf as an Honorary Freeman of the Company gave us the opportunity to take part in the Lord Mayor's Show. The scheduling of the show normally works up to a year ahead, so at the point when we were given a place we were six months 'behind the curve'.

Upper Warden John Bridgeman led the team and selected the biggest recovery vehicle in the REME fleet to pull our float. We are extremely grateful for the expertise of our Clerk who sorted out the small concern of whether our float would crash through to the underground District Line. It didn't, so he must have been right!

The Howe Committee was responsible for dressing the float. We received lots of ideas and suggestions from members of the Company. We had to choose carefully and on this occasion were sharing the float with REME. The ultimate stars responsible were Joey Richardson, Sarah Fabergé, Jon Warwicker and Colin Field.

We made every effort to have a modern working lathe aboard. The most significant health and safety issue was to find a diesel generator.



Easy, ask REME. There had to be one somewhere! In the best 'just in time' tradition we got our generator and Simon Hope was able to accompany and help a past competition prize winner Ryan Barker (*above*) demonstrate the craft.

Andrew Sindall organised a party of Whifflers to escort the float. AND THEN, on the day, it poured with rain. We all got soaked but the spirit of all taking part was a credit to the Company.

## Changes to the Committee

Apart from the retirement of Past Chairman Nic Somers in April 2013, we had two other notable retirements namely Freeman Stuart King and Liveryman Brian Lewis. Both served on the Howe Committee for many years and had been actively involved in too many Howe projects to mention here. Our thanks to both gentlemen.

It is a great honour to be asked to chair the Howe Committee. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to our Clerk and all the Committee members for the marvellous support they have given me over the past year and also for the hard work which they have all so willingly given to the Howe.

**Assistant David Batchelor**  
Chairman, Howe Committee

## The 2014 Turning Competitions

The Competitions will be held at Apothecaries' Hall, Black Friars Lane, on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2014. The prizes will be awarded on the afternoon of 28<sup>th</sup> October by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Fiona Woolf CBE.

On 29<sup>th</sup> October there will be an exhibition of the competition entries open to the public and pieces will be available for sale if the owner wishes.

The competitions include a special class in celebration of our Turner Lord Mayor. The Fiona Woolf class will be an open competition under a wide-ranging theme entitled 'The Square Mile's energy to transform lives'. The theme for the competition reflects Fiona's belief that the City of London has the energy and talent for innovation to meet the momentous challenges that face society – it has 'The Energy to Transform Lives'.

# Committee



## Cockpit Arts Award Update: Eleanor Lakelin

Eleanor Lakelin was joint winner of the Company's Cockpit Arts Award in 2011, which she says "gave me the opportunity to work in a shared studio amongst a group of other makers and to get invaluable business support.

After the Bursary year ended, I decided to stay on at Cockpit Arts and since then I have been slowly improving my technique and building on the tuition given by Nick Agar, Tom Pockley, Stuart Mortimer and Dave Regester.

I have also been working hard to find ways to promote and sell work. Having a stand at Handmade in Britain, MADE LONDON, British Craft Trade Fair and CRAFT 14 were all challenging both financially and logistically but ultimately a good way to find shops and galleries to show my work.

I also exhibited my work at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show. During the next few months I will exhibit work at the Crafts Centre, Farnham and continue working on a collection of vessels for Liberty."

## Company Bursary Update: Mick Hanbury

**Mick Hanbury**, principal Bursary winner in 2013 reported that "My three workshops in France were a great success.

They have given me more confidence to pursue the artistic side of my turning and allowed me to learn new skills which I can incorporate into both my teaching and demonstrating, so my new-found skills are now being passed on to others.

I spent three separate weeks with Eli Avisera, Alan Mailland and Jean-François Escoulen. I learned to forge tools to achieve cuts on specialised projects and new techniques to grind my tools.

What I learned about carving and sculpting has really shown me how to expand my vision.

My week with Jean-François was mind-blowing. I did not think it was possible to make something with so many different axes. He designed the tuition to make use of the chuck kindly bought for me as part of the Bursary. It would not be possible for me to practise or incorporate my new techniques without this chuck.

I have already incorporated many of my new-found skills into my existing work and I exhibited these at Loughborough at the AWGB seminar. I am feeling confident now of the direction I want to take.

The Bursary award has been invaluable. I am very grateful to have been given this opportunity to use and pass on a new set of skills."

