

# The Turner

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Including:

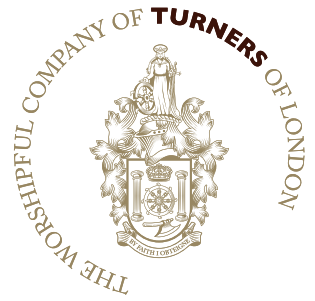
Wizardry in Wood 2016

2016 Turning Competitions

Master in Turning Reg Hawthorne

Our Woodwind Heritage

New Freeman & Liverymen



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### Cover photographs:

*Front:* First Prize in the Turners' Company Open 'Great Fire of London' Competition. Decorated salt and pepper pots by Louise Hibbert. Produced in a limited edition (£280 pair). [www.louisehibbert.com](http://www.louisehibbert.com)

*Back:* The City of London evening reception at Wizardry in Wood 2016. *Photo:* Stuart King.

### Photographic credits and thanks to:

Stuart King in particular, for his many photographs of Wizardry in Wood and of entries to the 2016 Competitions; also to the many other photographers and members of the Turners' Company whose photographs have been used in this issue and related pages on the Company's website: [www.turnersco.com](http://www.turnersco.com)

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## MASTER'S LETTER



Nicholas Somers, Master 2016-17

As I write this I find I am now over half way through my Master's Year.

We have put our Wizardry in Wood exhibition to bed, the Liverymen of the City of London have elected Alderman Andrew Parmley as the new Lord Mayor and the Mistress Turner and I have just dried out after getting exceedingly wet processing in the Lord Mayor's Show!

To be Master of this ancient and noble Company is the greatest privilege to which any Liveryman can aspire. However to be Master during the same year that the Wizardry in Wood exhibition is held is the icing on the cake!

From the many congratulatory letters and emails I have received from the Masters and Clerks of other Companies, from visitors and exhibitors, the exhibition was undoubtedly a great success.

Of course it would be difficult to mount such an exhibition without the keen support of the Carpenters' Company and the generosity of our principal sponsors, Consolidated Timber Holdings, Accsys Group, Charles Stanley, Reveal Security Services and Party Ingredients Catering.

The dedicated hard work of our exhibition committee members led by the Renter Warden, David Batchelor, and other helpers from the Company was also key to the success of Wizardry in Wood.

The Tuesday evening City of London reception, attended by many Masters and their Clerks, was a sell out. We were honoured by the attendance of the two new Sheriffs.

Sheriff Alderman William Russell kindly opened the exhibition and this was followed by Sheriff Alderman Peter Estlin presenting Liveryman Reg Hawthorne with the 'Master in Turning' certificate for his services to the craft.

The Competitions attracted the largest number of entries to date and visitors often had to queue to view the amazing array of works. Prizes were presented on the Saturday afternoon by Alderman Alison Gowman to whom we were all very grateful.

The majority of turners exhibiting at Wizardry in Wood reported steady sales throughout the week, with some achieving their best results of any shows they had attended.

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain, the Register of Professional Turners, the Society of Ornamental Turners and the Association of Polelathes Turners and Greenwood Workers were all represented and reported keen interest.

Visitors also greatly enjoyed the amazing collection of fascinating wooden objects and timbers shown by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and the superb Daniel Collection of contemporary turned wood, curated by Shirley Sinclair and Jonathon Cuff.

The raffle comprised over twenty turned prizes, all generously donated by the turner Exhibitors. The magnificent sum of £5,000 was raised due

to the enthusiastic selling of tickets by members of the Charity Committee. This means that my two chosen charities for my Master's Year, Theodora Children's Charity and the Catterick, Phoenix House Wood Workshop Fund will each receive £2,500.

I have always seen my principal responsibilities as Master as being to promote and support the craft of turning, together with its associated charities and training schemes, and therefore to attend as many events that I can.

Since becoming Master on 5th May, I have attended over one hundred and fifty such events. These have included visits to schools and other Companies, numerous Livery lunches, dinners and receptions; lectures, award and admission ceremonies and meetings. I can assure you all, if the opening of an envelope would benefit the Turners' Company...I will be there!

It just leaves me to wish everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

**Nicholas Somers**  
Master 2016–17

## MY YEAR AS MASTER (2015–16) BY NICHOLAS EDWARDS



Thursday 14th May 2015 was indeed an auspicious day for me being the date of my election to Master of this illustrious Company. I knew it would be a busy time and this résumé brings out some of the highlights of what proved to be an amazing non-stop roller-coaster.

Almost immediately I was thrust into the City pageantry associated with anniversaries of two great events in Britain's history. To celebrate the battle of Agincourt there was a magnificent dinner at the Guildhall with a Shakespearean actor brilliantly delivering the St Crispin's day speech, followed later by a service in Westminster Abbey.

The Magna Carta celebrations at Runnymede were a sobering and thought-provoking reflection on eight hundred years of our country's history and a reminder of the on-going resonance of its central theme now and for the future.

These special events were in addition to a full programme of representing the Company at events with many Livery Companies and other activities in the City of London. Particularly memorable was a lunch with the High Court judges at the Old Bailey and I counted no less than six formal events in full livery at St Paul's cathedral.

The Company dinners were as ever popular. Certainly the most magnificent of these was the Livery Dinner in the splendid Skinners' Hall with a full house of one hundred and sixty Liverymen and guests. The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Lord Mountevans, gave a most moving

speech comparing our menu to the Christmas 1912 menu of his grandfather, Captain Evans on the ill-fated Scott Antarctic expedition.

The Ladies' Dinner was also notable by the entertainment provided by a coloratura soprano and a harpsichord player with works of a period matching our own dinner venue, the Apothecaries' Hall.

Support for the craft of turning is an important remit of the Turners' Company. I was delighted to be part of a team of Turners to support Ray Key at Worcester Guildhall for a presentation of the British Empire Medal for his services to woodturning.

