



# ORBIT

## Annual General Meeting

And

## Coronavirus Special Edition

The Newsletter of the Register of Professional Turners

Supported by the Worshipful Company of Turners of London



**AGM  
Special  
Edition**

### What's in a Name?

It was just six years ago when I joined the Register of Professional Turners and I knew just a few of you by name and a few less of you by sight, but one name that always stuck in my mind, and amused me somewhat, was that of "The Bowler Hatted Turner". I came to know our out-going Chairman in the same way that I came to know members such as Mark Sanger, Pete Moncrief Jury and George Foweraker; that being through the forum of the AWGB, and when I first realised where all those turners lived and worked, just for a while I thought that the south west of England must have been some sort of special Mecca for wood turners.

Over the years I have developed a healthy level of respect for John and for what he has done, not only for the Register of Professional Turners, but also for the craft of woodturning in general.

John's epithet of "The Bowler Hatted Turner" has clearly paved the way for



others to emulate and it seems that in these Covid-conscious days in which some of us are grappling with new ways of marketing and getting our names out there, more and more turners are emulating John's example. Well, being from Wales, perhaps I should re-brand myself as "The Leeky Turner", but then again, perhaps not!

John, my friend, I am pleased to have served you and your committee in my own little way. It has been a pleasure serving you and I look forward to serving your successor, but I'll wager that whoever that might be, he or she cannot sport a bowler hat in the way that you do.

Hats off to you, sir!

Les Symonds RPT...Newsletter Editor



In this special edition of the newsletter, we'll not only be looking at the Annual General Meeting, but also looking forward to Wizardry in Wood, as well as meeting our two new members in greater depth.



## Chairman's report for 2021 RPT AGM

I started writing this report on New Year's Eve. And after thinking back over the last 12 months I was sorely tempted to say that 2020 was cancelled and nothing happened, end of report! But actually things did happen since our last AGM.

Last year's AGM was put together in a bit of a rush as the country started to lockdown but we coped well and were able to hold a meeting that allowed the minimum business that needed to be conducted.

The impact of the pandemic on the nation's health has taken its toll, but as far as I know none of our members have died as a direct result of Covid-19, but as time went on I was made aware that it had started to affect some of our members, not only financially which was bad enough but also mentally. Discussions took place regarding the membership fees and whether we could offer a moratorium on the fees but it was felt that we were still offering the same benefits and the logistics of changing standing orders and then re-instating them once the pandemic was over did not bear thinking about and so other avenues were explored.

I am indebted to the Worshipful Company of Turners, the Master Melissa Scott, the Chairman of the Howe committee Christopher Scott and the Turners' Company Clerk Alex Robertson for the parts they played to secure a Zoom licence for the RPT. In the first instance as we were unable to travel to London it allowed us to hold committee meetings, so we could continue the business of the RPT but at a reduced cost to both the RPT and the committee members because instead of losing a full day through travelling there and back and holding the meeting we were able to just sit at our computers, start the meeting at the set time and two hours later, once the meeting ended we could go back to work. So a double edged sword, but secondly, it also allowed us to hold meetings where all of the RPT members were invited to attend. Some of these meetings were lively events with members from all over the country talking together for the very first time despite being members for many years. According to many of the emails that I received this was one of the greatest benefits of lockdown. Another direct benefit for our organisation is that it is now easier to be a committee member regardless of where in the country you live, so as long as you have access to the internet there is no longer a need to travel to London to attend committee meetings. So for those that in the past have said you cannot travel to London for meetings now is your chance to take part...or perhaps find another excuse. :)

I would like to suggest to the incoming chairman that we should purchase another 12 month Zoom contract as for a small outlay it saves the RPT in excess of a couple of thousand pounds and it is a good medium for contacting members and carrying out assessments.

We are also grateful to the Company for the "turning for good" initiative, this involved the Company buying our members work and that work will be sold for charity when some of the events are allowed to take place again. This was a way of helping our members financially in a manner that preserved their dignity which I know was appreciated by many.

Sadly, as the pandemic started to bite some of our senior members decided the time was right to pack away their tools for the last time and we had some resignations. These were not only stalwarts of our organisation but great ambassadors of our craft. And we wish them all a happy retirement. And so a new old guard continues to emerge.