## Youth Training

Since 2010, the East Herts Woodturning Association has been organising hands-on woodturning taster sessions to raise awareness of woodturning amongst young people.

Following on from a successful taster session for about thirty scouts last year, it was agreed to host a teaching day under the AWGB/Worshipful Company of Turners Youth Training Programme.

Four professional turners were invited to take part in the day at the East Herts Club venue. These were Andy Coates, Paul Howard, Peter Nicholls and Tony Walton.

Eight young people, who had previously experienced woodturning at a taster session, applied to take part. The woodturning teaching was led by the AWGB Chairman, Andy Coates.



Andy talked to the group about woodturning and safety and demonstrated the first stage of bowl making, before the young people went to their lathes and carried out this under the guidance of a tutor – one for each pair of attendees.

By lunchtime, each participant had produced their first bowl. After lunch, the students made a second bowl with the minimum of intervention from the watchful tutors. In the final session of the afternoon, the participants produced an item between centres.

**John Leach**, East Herts Woodturners

# Charity C

The Charity Committee has worked hard in the last year, as would be expected, albeit sometimes with surprises.

**Abbey School, Farnham** a school for special needs were recipients of a lathe and the photo (*bottom*) was taken at the time of the formal handover by the Master.

Two lathes have recently been delivered to the **Orchard Workshop, Bristol** (a social not for profit enterprise), where they were much needed to replace tired equipment, given the volume of applicants they have for turning courses.



Master Rhidian Jones (*left*) and Liveryman Stuart Mortimer (*centre*) visiting Treloar's School

These lathes were funded by a legacy left by Liveryman and practical as well as ornamental Turner Geoffrey Brandon, and plaques acknowledging the gift are to be applied to the lathes.

**Norwood Ravenswood** has benefitted from a Boxford lathe and router. Being computer-operated these will cover a myriad of clever techniques. Ultimately, after training supplied by Boxford, this equipment will be used by residents to create items for sale, to assist in the financing of this special and caring environment in which they live. A formal presentation of the lathe is to be made later in the year.

**Grately School, Hampshire**, another special needs school, has also received a lathe which has been put to good use and a handover by the Master is to be arranged.

Wherever we have a lathe, we seek an annual review whereby a member of the Charity Committee accompanied by a member of the Register of Professional Turners attend, review the working equipment, and with the professional help seek to identify any needs for the future.

It is also our plan to match the postcode locations of lathe recipients so that Liverymen and members of the Company may share in this role as ambassadors of the Company as well as seeing for yourselves where and how your charitable giving has helped others.

Liveryman Mark Hatt-Cook undertook, during the course of the year, to review the funding of Services awards, given the changes made within the forces as they move toward sharing training facilities, together with City Charities. It has proven to be a challenging task and we are most grateful to Mark for his endeavours.

We, as a Committee and contributing members of the Company, are indebted to the members of the Register of Professional Turners for the work, encouragement and support they give us, mostly at a cost to themselves through loss of work time and teaching others.

A busy year, limited finances and a growing demand for our support encourages me to conclude this article by thanking my Committee colleagues for all their hard work and to thank you, the members of the Company, for your continuing financial support without which we would not be able to promote the Art and Craft of Turning.

If you do not already donate, please do, it means so much to so many who never thought that they could make more than wood shavings.

**PM Colin Field**

Chairman, Charity Committee

## The Craft, the City and the Sounds of Music

Situated in the heart of the City, The Guildhall School of Music & Drama is one of the world's leading conservatoires and drama schools, offering an inspiring environment in which to develop as artists and professionals.

The School is also the UK's leading provider of specialist music training at the under-18 level with nearly 2,500 students in Junior Guildhall and the Centre for Young Musicians.

Last year, it completed a major building project to expand its facilities - Milton Court. With its long and supportive relationships with the City Livery Companies and as part of the Campaign for Milton Court, it wanted to recognise the Livery Companies' generosity towards this transformative project by dedicating the Studio Theatre's bar in honour of this support.

Re-named the City Livery Companies' Bar, the space includes a donor board listing all the Livery Companies donating at least £1,000 towards the campaign. Says Amber Bielby of the Development Team "The School is very grateful to the Worshipful Company of Turners and for your donation to this exciting project".

Since its founding in 1880, the School has stood as a vibrant showcase of the City of London Corporation's commitment to education and the arts and with Milton Court "it has acquired the sort of facilities that catapult it into the ranks of the world's best-equipped arts conservatoires... Oh to be a student again." The Times.