Other activities involved supporting the turners teaching scouts at Gillwell, presenting prizes at Stuart Mortimer's weekend for teaching youngsters and attending the Polelathe Turners' Bodgers' Ball.

The Turners' Company is sponsoring the restoration by the Science Museum of a spectacular 18th century 'Automaton' lathe.

I have been liaising with the Curator of Mechanical Objects and have seen first-hand the restoration being carried out by a specialist company. The lathe will be part of a special exhibition on Robots through the ages to be shown from February 2017.

*(See the article on page 11 for more information about the Automaton lathe project.)*



Sharing the Loving Cup with the Lord Mayor, Lord Mountevans at the Livery Dinner, December 2015

In my Master's Year the Military Liaison Committee, under the Chairmanship of Andy Ewens, started to identify its role, beginning with strengthening our ties with REME. I enjoyed seeing first-hand the quality of REME training at both St Athan and Swinton where I presented prizes.

At the latter I had my best "Boy's Own" experience of the year, driving a 50 ton Recovery Vehicle!

Chairing the Court Meetings is always a lively activity and in my year I tried to ensure that it was carried out with the good humour of the Court members. By way of gratitude for their support, I was pleased to invite a large number of them and their partners for a luncheon and a chance to "have a go" at ornamental turning in my own workshop.



Ornamental turning demonstration in my workshop

With the help of several members of the Society of Ornamental Turners assisting, we were able to demonstrate some of the subtleties of this ancient form of turning to the amazement of the visitors.

I gave the Court Ladies' Dinner a distinctive Scottish flavour (in contrast to the Welsh themes promoted by my two predecessors), by making it a Burns Supper complete with bagpipes (made by one of our supportive turners, Simon Hope - see page 18).

An important aspect of the Master's role is to encourage and promote the recruitment of new members of the Company to ensure its long-term future. I was therefore delighted to welcome no less than fourteen new Freeman to the Company and also admit four new Liverymen.

I turn now to recognize the support I received from my Wardens, Nic Somers and Andrew Neill, in lightening my load. I asked my Deputy Master, John Bridgeman for his wise counsel on numerous occasions and Master Steward, David Batchelor was exemplary in shepherding members of the Company and their guests at formal events.

Keeping the Company and its administration on an even keel is only part of the role of our Clerk, Alex Robertson, and I am grateful for his guidance on many matters to keep the Company's ship steering on an optimal course. He was ably assisted, I know, by his Assistant Becca Baker and the Beadle, Steven Grundy.

Finally, it is to my wife Ann that my most sincere thanks are due. She has proved to be a loyal supporter, a font of good advice and generally kept me on the straight and narrow. She has also partaken fully in her role as Mistress of the Company and together we had fabulous and rewarding experiences.

My roller-coaster ride as Master came to an end on 5th May 2016. In one sense it did not seem possible that almost a year had passed with so much happening, in another there was a tinge of relief that the pressure was now off.

I was very happy to pass over the baton of office to our new Master, Nic Somers. I wish him and his wife Anne every success in their year.

**Nicholas Edwards**

Master 2015–16

# PICTURES FROM AN EXHIBITION : WIZARDRY IN WOOD 2016

**After several years of planning and months of detailed preparation, Wizardry in Wood 2016 was held in October. It was a huge success; for the exhibitors, sponsors, guests, visitors, the Turners' Company and its Charity.**

Top row (L to R): Evening reception for the City of London; Carpenters' Hall stained glass window and cabinet display of items from the Economic Botany Collection, Kew; Teenage turning demonstration.

Middle row: Vanessa Swann (Cockpit Arts) and Simon Hope (woodturner) judging a competition; display of competition entries; Turners' Company Charity stand; Liveries Wood Group display.

Bottom row: Master of Turning Stuart Mortimer, Jonathon Cuff (Daniel Collection) and Past Master Richard Levy judging a competition; Alderman Alison Gower presenting prize certificates to Louise Hibbert and Nick Fisher; the Master Nicholas Somers with Jonathon Cuff and Sheriff Alderman William Russell; display of timbers from Kew on a stand made by students at the Building Crafts College, London.





## MASTER IN TURNING – REG HAWTHORNE

### **Liveryman Reg Hawthorne was awarded the prestigious ‘Master in Turning’ award at a Reception held at Wizardry in Wood.**

This is the third Master in Turning award made in recent times, previous awards having been given to Ray Key and Stuart Mortimer. The citation was read by the Master of the Turners’ Company, Nicholas Somers.

“After a career as a broadcast engineer, Reg took early retirement from the BBC and became a full-time woodturner based in the Cotswolds. He was subsequently elected on to the Register of Professional Turners and later became a Liveryman of the Turners’ Company.

He is a life member of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (AWGB) and was its Chairman for the maximum period of four years. He is also a member of the Society of Ornamental Turners, a Life Member of the Heart of England Woodturners and a member of the American Association of Woodturners.

While on the AWGB Committee, the President, Ray Key, appointed Reg to the role of International Seminar director and shortly afterwards he was elected to the post of Chairman.



Alderman Peter Estlin presenting Reg Hawthorne with his ‘Master in Turning’ certificate



This ‘Fabergé style’ egg was turned by Reg Hawthorne from lignum vitae. It is approximately 7” high and decorated with turned brass and simulated enamel. The egg is also hinged and opens to reveal a brass and enamel decorated box inside.

In this role Reg continued to organise the AWGB’s International Seminars, while steering the organisation through its aim of achieving charitable status and continuing to develop its standing within the craft.

Youth training has been a great interest of Reg Hawthorne and he became involved with Stuart Mortimer in his Teenage Training weekend courses as both a tutor and supporter; enlisting sponsorship from both the AWGB and the Turners’ Company.