During lockdown more and more people have taken up turning as a hobby which must be a good thing for the craft but also, as restrictions start to be eased there may well be more enquiries for tuition, after all you can only learn so much from Facebook! But judging from some of the horror stories I have heard during lockdown it won't be easy, but we are professionals and will point out the errors of their ways and make them into turners..... eventually. Despite lockdown we have continued to recruit new members throughout, and although it has been a bit of a



## The Annual General Meeting

### The Chairman's Report (continued)

challenge we have managed to conduct assessments via the internet. But I stress that these assessments have not been an easy route in for new members, indeed each have had to be assessed by all three members of the membership committee. As a result of this we are confident that standards have been maintained. When I add Mike's figures from when he took over from Philip to those dating back to the AGM in 2016 we have had 27 new members. Of these 5 applicants were not accepted following their assessment, however, we introduced an appeals system which allows for a second assessment to be carried out by different assessors, 3 of the previous 5 were reassessed 2 of whom were subsequently invited to join, this was either on appeal or by improving standards or addressing certain areas of their turning. I can also report that just recently another applicant was found not to meet our strict standards, so although we are in need of new members we are not taking those that are found to be wanting. But, it also shows that our appeals procedure works very well as some do get in on appeal but others do not.

On another positive note and again as a direct result of the pandemic, many of us have implemented changes to our businesses. Personally I admit that prior to Covid-19, despite the protestations of my son, to only playing with Live remote demonstrations and not taking a serious interest in it, but when the issue became forced, I, like many others, bit the bullet and started gathering and setting up the equipment required. This task was made a bit easier by the mini seminars that our webmaster, Martin Saban-Smith, conducted for us. He gave freely of his knowledge and I know that it helped a great many of us, mind you, it may well have convinced others not to go down that route, but either way through his help and guidance we were able to make educated decisions. Martin, as the Chairman of the RPT I would like to thank you officially and offer you a vote of thanks on behalf of the RPT.

IRD's or interactive remote demonstrations are, in my opinion, here to stay. But they are not without their own controversies, and in due course these will sort themselves out, new groups will be formed and there will be a general agreement on fees and formats. But through IRD's we now have access to the whole world of woodturning and we should consider how we want to use it to our best advantage, both as individual turners and as the Register of Professional Turners.

So this is my report nearly finished for the last 12 months. I think under the circumstances we have done very well but before I close I do wish to pay tribute to the members of the RPT management committee for the last year as, although they have kept their businesses going during lockdown, the same as most of us have done they have also found the time to keep the RPT going, so thank you for your commitment.

Andy Fortune the Vice-Chairman, Mike Wood the membership secretary, Martin Saban-Smith the webmaster, Andy Pickard the Feedback forms officer and Dave Willcocks as Secretary.

We have 2 other important members of the committee and they are Chris Scott who is the Chairman of the Howe committee and the RPT Treasurer who is also the Clerk to the Turners' Company. There is one more very important person that I would like to thank and that is Becca Baker. I asked Becca if she would send out the emails for the RPT zoom meetings, just to make sure that I did not fall foul of the GDPR regulations by sending everyone's email address to every other turner in the world and she has done that very graciously for me and much more besides so Becca please accept my thanks for that. I would also like to thank Les Symonds, who, after taking over from Patricia Spero 2 years ago has put his own stamp on the newsletter and turned it into the fine near quarterly magazine that drops into your inboxes. And of course we cannot forget Richard Findley who has been running the RPT Instagram account since I took over.

This concludes my final report as Chairman of the RPT however, with your indulgence I will make a closing statement at the end of this meeting.



## A Word From John

## Leaving speech

I remember very well the feeling of pride that I had when I was accepted into this magnificent organisation and I can recall feeling a bit overwhelmed when I realised that I was in the same organisation as the extremely talented turners sharing the room with me as I attended my first AGM at Apothecaries' hall. Who would have thought then that a few years later I would become the Chairman? And now, five years on I am ready to step down and pass the mantle to someone else.

They say that new brooms sweep clean, well as the new chairman at the time I wanted to put my stamp on the organisation. And I am pleased to say that the committee members that joined me on that journey were all as committed to the RPT as I was. This made my job easier because it meant that we were all pulling in the same direction and almost immediately we set about building up the RPT to what it is now. Having our own ideas and listening to members we quickly produced a list of things that we wanted to change to try to improve things for the members. At every committee meeting we could see that bit by bit we were reaching our goals. This spurred us on and renewed our determination to keep up this good work.

I will not bore you now with what we did but some of it was quite remarkable. But none of this was achieved by the committee alone, we were not afraid to ask for help or advice when we needed it and that help came in all forms, from members of the RPT and members of the Worshipful Company of Turners, to previous committee members, to members manning the stand at trade shows, giving health and safety guidance, proposing names for guest speakers, producing a business plan, writing articles for the newsletter, running the newsletter, running the Instagram account and countless other things, it all helped the RPT to progress. And there are too many names for me to mention, but you know who you are and what part you played so thank you to all those that have helped or offered your help over the past 5 years.

