

Master's Letter – Worshipful Company of Turners

Andy Ewens, Master 2025/26

It is an immense honour to have been confirmed as Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners at our Election Court on 29th May 2025.

My first encounter with the Company and the wider Livery movement was in 1990, when I was a subaltern in REME TA and led a team in an annual military and technical skills competition. At the prize-giving ceremony, a group of interesting characters in lavish blue gowns and spectacular regalia presented the awards. That moment left a lasting impression.

With a young family, a civilian career as an engineer in the energy industry, and ongoing military commitments, it took some time before I could consider joining the Company. In 2004, I was appointed Colonel REME TA. By then, I had come to appreciate the deep links between the Company and the Corps and resolved—if they would have me—that this was an organisation I wanted to be part of. I have not been disappointed. The values we hold dear—duty, loyalty, care, charity, respect, camaraderie, and tradition—mean a great deal to me, and I have seen them in abundance over the years.

I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to serve as Master, and I commit to upholding the values and traditions that define the Company, while also looking confidently to the future.

The year ahead promises to be personally rewarding, and I hope to leave something of enduring value behind. I could not have reached this point without the support and encouragement of my colleagues on the Court and the wider Livery. There are too many to name individually, but I must extend particular thanks to my predecessor—and now our Deputy Master—Christopher Scott. Christopher has been instrumental in guiding me through my journey on the Court and preparing me for the Committees that underpin the day-to-day life of the Company. His advice has always been thoughtful, well-intentioned, and grounded in a deep knowledge of the Company, the Livery, and the craft. At the same time, he has encouraged me to stay true to my own values and aspirations. I hope to build on his legacy and those of other Past Masters, many of whom I am fortunate to count as friends.

My focus this year will reflect both our heritage and our future, centred around three key pillars: Culture, Craft, and Community.

Culture

Our culture is steeped in tradition—not only within the Turners' Company but also within the broader Livery movement in the City of London. We are custodians of a history that stretches back over six centuries. The Guild of Turners was a key part of the City from the 14th century, and on 12th June 2025, we celebrated the 421st anniversary of the granting of our Royal Charter by James I.

This history is important and exerts a powerful influence on the Company. But culture cannot remain static. For our Livery Company to thrive in the 21st century, we must embrace change while honouring our foundations. Respecting our traditions and values, while adapting to new challenges and opportunities, will be a constant theme of my year.

Craft

If there is one thing that defines us above all else, it is the craft of woodturning—arguably the reason we exist. One of the wonderful things about the craft is its accessibility. Our relationships with organisations representing woodturners at all levels across the country are vital, and I feel so strongly about these connections that I will list them here:

- [Register of Professional Turners](#)
- [Association of Woodturners of Great Britain](#)
- [Association of Pole Lathe Turners and Green Woodworkers](#)
- [Society of Ornamental Turners](#)

Our commitment to the craft will be showcased this year with our flagship quadrennial event: Wizardry in Wood. The very best of the craft—and all that we do to support the mystery and mastery of turning—will be on show. Please put the dates in your diary: [28th to 31st October 2025 at Plaisterers' Hall](#).

Community

We are all individuals with unique strengths and skills, but when we come together, we create something greater than the sum of our parts. That is what I mean by Community.

It is from community that we derive the cohesion, camaraderie, and shared purpose that bind us. Our charitable work sits firmly in this space. Each of us can make an individual impact—but collectively, through our contributions to the Turners' charitable trust and other causes, and through the time we dedicate to service, we can do so much more.

This area also connects naturally to the others. Our culture shapes the communities we are part of, and one could even view the Craft as a community in itself.

My Mission

In summary, my mission for my Master's year is:

*Celebrating the Worshipful Company of Turners and our shared bonds —
championing the mystery and mastery of the turner's craft, honouring our
heritage, enriching our present, and shaping a future together.*

There is much to look forward to in the year ahead. The highlight will be Wizardry in Wood, and I am excited by the opportunity to show the City—and our visitors from across the UK and beyond—what a vibrant and varied craft woodturning is. Through our programme of formal and informal social events, we will also continue to demonstrate that we are a warm, welcoming, and friendly Company.

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Lwa', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Master 2025/26