In 2010, when the Turners’ Company expressed a desire to create essential qualification standards for plain turning, Reg enthusiastically added the support of the AWGB to this project, working with the then Master and AWGB Development Officer to produce a set of trial modules.





Reg Hawthorne, Master in Turning, in his workshop

These have now been successfully accepted by the craft, with the 'Certificate in Turning' in place and a 'Diploma in Turning' on the cusp of being launched. He continues to be involved in this project and was a member of the team that introduced it into the Help for Heroes workshop syllabus at Catterick. He also serves as a member of the Turners' Company's Education and Standards sub-committee.

Reg has won awards for his work from the Turners' Company, the Midlands Woodworking show, the International Woodturning Show, at both Alexandra Palace and Wembley, the Society of Ornamental Turners and the Guild of Irish Woodturners.

Most of his exquisite pieces are turned from wood acquired locally in the Cotswolds and he ensures that any exotics are from approved sources.

Reg Hawthorne is both an outstanding woodturner and a servant of the wider craft environment, the Turners' Company and its associated charities.

He is a most worthy candidate and highly deserving of the honour of being invested with the lifetime achievement award title of 'Master in Turning'.

# MASTER JAILED & BAILED FOR THE BRITISH RED CROSS



On 29th June, twenty Livery Company Masters and three City of London Aldermen gathered at Mansion House and were 'arrested' on various trumped-up charges read out by Sheriff Alderman Charles Bowman (playing Judge!).

After being found guilty, they were transported to the Tower of London and marched up to the Regimental Headquarters of the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers by the Yeomen of the Guard.



The Master Turner under arrest!

They were told that before being released, they would be incarcerated and fed only on gruel and water until they had each raised the minimum bail sum of £1,000.

On arrival at the Officers Mess, the very thought of eating gruel in a dungeon prompted everyone to immediately hand over their 'Bail' money.

After being fingerprinted, they were released and ushered into the dining room where, instead of eating gruel, they were presented with a most delicious venison pie.

Then each Master was provided with a silver goblet filled, not with the expected water, but with...wonderful Pol Roger champagne! ...in quantities!...such joy!

Collectively the twenty Masters and three Alderman raised over £36,000 for the British Red Cross of which the Turners' Company contribution just under £2,800!

The Master, Nicholas Somers, would like to sincerely thank everyone who so generously contributed to this excellent cause.



With the help of a £5,000 grant from the Turners' Company, the Science Museum has taken in hand the major restoration of a most dramatically ornate rose engine lathe from the eighteenth century.

Whilst mystery surrounds the origins of this machine, with its amazing rococo decoration it was clearly made to impress; one theory is that it was made for Friedrich Ist of Prussia. This was a period when European royalty partook in the art of turning as well as having a Court Turner.

The machine is also exceptional in that it is designed to turn components automatically, driven by a weight-driven geared mechanism of cams and levers to further show off the prowess and prestige of the owner.

The machine came to the Science Museum in 1867 and several attempts over the years have been made to restore the machine, which was basically in 250 pieces, to its former glory.

For this current phase, restoration has been careful and painstaking at the facilities of Richard Rogers Restoration Ltd in Leatherhead.

The photograph was taken on a visit to Leatherhead on 25th August by Deputy Master, Nicholas Edwards, to discuss progress with the Curator of Mechanical Artefacts at the Science Museum, Ben Russell, and the restoration team.

Most of the work has been done by Julia Tauber, who has already spent some 450 man-hours sorting out the jig-saw puzzle before turning her attention to the wooden entablature.

The Automaton lathe stands over nine feet tall with its overhead flywheel.

It will be one of the most imposing and outstanding exhibits at the Robots exhibition opening in February 2017 at the Science Museum to explore the 500-year story of humanoid robots.

After seven months the exhibition (with credits to the Turners' Company identified) will tour around the world starting in Europe, then Australia and Singapore before returning to the UK in 2021.

**Nicholas Edwards**

# WOODTURNING COURSES & AWARDS

## ORCHARD WORKSHOP

Orchard Workshop is a community workshop in Kingswood, near Bristol. In 2013 the Turners' Company provided two high quality lathes to the Workshop to support its woodturning courses and training.

In October, thirteen Orchard Workshop students were presented with the Certificate in Woodturning by the Master of the Turners' Company, Nicholas Somers.

The Certificate is awarded to students who have completed the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (AWGB) turning course.

Mary Ashton, a member of the Register of Professional Turners, is the woodwork and woodturning tutor at Orchard Workshop and provided the training for the Certificate in Woodturning. The achievement of the Certificate requires knowledge of the theory of wood turning, practical tuition and the production of items requiring a series of defined tasks. The final task being the production of a 'Tazza', a bowl on a pedestal.



Students at Orchard Workshop with their Certificates in Woodturning, Tazzas and other items they made on the course run by Mary Ashton (in the centre)

Janet Parsons MBE, founder and coordinator of Orchard Workshop, gave Nicholas Somers a tour of the Workshop, where courses are provided across a wide range of arts and crafts including jewellery making and stained glass. There are also courses tailored for students (from 18 to 80+) with special needs.

[www.orchardworkshop.co.uk](http://www.orchardworkshop.co.uk)

## MAX CAREY WOODTURNING TRUST

Nine members of the Turners' Company and the Master of the Founders' Company, John Buttersworth, took part in a weekend hands-on workshop in early October, held at the Max Carey Woodturning Trust at The Mill in Portishead, North Somerset.

The purpose of the two day course was to give members of the Company the opportunity to learn more about woodturning.

The first day started with an introduction to the work of the Trust by its Chairman, Stuart Bradfield. This was followed by expert tuition on turning and decorating a platter from Mary Ashton and Jay Heryet, assisted by Stuart and Harry Childs. By midday Sunday the ten students had made amazing progress and finished their platters and other items.