The Company was delighted to be able to show support for both the City and the *Mysterie or Art* of turning, as evidenced by the photo of the woodwind instruments!



Photo: Alexander Newton

# Committee

## Supporting the Services

The 4 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME based in Jellalabad Barracks, Tidworth are the winners of the 2014 'Turners' Company prize awarded to the Regular REME Battalion that has been qualified by military assessment as the most outstanding in the previous year.

The assessment report said that "4 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME operates with an air of relaxed professionalism. Despite the extremely high tempo of operations, caused by

concurrent tasking, the Battalion retained its focus, its commitment to its Brigade and its own soldiers.

It has arguably been one of the most challenging years the Battalion has faced, but at no time has it failed to deliver on its mission, going the extra mile to keep fit equipment in the hands of the operational user."

The Turners' Trophy was presented at the Ladies' Dinner by the Master Rhidian Jones to the second in command Major Campbell Moffat REME.



## Charitable Donations

Donation to:	Year	Equipment
Treloar's School, Alton, Hampshire	1994	One Boxford CT Lathe and one plain turning bench lathe
City of London Freeman's School, Ashted, Surrey	2003	One lathe and tools, donated by Richard Woodwark
Building Crafts College, Stratford, London	2004	Two lathes
Street Forge, Thornham Magna, Suffolk	2006	Four lathes and tools
Herefordshire Headway, Credenhill, Hereford	2007	Lathe and tools
Valence School, Westerham, Kent	2008	Boxford lathe and accessories
Max Carey Trust, Portishead, Bristol	2009	Turning tools and equipment
Charlton School, Greenwich, London	2009	Boxford lathe and accessories
Cockpit Arts, Deptford, London	2011	One Record bench lathe and accessories
Ruskin Mill College, Nailsworth, Gloucestershire	2011	Tools, tool and wood store, snug and treadle lathe
Freeman College, Sheffield	2011	Grant towards woodcraft facility and bow making
Plas Dwl Farm College, Clynderwen, Pembrokeshire	2011	Pole lathe tools
Marsh Academy, Romney Marsh, Kent	2011	Bench lathe and accessories
Oakley School, Tunbridge Wells, Kent	2011	Bench lathe
Octopus Opportunities, Rochester, Kent	2011	Bench lathe
Ian Mikardo School, Tower Hamlets, London	2012	Pole lathe kit and bench lathe
London Green Woodwork Centre, Stoke Newington, London	2012	Pole lathe tools and wood carving tools
Abbey School, Farnham, Surrey	2013	One lathe
Orchard Workshop, Kingswood, Bristol	2013	Two lathes donated by the late Geoff Brandon
Norwood Ravenswood, Stanmore, London	2013	Boxford lathe and router
Grately School, Andover, Hampshire	2013	One lathe
Phoenix House, Catterick, North Yorkshire	2014	One lathe

# Livery C

The 2013/14 Masters' Year has again been a busy one on the social front as the Livery Committee has sought to identify interesting and unusual places to visit.

## Evensong at St George's Chapel, Windsor

In May 2013 a group of sixteen travelled down to Windsor to enjoy the tranquillity of evensong in St George's Chapel (*below*). Built in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and extended by Edward III it is also the chapel of the Order of the Garter. Seated in the upper stalls of the choir beneath the heraldic banners of members of the order, we enjoyed a wonderful service before being given an extensive tour of this magnificent building by two guides.

Courtesy of Liveryman David Axson, Clerk to the Friends and Companions of St George, drinks and canapés had been arranged in the ancient and beautiful Dean's Cloister, after which we adjourned for a very agreeable supper in Windsor itself.



## Mary Rose Museum

June 2013 saw a group of twenty heading to Portsmouth for an early visit to the revamped and only recently opened Mary Rose Museum, courtesy of the Trust's Chief Executive, Rear Admiral John Lippiett.

As well as a full tour of the museum, the group heard a lecture on why this great ship of Henry VIII had sunk with such loss of life in July 1545.

It is calculated that it would have taken about 16 hectares (40 acres) of woodland, involving more than 600 large oak trees, to construct the great ship, but it was the small, sometimes tiny and personal items that really enthralled the group. Rosary beads, wooden bowls, pomanders and eating spoons, the preservation of which has been remarkable.



Freeman Stuart King was so taken with the boxwood hair combs (*left*) that had been discovered on the wreck that he immediately went back to his workshop to recreate two of his own!

