



# ORBIT

The Newsletter of the **Register of Professional Turners**  
Supported by the Worshipful Company of Turners of London



Welcome to  
your newsletter's  
new format.

## From Les Symonds—your new editor

Hello, and welcome to the new format of the RPT newsletter. You may have noticed the name of “Orbit” above, well, that’s not necessarily going to be the newsletter’s name; we’d far rather have a name chosen by the members of The Register, so do please put your thinking caps on and come up with one; pass it on to The Chairman or to me and we’ll make the final choice a democratic one.

Now a short introduction to me. I live and work in the town of Bala, in the beautiful Snowdonia National Park, in North Wales. I’m a fairly new member, having commenced turning just a little over six years ago and having joined the RPT in February of 2016. I have my own little shop in Bala, where I sell most of my work and where I have a small studio workshop so that tourists can sometimes see me working, although the bulk of my turning is done at home in my main workshop, where I also teach wood-turning, one or two days per week.



I’m a retired adult education-teacher from the Special Needs field, and I enjoy writing, hence my willingness to volunteer as your newsletter editor. I also write articles for GMC Publishing’s “Woodturning” magazine on a regular basis.

That’s enough about me...in future, we want to make your newsletter an interactive publication where you, the members, can give voice to your news, your concerns and your ideas for the future. So please get in touch and let us know about things in your field of woodturning...without your news, there cannot be a newsletter!



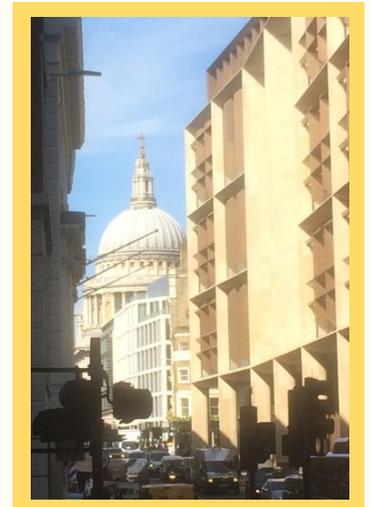
The 2019 AGM  
and  
Craft Meeting  
Skinners Hall  
23rd March 2019

## From the Chairman

The Annual General Meeting was very well attended and all who I have spoken to since have said how much they enjoyed the meeting, there were also comments that the food was exceptionally good this time. We covered a lot of ground at the AGM and sorted out a few things including clearing the air on a couple of points.

I am pleased to report that since then the committee has held a meeting via email. Trying to arrange a meeting where all the dates are conducive to everyone can be a bit of a trial and on this occasion it was particularly difficult, but a meeting had to be held. This is not something I anticipate doing on a regular basis and no major decisions were taken but it served its purpose. The next committee meeting will be held in June and so if any of our members need to raise something please let a committee member know in plenty of time.

The membership committee has been busy arranging and conducting assessments for new members who hopefully will attend the meeting in London next year. Unfortunately some of those we interview are not considered suitable for membership at the time of assessment and so in some instances arrangements are made to help them come in line with our requirements, I would like to thank all of those members who are taking prospective members under their wings and mentoring them in order that they will eventually meet our standards; you know who you are and you are doing not only the RPT a great service but also British woodturning as a whole . Well done!



I realise that it is hard work running your own business and trying to fit in demonstrating or teaching time in-between personal life and playing your part in your families, but I would ask you all to please consider joining the committee; without committee members the RPT will cease to exist. We urgently need a lady member on the committee to properly represent our lady members but we are also in need of gentlemen committee members too. You do not have to sign up for years on end, indeed it would make life easier for all of us if we all just did 2 or 3 years and then allow some others to take our place. That would ensure that new fresh ideas continue to keep the RPT at the cutting edge of woodturning in this country. If you are unsure what it will involve please either email me or feel free to give me a call one evening and we can discuss it and how we could use you.

I sit writing this to send to our new newsletter Editor Les Symonds. Due to the length of time it would take Les to get to London for committee meetings it was decided that he would take up the role in a volunteer capacity rather than committee member capacity, we are pleased that he has agreed to run the newsletter and we wish him all of the success that Patricia had when she was running it.

John R Boyne-Aitken,

Chairman RPT

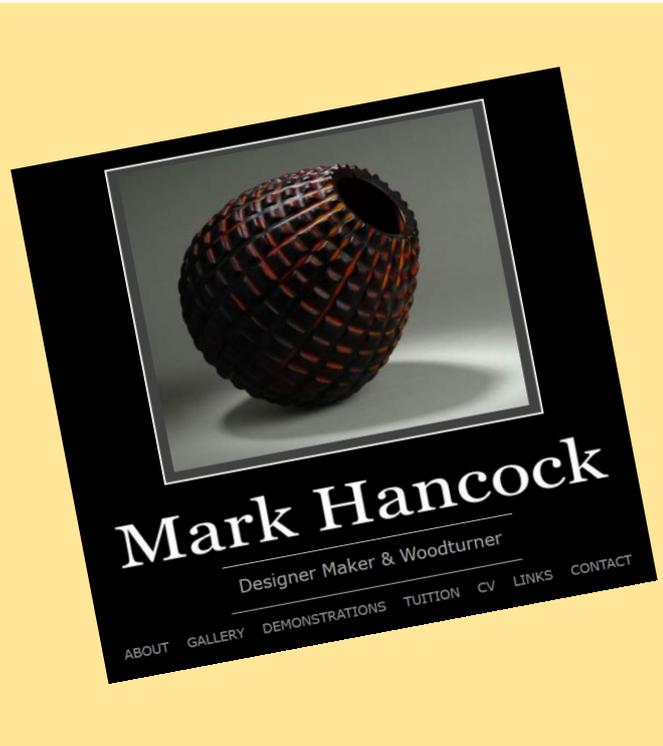


WWW—watch!