[www.maxcareywoodturningtrust.org.uk](http://www.maxcareywoodturningtrust.org.uk)



Company turners and Certificate in Woodturning students at the Max Carey Trust

During the weekend Mark Ingram, Rick Lock and Colin Amos were also presented with the National Certificate in Woodturning by the Master Nicholas Somers. Thirty two woodturners have now been awarded the Certificate at the Max Carey Woodturning Trust.

**The Turners' Company Competitions are biennial and this year attracted a record number of entries.**

**The display of Competition entries and winners formed part of Wizardry in Wood 2016 and was one of the most popular exhibits.**

### Competition winners and Commended entries

- A Master's Open Competition:**  
A pair of plain turned non-pedestal lidded bowls; 1st Prize: Colin Priddy; 2nd Prize: Margaret Garrard; 3rd Prize: Maggie Wright.
- B Master's Open Competition:**  
A pair of ornamental turned non-pedestal lidded bowls; 1st Prize: Paul Coker.
- C Felix Levy Open Competition:**  
A contemporary work of the entrant's choice; 1st Prize: Andrew Mason; 2nd Prize: Sally Burnett; 3rd Prize: Roy Weare.
- D 2016 Open Competition**  
with the theme of The Great Fire of London; 1st Prize: Louise Hibbert (see *front cover*); 2nd Prize: Margaret Garrard; 3rd Prize: Joseph Bloor; Commended: Stuart King.
- E Ray Key Competition:**  
for young turners who have attended a Youth Training Course sponsored by the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain and the Turners' Company; 1st Prize: Thomas Street; 2nd Prize: Macaulay Watkins; 3rd Prize: Leon Hayward.
- F Lady Gertude Crawford Competition:**  
Conventional Ornamental Turning (no Rose Engine work); for members of the Society of Ornamental Turners; Gold Medal: Richard Hoodless.
- G Fred Howe Competition:**  
Ornamental and Rose turning or Rose turning alone; for members of the Society of Ornamental Turners; Gold Medal: Peter Johnson.
- H HE Twentyman Competition:**  
Plain turning with Rose Engine and Ornamental decoration; for members of the Society of Ornamental Turners; Silver Medal: Maggie Wright
- J Polelathé Turning Competition:**  
A decorated goblet; for members of the Association of Polelathé Turners & Greenwood Workers; First Prize: Terence McSweeney; Second Prize: Michael Ashton; Third Prize: Olvin Smith.
- K Plain Turning Competition (Senior):**  
for members of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain age 21 or less; Gold Medal: Darren Breeze; Silver Medal: Margaret Garrard; Bronze Medal: Colin Priddy; Commended: Marcel van Berkel, Malcolm Thorpe and Andrew Mason.
- L Plain Turning Competition (Junior):**  
for members of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain; Gold Medal: Macaulay Watkins; Silver Medal: Thomas Streeter; Bronze Medal: Matt Underwood.
- M Bert Marsh Plain Turning Competition (Novice):** for members of the Turners' Company; 1st Prize: Andrew Mayer; 2nd Prize: Gerry Thwaites.
- N Bert Marsh Plain Turning Competition (Open):** for members of the Turners' Company; 1st Prize: Patricia Spero; 2nd Prize: David Batchelor.

Photographs of the winning entries are shown on the following two pages. All the placed entries are shown on the Turners' Company website: [turnersco.com/turning-competitions-2016](http://turnersco.com/turning-competitions-2016)



A



D



B



E



C



G



**F**



**K**



**N**



**L**



**H**

**WINNERS 2016 TURNERS' COMPANY COMPETITIONS**

- A** Master's Open Competition (Plain turning);  
1st Prize: Colin Priddy
- B** Master's Open Competition (Ornamental turning);  
1st Prize: Paul Coker
- C** Felix Levy Open Competition;  
1st Prize: Andrew Mason
- D** Open Themed Competition (Great Fire of London);  
1st Prize: Louise Hibbert
- E** Ray Key Competition; 1st Prize: Thomas Streefer
- F** Lady Gertude Crawford Competition;  
Gold Medal: Richard Hoodless
- G** Fred Howe Competition;  
Gold Medal: Peter Johnson
- H** HE Twentyman Competition;  
Silver Medal: Maggie Wright
- J** Polelathe Turning Competition;  
Gold Medal: Terence McSweeney
- K** AWGB Plain Turning Competition (Senior);  
Gold Medal: Darren Breeze
- L** AWGB Plain Turning Competition (Junior);  
Gold Medal: Macaulay Watkins
- M** Bert Marsh Plain Turning Competition (Novice);  
1st Prize: Andrew Mayer
- N** Bert Marsh Plain Turning Competition (Open);  
1st Prize: Patricia Spero



**J**



**M**

# LONDON TURNERS AND THEIR WOODWIND HERITAGE

**With the museum of Henry VIII's flagship, Mary Rose, opening in July 2016 we can now see that men on board in Tudor times were not short of musical entertainment.**

Amongst the exhibits are three-hole pipes, tabor (drum), fiddles, and a shawm. From medieval times the bodies of pipes, recorders and shawms were all made by turning.

Perhaps the oldest known visual representation of the English turners' craft can be seen in a carving of a shepherd playing the recorder in the Minstrels' Gallery of Exeter Cathedral and dated accurately at around 1350.



A 16th century painting of angels playing shawms

Shawms are of ancient origin and were imported from the Islamic East around the time of the Crusades. The instrument is a conical bore, double-reed wind instrument made in Europe from the 12th century up to the present day.

It is turned from a single piece of wood and terminates in a flared bell akin to a trumpet but sounding softly, and remarkably like, a modern saxophone.

The Baroque musical period (1600 – 1750) was a period of great economic, political and social change in Europe. It also saw the grant of Royal Charters to the Musicians' Company (No.50) and the Turners' Company (No.51) – both in 1604.