## Kew Gardens

In late September, a visit was arranged for a private tour of the Economic Botany Collection at Kew Gardens, an extraordinary collection of wood samples (of every conceivable type of wood), and wooden objects, including a number of turned pieces.

These had been gathered from around the world by enterprising Victorians in the 19<sup>th</sup> century who used them to demonstrate the different types of wood and the purposes for which they could be used.

Senior curator Dr Mark Nesbit and his team provided fascinating insights into the pieces and brought the collection to life in a most vivid way. Plans are already being made to involve the collection in *Wizardry in Wood 2016*.

## Turning at the Max Carey Trust

October saw the Master lead a party of Court members and their partners to Portishead, near Bristol, for a weekend of turning at the Max Carey Trust. This was felt to be useful not only as a means of widening their knowledge of the craft but also to understand more of what is meant by the *'Mysterie or Art of the Turners of London'*.

In this the weekend was highly successful, all participants (many of whom had not turned before) coming away with a splendid ash candlestick, and having learnt a great deal about the skills and techniques involved.



We are enormously grateful to the Trustees and other professional turners who gave up their weekend so willingly, and whose tuition and oversight proved so valuable. It also provided an opportunity for the Master to award Certificates in Turning to several local turners who had achieved the required standard. In all, an excellent weekend with plenty of camaraderie and fun, and setting a valuable template for future visits by other members of the Company.

## Lord Mayor's Show

The Lord Mayor's Show on 9<sup>th</sup> November provided the opportunity for 30 members and their families to act as 'whiffers' alongside the Company's well-decorated and vibrant float.

Despite the inclement weather the event was a great success, those participating enjoying the camaraderie and spectacle of the occasion.

A more detailed summary of this wonderful event is provided in the report of the Howe Committee (pages 12 & 13) and photos are on the centre pages.

# Committee

## Cheapside Hoard at the Museum of London

In early December a group met at the Museum of London to be treated to a tour of the Cheapside Hoard, an extraordinary collection of 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century jewellery found in a Cheapside basement in 1912.

A talk by one of the curators ahead of the visit provided colour to the fascinating story of the find and the mystery surrounding its abandonment. Did the owner of the collection go off to fight in the English Civil War never to return? Was it a cache of stolen goods that was stored there?

The most likely explanation is that it was the working stock of a jeweller whose shop in Goldsmith's Row was reduced to ashes in the Great Fire of London, but which left the treasure in the cellar untouched. But we will never know for sure.

The exhibition itself was beautifully presented and showed the pieces off to perfection. Delicate, colourful, ingenious in design, skillful in execution, all of the pieces were interesting, many simply breathtaking, and those who attended felt they had seen an intimate vision of London 400 years ago.

## On board the Royal Yacht Britannia

As an engineer aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia during an earlier part of his career, Assistant Gerry Thwaites was in a unique position to speak of his experiences on this fine ship.

In his inimitable style, Gerry gave a mixture of facts, history and anecdotes and, supplemented by many of his own photographs from his time on board, it made for a hugely enjoyable and interesting presentation.



Numerous questions were put forward from the floor, some of which Gerry was prepared to answer! The success of the evening suggests that other talks on topics of interest to the membership will be added to the social calendar in the future.

## Gardner Williams Dinner

The 67<sup>th</sup> Gardner Williams Dinner took place on 26<sup>th</sup> February. Attended by over 100 members, and with an excellent meal and wine to enjoy, it was a fitting occasion in which to pay tribute to our principal benefactor. Past Master Peter Gibson delivered the Sentiment which was warmly received. This is set out in full on page 8.

## Two Temple Place

Described as one of London's hidden architectural gems, Two Temple Place is a late Victorian mansion built by William Waldorf Astor on Embankment and March saw a group being given a private tour. Astor emigrated to England in 1891 as arguably the richest man in the world and no expense was spared in the building of the house which he used as his estate office. Now owned by The Bulldog Trust, the house is open for just 3 months each spring and supports the charitable activities of the Trust through exhibitions and events hosted in the building.

Having enjoyed the opulence of the interior, including a spectacular wooden staircase, the group was given a tour of the resident exhibition Discoveries: Art, Science and Exploration, containing pieces lent by the Cambridge University Museums.