As a new feature and on a regular basis, we'll be taking a look at 2 websites worth viewing, one will be that of a member, whilst the other will not!

### One of our members....

<http://www.markhancock.co.uk>



This month we are featuring the web site of Mark Hancock, an established member who tells me that his website may well be undergoing changes in the near future, as his current professional emphasis is linked to his teaching, more so than his making. What draws me to this site is the striking image on the home page and the stark simplicity of the black and/or white backgrounds; it makes the viewer concentrate on the content, rather than upon the frame. I hope that when Mark updates site, he keeps the format that I like so much.

### ...and one that's not.

<https://www.simonbeggswoodturning.com>

I've admired Simon's work for some time, mostly through his presence on social media and more recently, through his website, which has a key feature in common with that of Mark's, and that's the clean simplicity of it.

Each of these sites is worth looking up and I hope that you enjoy them. Meanwhile, if you know of a site that we could feature, do please let me know.





## Members' News

In this feature, we'll take a brief look at important issues concerning at least one of our members each quarter.

### Darren Wheeler RPT

Darren is a Wiltshire man, a Moonraker, now based near Melbury Hill in the rolling Jurassic Dorset countryside. Some of us will be familiar with his flame-like sculptures of delicately shaped and sometimes-pierced fronds rising from sturdy little plinths, but these flame-like fronds were to prove too portentous for comfort for Darren!

Back in February of this year, Darren embarked upon a new venture, setting up a new workshop, which for all of us usually signals happy and exciting times as we see our plans turn into reality; however, for Darren these plans were all too soon greeted by a reality that none of us would wish to face! On the evening of Easter Sunday a fire broke out in a neighbouring property and soon spread to Darren's workshop, where the fit-out was nearing completion.

Darren had arranged insurance for many aspects of his new venture, but, as the fit-out was still under way, contents insurance was one of those to-do tasks that awaited the hard facts of contents value before sufficient cover could be arranged—I'm sure that's a scenario

familiar to many of us!



It would be all too easy, and indeed forgivable, for Darren to have been utterly despondent at such events, but Moonrakers are made of sterner stuff and once the initial shock of the fire was overcome, Darren set about rebuilding his life - the good news is that he was amongst friends who came to the rescue! Support, both financial and moral, flooded in from near and far, indeed, from his own little village to the extremities of the UK and as I write this account Darren already has his first post-fire event completed, having acquired a new lathe with which he demonstrated his skills at the recent "Sculpture by the Lakes" event.

Darren is a survivor and he will regain the ground that he has lost, but most of all he wants us to learn from his misfortune. I am sure that we all wish him the very best of luck for the future

<http://darrenwheeler.me.uk/wp/>



## Bursary Awards 2019

Entries are in!

WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS'  
BURSARY AWARDS 2019

Take your turning to the next level



Entries for the 2019 Bursary Award were due in by 17th May, so we wish the very best of luck to those who lodged their applications on time. I look forward to hearing more about the entries and sharing that news with you in due course.



New member  
profile

A quick look at one of our new members....we will try to introduce each new member at some point throughout the year.



### Martin Saban-Smith RPT

One of the new members introduced to us at the 2019 AGM, was Martin Saban Smith, who most of us will have heard from for his YouTube presence, or perhaps for his range of wood finishes. Later this month, Martin will be making the 50+ bicycle ride from London to Brighton in aid of the British Heart Foundation, I am sure you'll all join me in wishing him all the best and a good-fitting saddle!

I posed 5 questions to Martin....let's see what he replied!

*A...What do you hope to gain by becoming a member of the RPT?*

*B...In what way do you feel that the RPT can benefit from your membership?*

*C...What do you feel has been your finest achievement in the field of woodturning?*

*D...and what is your finest achievement outside the field of woodturning?*

*E...What changes, if any, would you like to see in the RPT?*

**Email:** [sales@hampshiresheen.com](mailto:sales@hampshiresheen.com)

**Websites:** [www.msabansmith.com](http://www.msabansmith.com) | [www.hampshiresheen.com](http://www.hampshiresheen.com)

**YouTube:** [www.youtube.com/c/MSabanSmithWoodturning](http://www.youtube.com/c/MSabanSmithWoodturning)

**Facebook Group:** [www.facebook.com/groups/gritandsheen/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/gritandsheen/)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/msabansmith](http://www.facebook.com/msabansmith) | [www.facebook.com/hampshiresheen](http://www.facebook.com/hampshiresheen)



That's all!

**Instagram:** [www.instagram.com/msabansmith](http://www.instagram.com/msabansmith) | [www.instagram.com/hampshiresheen](http://www.instagram.com/hampshiresheen)

[www.instagram.com/msabansmith](http://www.instagram.com/msabansmith) | [www.instagram.com/hampshiresheen](http://www.instagram.com/hampshiresheen)