Woodwind instruments found on the Mary Rose

Recent academic work has uncovered the remarkable role of London turners in making woodwind instruments in these times.

Flute Maker William Shaw, Master of the Turners' Company in 1635, apprenticed his son William Shaw Junior, William Lowen and William Whitehill – all of whom went on to become distinguished woodwind instrument makers in their own right. These in turn apprenticed notable woodwind makers by the names of Bradbury, Carter, Debnam, Drumbleby, Garrett, Godney, Hall, Keene, Stanesby Senior and Smith – all Turners. This was the Early English Woodwind School.

For almost two centuries London woodwind instrument manufacture was dominated by a network of over one hundred and forty London turners.

William Shaw's apprentice William Whitehill went on to become Master of the Turners' Company in 1687. He in turn was succeeded by Thomas Stanesby Junior, Master of the Company in 1739, who created the famous contrabassoons used for the London performance of Handel's Water Music.





The Palisander Quartet, which played on traditional instruments at the Turners' Company 2015 Ladies' Dinner

In the Classical music period (1750 – 1830) we see perhaps London's most famous woodwind maker and turner in Richard Potter. He founded his own musical instrument making business in Fleet Street in 1745, became Master of the Turners' Company in 1782, and created his own Patent Flute.

Richard's second son, William Henry Potter, born in 1760, was apprenticed as a turner to his father in 1774, joined the family musical instrument business and became Master of the Turners' Company in 1805, 23 years after his father.

He continued the family business after his father's death, retired in 1837 and dying unmarried in 1848, left a fortune for the day of over £30,000.

Richard Potter's eldest son Richard Huddleston Potter was born in 1755; he did not manufacture but he played the flute and became an accomplished concert musician. He was also a violinist, an outstanding piano teacher – and the organist at nearby St Bride's Church in Fleet Street, from 1782 until his death in 1821.



A Richard Potter Flute in the V&A Collection

Richard Huddleston married Charlotte Baumgarten the daughter of Samuel Baumgarten, a celebrated bassoon player of his day, at St Bride's Church on 28 January 1783 in the presence of his father Richard – still in his year of office as Master of the Turners' Company. Quite coincidentally, St Bride's became the Patronal Church of the Turners' Company in 1987.

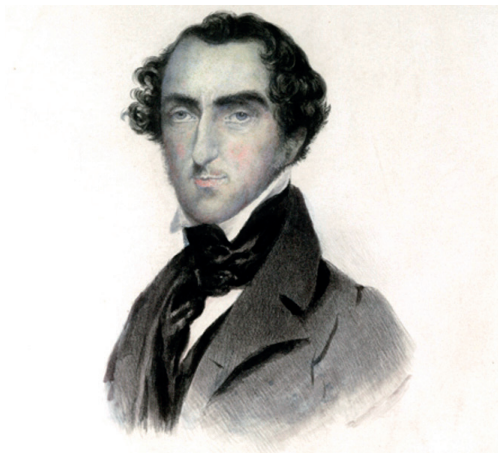
Richard Huddleston Potter had seven children, the youngest of whom, George William Killett Potter (1798 – 1871), was Master of the Turners' Company three times – in 1850, 1859 and 1869, some 70 years after his grandfather Richard Potter.

continued on the next page

# LONDON TURNERS AND THEIR WOODWIND HERITAGE

Musician Richard Huddleston's fifth child and third son was Philip Cipriani Hambley Potter (1792 – 1871) a leading composer and pianist of his day.

Philip Cipriani Potter knew Beethoven, composed many orchestral works, including twelve symphonies, and famously performed the English premiers of Beethoven's 1st, 3rd and 4th Piano Concertos.



Cipriani Potter

The high point of Drawing Room woodwind playing may have been cited as the period 1680 – 1715 but the woodwind tradition is alive and well in the United Kingdom today.

The country can be proud of its hundreds of orchestras and a myriad of adult and junior groups and ensembles.

One such group, originating out of the London Guildhall School of Music, performed magnificently at the 2015 Turners' Company Ladies' Dinner.

The Palisander Quartet, led by Caoimhe de Paor, played pieces from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic Eras - moving gracefully around Apothecaries' Hall as woodwind musicians have done for centuries.

A number of craft woodwind musical instrument makers flourish in the United Kingdom today. A glimpse at their internet presence shows



Small pipes made by woodturner Simon Hope

Anthony Arnold, Dominic Ball, Phil Bleazey, Cambridge Woodwind Makers, Brian Carlick, Tim Cranmore, Martin Doyle, Hansons, Howarth & Co., Peter Hurd, and Paul Windridge.

And of course no reference to woodwind manufacture would be complete without paying tribute to the small pipes crafted by professional turner Simon Hope. Simon is not only a small-pipe maker but an outstanding turning demonstrator and a good friend of the Turners' Company.

**John Bridgeman CBE TD DL**  
(Master Turner 2014–15)

The full version of this article can be read on the Turners' Company website:  
[turnersco.com/london-turners-and-woodwind-heritage](http://turnersco.com/london-turners-and-woodwind-heritage)



Jack Darach is one of Britain's leading young woodwind instrument makers. Based in Brighton, Jack was awarded the QEST (Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust), Turners' Livery Company Prize for 2016.

Even though England used to be a European centre of excellence of woodwind instrument manufacture, there are no woodwind instrument craft courses available in the UK in 2016.

Jack's Scholarship will give him the chance to study under internationally recognised English Recorder makers such as Tim Cranmore in England and Tom Prescott in the United States.

At the Turners' Livery Lunch on 28th September 2016 Jack played a delightful instrumental solo on his own, beautifully crafted, Ganassi Recorder as the Master and Wardens of the Company processed into Apothecaries' Livery Hall.