## Roman London Walk

The evening of 30<sup>th</sup> April was cloudless and warm providing the perfect conditions for a fascinating walk beginning at the Museum of London and ending at St Paul's Cathedral. Our guide John Shepherd, an archaeologist with considerable experience of London's major archaeological sites over the past 30 years, brought alive the Roman origins of the City, and showed how for almost 1500 years, the physical size of London was limited by the defensive wall first built in 200 AD.



Although most was demolished in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, there remains much to be seen. Particularly interesting was a chamber under the A1211 (London Wall) to which the group was given access in which some excellent remains of the old Roman fort that stood on this site have been preserved.

As we concluded our walk on the steps of St Paul's, learning about the amphitheatre at Guildhall, the seven great gates that gave access to the City through the wall, and the Temple of Mithras (at Walbrook), it was not hard to visualise the Fleet River lapping at the foot of Ludgate Hill and the river wharves on the Thames a short distance away to the south.

## Ladies' Dinner

In contrast to the previous year when the sun had shone and champagne had been taken in the courtyard, the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> May was cold and blustery. This did not detract, however, from the warmth in Apothecaries' Hall when 85 members and their guests joined the Master for the annual Ladies' Dinner.

Past Master Peter Ellis, deputising for the Renter Warden, welcomed the guests and introduced the presentation of the annual REME Major Units Prize to 4 Armoured Close Support Battalion REME.

The Master Currier, Graham Stow, responded warmly and amusingly on behalf of the guests. The entertainment was provided by Rhodri Jones from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama whose fine tenor voice and Welsh repertoire reminded us of the Master's roots and were widely enjoyed by all.

The Committee would like to thank all members and their guests who have supported its activities over the past year and looks forward to welcoming you to future events.

**Assistant Andrew Sindall**, Chairman, Livery Committee

## ASM Committee

When I became Deputy Master in May 2013, the “new” Master, Rhidian Jones, asked me to take on the chairmanship of the **Assistant Selection and Membership** (ASM) Committee, the activities of which are not well known.

The Committee currently has three members: The Master’s Steward (an ex-officio appointment) together with two Past Masters, one of whom will chair the Committee for three years.

The full, rather than abbreviated, title of the Committee does provide some clues, albeit somewhat misleading, to its role. As readers will be aware, the roles of all Company committees are described, briefly, on the website; but the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) are, at present, available only in the Company Court Manual. Later this year, however, the first edition of the Company Manual is to be published. This will contain all the rules, regulations and procedures of the Company and, therefore, also the detailed TORs of each committee.

The introductory paragraph of the ASM Committee TORs states:

*“The Assistant Selection and Membership Committee is tasked, primarily, with the identification of Liverymen who should be considered, in due time, for elevation to the Court, while also ensuring that other committees are manned by appropriately qualified and experienced*

*individuals, through the provision of manning advice to the incoming Master and committee chairmen.”*

So, the ASM Committee does not select Court Assistants but, rather, recommends candidates to the Court for its consideration.

So far so good, but how does the Committee identify potential candidates for Court membership?

The most important factor that guides this identification process is that, unlike some other companies, all Turners’ Court members are expected to progress through the Court until becoming Master.

The second, and nearly as important, factor is that our present rules state that a Master must normally take the oath before his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. This implies that new Court Assistants should usually be appointed before their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. This does not mean, however, that every Liveryman below the age of 60 will be considered for Court membership.

An important consideration is how much involvement the individual has had with Company business and social life since joining.

The ASM committee looks at attendance records for both formal and informal events. A Liveryman who attends only the annual Richard Gardner Williams dinner is unlikely to progress to the Court.

Many individuals who support the Company regularly expressly ask to be excluded from consideration as they have no desire to become Master. So – in summary – Court members are selected from the body of Liverymen who meet at least some of the requirements listed below:

- Have attended a significant number of Company events each year.
- Have assisted the Company in some way such as by joining a committee or accepting an honorary role such as web-master. Any member of the Company may volunteer for such roles.
- Shown that they seem likely to have the skills to chair the Court as Master, either through professional background or demonstration on a committee.
- Have acquired some knowledge of the craft of turning.
- Be no more than 60/61 years old.
- Have indicated a willingness to serve the Company as Master.

In the last Master’s year (2013/14) we welcomed Gerry Thwaites to the Court. The new Assistant appointed in the current Master’s Year is Nick Fisher. Both Gerry and Nick are profiled on page six of this issue of The Turner.