Jack played music by Jacob van Eyck (1590 – 1657), a celebrated Dutch nobleman and musician who produced the most work for solo woodwind instruments in European history. Jacob van Eyck was born blind and his brilliant work was dictated rather than being written down by the composer himself.



A selection of Ganassi recorders made by Jack Darach

## QEST SCHOLARSHIPS

In 1990 the Royal Warrant Holders Association created a scholarship fund to help promising craftsmen to develop their skills by working with masters of their craft.

Since then over four hundred scholars and apprentices have been supported by QEST.

In 2012, Turners' Company Liveryman Joey Richardson received a QEST/Carpenters' Company scholarship. In 2015 she was awarded the prestigious QEST Award of Excellence

[www.qest.org.uk](http://www.qest.org.uk)

## REME AND THE TURNERS' COMPANY



Master Turner, Nicholas Somers, with the prize winners

As crafts developed in support of their military operations, medieval armies travelled with Armourers and Smiths, Bowyers and Fletchers, Farriers, Loriners and Saddlers, Carpenters and Wheelwrights – and Turners.

These were the military crafts which were the forebears of REME, the Army's Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers - *'keeping the punch in the Army's fist'*.

We now know that when Henry V's expeditionary force set sail for Agincourt in 1415 there were one hundred and twenty Carpenters and Turners on board, together with a Master Carpenter and a Master Turner.

In February 1943 REME's Major-General Eric Rowcroft, Founding Army Director of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, was presented with the Honorary Freedom of the Turners' Company together with a fine silver porringer and cover for the Headquarters Mess of the Corps.

The inside lip is inscribed "*Ex dono the Worshipful Company of Turners of London to the Corps of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers on its formation under Royal Warrant 22nd May 1942*" followed by the Company's motto "*By faith I obteigne*".

The hope expressed was that the Turners' Company could bring some additional tradition and historical background to the Corps as well as sharing the emphasis it places on the maintenance of skills in modern craftsmanship.

In December 1952 the Lord Mayor suggested that City Livery Companies should revive the tradition whereby from Elizabethan times they were linked with the "trained bands", the forerunners of the Reserve Forces of today.

The Turners' Court of Assistants saw this as an opportunity to forge a still closer link with the Corps and it was agreed to present a new Turners' Company Shield for craftsmanship.

The Shield is competed for annually with the object of encouraging the individual skill and workmanship so essential in a craftsmen's Corps.

Latterly it has been presented as the Winner's Trophy for the multi-disciplinary Force Troops' Exercise *Griffin Spanner* and in May 2016 was presented by the current Master of the Company, Nicholas Somers, to 159 Coy (101 Bn) REME.

The Company's links with REME have been strengthened over the years by election to the Livery of many senior officers including Major Generals Sir Leslie Tyler, Sir Leonard Atkinson, Peter Girling, Christopher Tyler, Dennis Shaw and Tim Tyler.

Former REME Officers who have served as Masters of the Company have been Major General Sir Leslie Tyler, Major General Sir Leonard Atkinson, Lt Edward Sawney, Major General Christopher Tyler, Colonel Robert Lucas, Major Peter Ellis, Colonel Peter Gibson and Colonel John Bridgeman.

An additional Competition for Overall Excellence in REME, open to all units, was initiated in 2003 with the prize first awarded at the 2004 Company's Ladies' Dinner.



Lt-Col Daryl Hirst of 8 Training Bn REME receiving the Turners' Company Wassail Bowl from the then Master Turner Nicholas Edwards, April 2016

**“The links between REME and the Worshipful Company of Turners date back over many years. Our Armourers and Artificer Weapons particularly, but each REME trade, share some of the technical skills of both the Turners' Company's ancestors and today's practising turners.**

**We share a common bond of friendship and engineering expertise.**

**The generous support provided to the Corps by the Worshipful Company of Turners, especially to Exercise Griffin Spanner, and through the annual award of prizes will ensure our common links continue to strengthen and last into the future.”**

#### **Colonel REME, Dan Scott**

Every year since then the Company has presented a perpetual trophy in the form of a magnificent lignum vitae Wassail Bowl as well as a small permanent memento demonstrating fine turning. The current holder (2016) of the Wassail Bowl is 8 Training Bn REME.

In 2013 Liveryman Turner Alderman Fiona Woolf became Lord Mayor of London and, to support her, the Company and REME worked together to stage a joint float – and the longest and heaviest in the whole show.

The Turners' Company's relationship with REME continues to develop. A Turners' Military Liaison Committee includes Corps and Livery Company representatives with Colonel REME sitting ex officio. The Committee's Chairman is Liveryman Colonel Andy Ewens, late REME, and it meets regularly to plan activities and events of mutual benefit and enjoyment.

**Colonel John Bridgeman CBE TD DL, late REME, (Master Turner 2014–15)**

The full version of this article can be read on the Turners' Company website: [turnersco.com/rem-e-and-the-turners-company](http://turnersco.com/rem-e-and-the-turners-company)

# WELCOME TO NEW LIVERYMEN OF THE TURNERS' COMPANY IN 2016



## **Lex Agathangelou, Liveryman**

Born in London, Lex joined the Regular Army in 1986 into the Corps of Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers (REME) and attended Princess Marina College.

His initial posting was to the 2nd Bn Scots Guards in 1988 where he served in Canada, Belize and in Londonderry. In 1992 he moved to the 1st Bn Devonshire and Dorset Regiment where he served in Germany, Canada, Poland, Belfast and Bosnia.

On leaving Regular service in 1997, he joined the TA REME, where he has since served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Uganda, Botswana and Kenya. Promoted to Lt Col in 2011, Lex commanded 103 Bn REME from Feb 2014 to August 2016. His current role is Deputy President of the Army Officer Selection Board, part of the Sandhurst Group.

In 1997 Lex earned a bachelor's degree in Engineering with First Class Honours. He then attended University College London in 2000 where he gained a master's degree in Telecommunications. In 2000 he became a Chartered Engineer with the Engineering Council. He is also a Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute and a Fellow of the Association for Project Management. In his civilian career he is Director, Business Integration at Interoute, a global Telecommunications company.

Lex is a keen shot, long distance runner, traveller, scuba diver and snowboarder. He lives in London with his wife, Monique, their children Sienna and Ashton and their Hungarian Vizsla, Delta.



## **Ismael Assenje, Liveryman**

Born in North London, Finsbury Park, Ismael spent his childhood years in Mauritius, attending primary and a secondary French schools. He returned to London in 1986 with his family when

he was fourteen. He read Computer Science at the University of North London.

In 1996 before the property market boomed, he purchased his first house. Twenty years later he has built a small portfolio of properties which he manages. He has also undertaken a number of renovation projects.

Previously married with no children, he is currently engaged to his South African partner, the love of his life being his nephew Zayn and niece Nya who are five and two.

He travels a lot and goes to Mauritius two to three times a year, to spend time with his retired father who lives there. The most memorable place he has visited is Cape Town.

Recently, he started collecting antique books and he also collects beautifully crafted Swiss watches. He keeps physically fit, as he strongly believes in a healthy lifestyle.

He has recently started piano lessons which helps him unwind and he also enjoys the occasional rock climb.

He has been a Mason for almost sixteen years, raising money for a number of charities. He is the Secretary of his Chapter and is very active Masonically. He was introduced into the Turners' Company by Fred Bain.



### **John Khan, Liveryman**

John is a Co-Founder and the Chief Technology Officer at Microquery Limited, that specialises in information management, search, retrieval and data migration

technologies, and largely involved in the energy (oil and gas) and government sectors.

He has more than fifteen years of commercial IT experience, mainly in software development and management. He is responsible for overseeing current technology and creating relevant policy as well as monitoring technology and social trends that could impact the company. John supervises the technical unit of the company and reports directly to the CEO. He communicates the company's technology strategy to partners, management, investors and employees. He maintains current information about technology standards and compliance regulations.

He has a bachelor's degree in Computer Science from the University of Mumbai, a master's degree in Software Engineering from Queen Mary University of London, and has read Management, Business Skills, and Project Management at Oxford University.

John is a fellow of the Institution of Analysts and Programmers, British Computer Society and Association for Information and Image Management.

He is married and lives in London with his wife and their sons and in his free time he likes to spend time with his family. He is also passionate about target shooting and regularly participates in the clay pigeon shooting events.



### **Gabor Lakko, Liveryman**

Gabor was born in Hungary. He was educated at the Budapest Technical University reading Electrical Engineering and Industrial Economics. In 1956 during the Hungarian Revolution

he moved to England. He worked for Metropolitan Vickers and Advance Electronics. In 1979, having been made redundant after a US takeover, he started his own company, Magnaquest Ltd.

After his retirement in 1991 he worked with the Graduate Lathe Company and originated the double right hand threaded lathe spindle which became the industry standard. He started turning wood in 1959.

About ten years ago he started his collaboration with Patricia Spero. Their work can be found in many galleries both in the UK and in the USA.

He is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineering and Technology, the Institute of Operations Management and the Chartered Management Institute. Gabor is also a Livery member of the Worshipful Company of Scientific Instrument Makers. He is on the Register of Professional Turners.

Gabor writes for woodturning magazines both in the UK and the US and with his partner Patricia he gives presentations on their work and on woodturning techniques.

## WELCOME TO NEW FREEMAN & OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TURNERS' COMPANY IN 2016



### **Rebecca Marie, Freeman**

Rebecca joined the Freedom of the Turners' Company having spent five years as an apprentice to her grandfather, Past Master Peter Gibson. Her father, Lt Col Paul Marie, is serving in REME as did her

grandfather. She attended Clayesmore School.

Although turning has had to take a back seat recently due to demands for time from studying and from work, Rebecca is a keen turner who has been lucky enough to have turning lessons from Stuart Mortimer and Les Thorne.

She has also attended several of Stuart's Young Turners' training courses where she learnt that she particularly enjoys making pens.

Rebecca is currently an undergraduate student with the Open University, while working part-time in a craft centre's tearoom in Hampshire.

She is about half-way through a degree in natural sciences with a focus on physics, and takes particular interest in quantum physics and particle physics.

She is not sure where this degree will take her in the end, but as long as she is using physics and maths she will be happy!



### **Alexandra Neill, Freeman**

Alexandra became a Freeman of the Turners through Patrimony. Her family have had a long involvement in the Turners' Company, dating back to her great grandfather who

was a Master. More recently her grandfather, Sir Brian Neill, was Master 1980-1981 and her father, Andrew Neill is currently the Upper Warden. Her grandfather, who is Father of the Turners' Company, was her sponsor earlier this year.

Alexandra has recently qualified as an architect, studying at both the University of Manchester and the University of Westminster. She has been working in London for the past few years at Wilkinson Eyre Architects. As an architect she thinks that it is important to understand the nature of materials and also encourages the use and advancement of sustainable materials. Her most recent project is in the City of London, which felt like a fitting time to join the Company.

Alongside architecture Alexandra also shares her family's passion for sailing. She grew up spending her summers on the Isle of Wight and still tries to go there and spend as much time as possible on the water.

Her first involvement with the Turners' Company was a good few years ago as a child on the Company's Float at the Lord Mayor's Show.

Since then she has had the pleasure of meeting a great range of people at social events, exhibitions and demonstrations. She completed a turning weekend at the Max Carey Trust which has sparked her interest in turning. She looks forward to getting more involved with the Company over the coming years.