**PM Peter Gibson**  
Chairman, ASM Committee

## Golfing Society

The Turners’ 2013 golfing year kicked off in May, with the Prince Arthur Cup held at Walton Heath. The competition is open to all livery companies and is the largest amateur competition in the UK. The two Turners’ teams performed admirably and were able to secure places in the 2014 event.

The centre piece of the golfing year is the Turners’ Golf Day at Woodcote Park. The winner was Will Tyler, to whom I had the pleasure of presenting a beautiful turned bowl donated by Mark Baker (*photo*).

The first of two highlights of what was an excellent competitive year was our performance in the Ray Jeffs Cup played at Hartley Whitney.

We entered two teams of four players, where the Turners’ A team, consisting of Bill O’Leary, Peter Mitchell, Rob Lucas and

Nigel Luson, just missed the prizes coming a very credible 4<sup>th</sup> place.

The season finished with the Dowgate Challenge Cup, where all the Livery companies who have offices on Dowgate Hill compete for a splendid trophy donated by James Loch of the Skinners.

The Turners’ team were back to defend the title they won in the 2012 event. In 2013, under stiff competition from the Skinners who came out on top and the Tallow Chandlers taking second place, the Turners attained third place, both Peter Mitchell and Nigel Luson delivering excellent performances.

The Turners’ 2014 golfing year started with the Prince Arthur Cup on 15<sup>th</sup> May. We have a full schedule for the coming year with the Turners competing in eight events and



having a strong field for our own Golf Day, where Will Tyler defends his 2013 title.

**Liveryman Peter Godding**  
Chairman, Turners’ Golf Society

## Finance Committee

The Court has delegated to the Finance Committee the task of managing the finances of the Company; and the Trustees of the Turners' Charity have also delegated the task of managing the Charity's finances.

The main tasks of the Finance Committee are therefore to control expenditure and to manage investments for both the Company and Charity.

The Master and Wardens are ex-officio members of the Committee, of which I was Chairman until the end of the Company's last financial year on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014.

The Committee has four other members - Assistant Andrew Neill, Assistant Andrew Sindall, Liveryman Lionel Anderson and Liveryman Martin Richards, all of whom have expertise in financial or investment matters.

Andrew Sindall took over as Chairman of the Finance Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> June and over the last year we have been working closely together to ensure a smooth transition. Andrew is Finance Director of Guest Krieger, and we may therefore expect the accounting policies and the

financial controls of the Company to be improved by his arrival.

The Finance Committee has set up a sub-committee, chaired by Andrew Neill, to monitor and manage the Company's investments.

The Company's investments represent almost the whole of the Company's accumulated reserves and are held by the stockbrokers Charles Stanley, who advise Andrew and his sub-committee.

The funds are invested with the intention of generating enough income to support the Company's activities while preserving real capital values over the long term.

The Charity's accumulated reserves are invested in five diverse investment funds with the intention of providing a balance of capital appreciation and income. The Charity funds its activities from this income and from donations both from members of the Company and from the Company itself.

Lionel Anderson has been particularly active in helping diversify the investments of the Charity by identifying suitable funds.

Some major items of expenditure do not take place each year. For example, both the award of the Bursaries and the Turning Competitions take place every two years, while Wizardry in Wood exhibitions are held every four years. Recently a decision has been taken to provide for part of the cost of these activities in the intervening years in order to smooth out the impact of this expenditure.

Since 2006 - the year before the "crash" - the value of the Company's net assets has increased by about 37%, partly through retaining some of the Company's income and partly through the increase in the value of the Company's investments.

Over the same period the value of the Charity's net assets has increased by 20%, reflecting the appreciation of the Charity's investments in part offset by the substantial charitable expenditure which has taken place.

**PM Richard Levy**

Past Chairman, Finance Committee

## Shooting Success

Three members of the Turner's Company formed part of a team of six who won the Annual Gunmakers' Company 'Rifleman's Day' shoot for members and guests at Bisley on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2014.

The three Turners were: Derek Stimpson, (Team Captain, Liveryman and a Gunmaker); Alan Cook (Liveryman and a Gunmaker); and Nic Somers (Master's Steward and current Master of the Company of Arts Scholars). This is the third year that they have been part of the winning team.

The remaining members of the team were: Alice Gran Stimpson (Derek's wife and a Gunmaker); John Freestone (Past Master Mariner and a Gunmaker) and Mark Bridge (Past Master of the Company of Arts Scholars).

The five teams of six met at the Army Target Shooting Clubhouse, an early 20<sup>th</sup> century building reminiscent of a colonial pavilion, complete with verandas and large armchairs. Shooting commenced promptly at 10.30 am and ended at 4.00 pm with a break for lunch.

Five challenging disciplines had to be completed during the day:

1. 900 yards Target rifle, using a 7.62 single shot Match Rifle.
2. The 'Stalkers Test', shot at 100 metres using a .223 telescoped sporting rifle on a life-size Roebuck target. Shooting was in three different positions; prone, sitting and standing, the last two using sticks as a bipod upon which the rifle can be rested.
3. 'Running Boar', shot at 50 metres with a .22RF rifle with telescope. This is shot standing, at a boar target which moves across the shooter's front in four seconds during which a shot has to be fired.
4. Gallery Rifle, shot at 25 metres using a military-style semi-automatic 25 round self-loading .22RF Rifle. The shooting position was seated, with elbows on the table.



The winning team (l to r): Nic Somers, Mark Bridge, Alan Cook, Derek Stimpson, Alice Gran Stimpson and John Freestone.

5. The last but probably the most taxing discipline, Black Powder Pistol, shot using modern replicas of .44 Remington New Model Army, solid-frame revolvers of American Civil War fame.

In addition to each member of the winning team receiving a bottle of champagne, three members won medals.

Derek Stimpson and Nic Somers each received a medal for coming joint equal first in the Gallery Rifle discipline by scoring 50 out of 50 and Mark Bridge received his medal for scoring 48 out of 50 in the 900 yards Rifle.

**Renter Warden Nic Somers**

# Back to the early Bronze Age

In August 2011, an early Bronze Age 4000 years old cist (a small chamber made of thin stone slabs) burial was discovered on Dartmoor. Inside were the cremated remains of a female and, almost uniquely for this period, well preserved grave goods including four lathe-turned ear studs (labrets).

Analysis has established that these studs were turned from spindle wood, a small shrubby tree that still grows on the Moor.

Studying high resolution images confirmed to me that these artefacts were turned rather than carved, but the question put to me by Andrew Brown of De Facto films, who was producing a BBC documentary, was how were these exquisite items turned on a lathe, and what sort of lathe?

These objects are no more than 2½ cm diameter, so I ruled out the use of a traditional pole lathe, which would be much too heavy for such delicate woodturning. As the invention of the crankshaft was at



least another 1500 years away, possibly more, the only options were some form of reciprocating apparatus, and this left me with the bow lathe or 'strap' lathe. This was to become an intriguing archaeological experiment.

I set up a piece of 'round wood' spindle tree between two points. With a bow in one hand and a chisel in the other it was clear that with a little practice progress could be made, although

coordinating the bowing and holding the tool using a separate hand for each and only making a cut as the wood revolves forwards is tricky at first. However, perseverance proved that it could be achieved and I did indeed produce a passable ear stud, and so down to Dartmoor for the filming.

The location was perfect, in front of a recreated ancient round house (*photo middle right*). The lathe was set up and the presenter was Mike Dilger of the 'One Show' with Dr Richard Brunning, wood expert in attendance. Using my set of Bronze Age tools, notably a socketed bronze chisel and a small round nose scraper (*see photos above*) I bowed away, slow but sure.

I then suggested that if Mike (*photo opposite, on the right*) put a cord around the work piece it would free up both of my hands and this would allow me more control. This made a great difference to both the speed of turning and the accuracy of tool use.

More speed, more torque, more accuracy, quicker production, this had to be the method used.



Spindle wood branch and section of spindle wood turned to make four ear studs. Background photo shows one of the 4000 year-old studs against 10mm scale. All photos by Stuart King.

Indeed, this form of turning proved so efficient that multiples could be turned, pointing possibly to the earliest form of mass production?

The original studs were so well preserved that one could see evidence of final finishing on some of the side walls, as if the turnings had been rubbed on a coarse stone to remove the uneven surface where the studs had been finally parted from the main stock, possibly with a knife. This was my first encounter with spindle wood and I was amazed at the fine finish that was achieved directly from the bronze skew chisel.

Within a couple of hours I had taken woodturning back another 500 years to the early Bronze Age.

**Freeman Stuart King**



Please contact the Editor of the Newsletter, Matthew Gaved, if you would like to suggest a contribution to a future issue: Email: [gaved@btconnect.com](mailto:gaved@btconnect.com).

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