### **Simon Walsh, Freeman**

Simon was educated in Taunton and then at the University of Manchester, where he read languages and politics (a link to Bill then Penrose Halson). He is a specialist in corporate communications,

currently working on international business for the Libra Group.

He began his career in corporate finance, before moved into consultancy; most recently with Bell Pottinger, during which time he advised national governments, global corporations and numerous charities on strategic communications and reputation management.

A keen traveller, and member of the Travellers Club, Simon speaks French, Spanish and Italian and likes to practise them as often as possible, even finding outlets in food, wine, music, art and culture.

He is involved with the National Theatre, the Royal Opera House, the Tate Gallery and the National Gallery. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Member of the Chartered Institute of Public Relations.

In July 2016, Simon was ordained by the Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, to serve as a non-stipendiary curate at St Anne's Highgate. He trained for the ministry at St Mellitus College, London, and the University of Durham. Education is another passion.

In addition to alumni support at Manchester, he chairs the Trust Board of the St Mary Magdalene Academy in Islington, and is a former Scout Association trustee. An interest in wood stems from his beloved late grandfather, who was a pattern maker in Devon.

## **THE TURNERS' COMPANY ALSO WELCOMED IN 2016:**

### **NEW FREEMEN**

Nick Agar  
Derek Edwards  
Kevin Hearty  
Sarah Roth  
Shaun Stacey  
Katherine Tasker

### **NEW LIVERYMEN**

Ian Adkins  
Robert Edwards  
Matthew Altass  
Barry Laws  
Peter Simpson  
Michael Windsor

### **NEW COURT ASSISTANT**

Christopher Scott

### **NEW FATHER OF THE COMPANY**

Sir Brian Neill

## TURNERS' COMPANY PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION



The Company Photograph Library was started in 2013 in order to provide an easily accessible archive of the Company's recent history, in pictorial form. The initial results of the library formation can be found on-line through the Company website, or directly on:

[turners-company.smugmug.com](http://turners-company.smugmug.com)  
(Password: Wizardry)

Although the formation of the Library is progressing well, the work involved in populating the SmugMug hosting site takes considerable time and effort.

The Librarian has collected together many digital photographs of the Company's formal events, as well as a few of the informal events. There is a severe shortage, however, of pre-digital traditional photographs.

Past Master Penrose Halson has generously donated a large number of photographs while others have loaned two or three items for digitisation. In general, though, we have very few photographs taken prior to the current century.

The photograph collection is indexed by topic: Charity, City Events, Company Events, Craft, Historical, People, Miscellaneous and Video Clips. Within each topic, there are various sub-groupings. Within Company Events, for example, the sub-folders are Receptions, Livery Dinners, Ladies' Dinners and Gardner Williams Dinners.

It is hard to believe that photographs of events prior to 2000 do not exist in individual's photograph albums. The Photographic Librarian would be most grateful if Company Members, Past Masters in particular, could search their cupboards and attics for photographs that they are prepared to donate, or loan for copying.

The 'People' topic contains a gallery of photographs of many current members of the Company. Sadly this gallery is, as yet, incomplete and many of the photographs are of poor quality.

Company Members are requested to forward suitable photographs of themselves for inclusion in this gallery. If your photograph appears, and you are happy with it, no action is necessary.

An example of one of the few early photographs in the collection is shown above. It has clearly been taken at one of the Company's Competitions - but what is the piece and when was the competition? The Photographic Librarian would appreciate some help!

If any members of the Company have photographs – or information about photographs already in the Collection – please contact the Photographic Librarian, Past Master Peter Gibson.

Early in June 2016, forty five shooters from fourteen Livery companies (the Gunmakers' Company entered two teams!) took part in the annual City of London Livery Companies Rifle Shoot, organised by the Bakers' Company, at the Bisley ranges, near Pirbright in Surrey. Teams of three competed for the Bakers Trophy and to raise funds for the RAF Benevolent Fund.

This is the first time the Turners' Company has entered its own team, which comprised Freeman John Khan, Liveryman Derek Stimpson and the Master, Nic Somers.

Shooters had to tackle five different disciplines during the day. These included the unusual Running Boar, an old Olympic event where a moving target crosses in front at a distance (10 shots at 55 yards); Target Rifle, shooting at 900 yards using open sights (10 shots); Gallery Rifle (10 shots at 50 yards); Timed Rapid Fire Rifle, (5 bursts of 2 shots, each burst in 5 seconds); and Black Powder Pistol, using replica 19th century percussion cap revolvers (12 shots at 25 yards).

Liveryman Derek Stimpson shot magnificently, scoring 100 out of 100 on both the Black Powder Pistol and the Gallery Rifle disciplines.



Turners' Company Team member Derek Stimpson receiving his prize from Air Marshall Sir Chris Nickols



Turners' Company Team

Left to right: Freeman John Khan, Master Nic Somers and Liveryman Derek Stimpson

Derek eventually took 2nd place individually overall. Following a tense tie-break between the Clothworkers and the Gunmakers B team, the Gunmakers were eventually named the winners. The Turners' Company ended in a commendable 5th position!

The event, now in its third year, raised in the region of £10,000 for the RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity, which brings the total raised to more than £25,000. Prizes were presented by Air Marshall Sir Chris Nickols, the RAF Benevolent Fund Controller.

Huge thanks go to Organiser Colin Sach, Past Master Baker (2013/14), the RAF Target Rifle Team, who put together the event, provided the coaches, and not least breakfast, lunch and tea and the British Sporting Rifle Club who donated the use of their range.

**Nicholas Somers**  
Master

*Editor's Note:* Nic Somers is keen that the Turners' Company should enter at least two teams in next June's competition. Therefore, if you enjoy shooting rifles and would like to join the rifle shooting team at the 2017 event, please email: [fred.bain@revealservices.co.uk](mailto:fred.bain@revealservices.co.uk)

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