During the years of my tenure we have bade farewell to some of our friends and members who have earned their living at woodturning or have supported partners in their efforts to do so. I have to say the hardest part of being the chairman is listing the names of those that have passed each year even more so when you knew them personally. We know the standards that they upheld during their time as members and the best way we have of demonstrating the love and respect we have for them and showing that we still hold them in high regard is to maintain those standards to the best of our ability. On a positive note though, we have also welcomed new members to join us and so we have begun new friendships built on the fellowship that is peculiar to wood turners and our organisation in particular and long may those friendships last too.

As my time as Chairman of the RPT is drawing to a close and as this will probably be my last chance to talk to the organisation as a whole please forgive me if this is a bit long winded .

We assume that every chairman feels as passionately about the RPT as we do and that they become chairman for the best of reasons, and there may be some out there that reckon they could do a better job of running the organisation than the committee of the day but remember this, they are the ones that stepped up to help run it. Serving on the committee it is not an easy thing to do, and every committee will do things differently the same way as every chairman will run the RPT differently, but it is because of the devotion to the RPT and their donation of time that you should be ready to lend a hand when called upon to do so. It is not good enough to tell the person sitting next to you that there is a better way to do the job, your voice, as a member deserves to be heard so please speak directly to the chairman or members of the committee so that they can hear you clearly as you make suggestions, I can assure you that whoever they are, they will be more grateful for that than hearing it second hand.

I became the chairman that I thought I would like to see being in charge. I always fought the corner primarily for



## A Word From John—Leaving Speech

(Continued)

the organisation and then for individuals within the organisation that needed support. I tried to represent you in the best way I knew how and that was by putting on a professional front, being well turned out whenever I was on official RPT business and being firm but fair in some of the judgements that I was called to make. I even lobbied Parliament on your behalf. Through all this the reputation of the Register of Professional Turners was paramount. I took difficult decisions that resulted in some members deciding to leave but there was no way I was going to please everyone. During the recent upheaval in the country brought on by the Corona Virus I was pleased that, through the support that the Turners' Company gave to the RPT in the form of a zoom licence, we were able to reach out to more of our members than ever before, giving them moral support and a platform on which to share their experiences. I know this has served to bring the members of our organisation closer together and I know that some of you have shared out some of your work with those that have been short of work for the past few months, I have experience of this myself and I am grateful for it. This is what friendship and professionalism is all about and long may it last.

I am also grateful for the support that the Turners' Company have given our members through the "Turning for good" scheme. The purchase of items from our members has served to give us hope and lift our spirits as we look for the future we all want and which cannot now be far away.

But turning is about more than earning a living. It gives out benefits that many who do not turn are unaware of. Members of this organisation have helped with the youth training initiative that not only gives young people an insight into the world of creativity but as I have witnessed first-hand it has served to boost their confidence in the world and in their own ability, and I know that on more than one occasion it has helped some young people to gain employment. Wood turning is also being used to help some of this country's heroes, as they return from conflicts of war mentally and physically broken, woodturning demonstrates to them that there are no physical or mental barriers that cannot be overcome. We all know the therapeutic effect of turning wood and slowly the rest of the world is beginning to catch on.

I never thought that the last AGM I hosted would be held online. It is not the way I wanted my chairmanship to end but it is by far the best way to safeguard our members, some of which are still in the at risk groups. I am hopeful that our next AGM will be in one of the Guild halls but I am confident that where ever it will be held it will be a good 'un.

Finally, on a personal note, I was delighted to be made a Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Turners by Presentation, I am truly honoured. And I would like to express my thanks to all of those that sent me their best wishes and congratulations it means a great deal to me. I feel privileged that I have been allowed to be your chairman, it is a mark in my life that I will forever remember with pride and I would like to thank each and every one of you for being a member, as it is you that makes the RPT what it is, thank you for maintaining the standards that we expect from professional turners and thank you for your support over the last five years. If my successor has the same support that I have had then he or she is very lucky indeed. This is most likely not the last you will hear from me but it is for the time being and so for now

I would like to wish each and every one of you the very best of health and every success in your businesses in the coming years.

Thankyou.



Chair  
of the  
Register of Professional Turners

We welcome  
Jay Heryet RPT  
as our new chair.



It brings me a great sense of pleasure to welcome Jay Heryet RPT as our new chair, as she and I almost know each other. Jay was due to demonstrate at my club in Mid Wales, way back in March last year, when she was very unfortunately taken ill and had to cancel at the last minute. I received a panic-driven phone call from the club's committee and found myself covering her demo the very next morning. That was probably the only time in my life that I got to step into the shoes of such an illustrious woodturner. I am in no doubt that Jay's next few days are

going to be hectic as she slips into her new role, so for now, it's a brief introduction and I look forward to hearing further from her in time for the next edition of your newsletter, which is due to be published around the end of May/early June.

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

**As well as accepting Jay as the new Chair, there were other changes to the committee, the full list of which can be seen on Page 7 of this edition.**

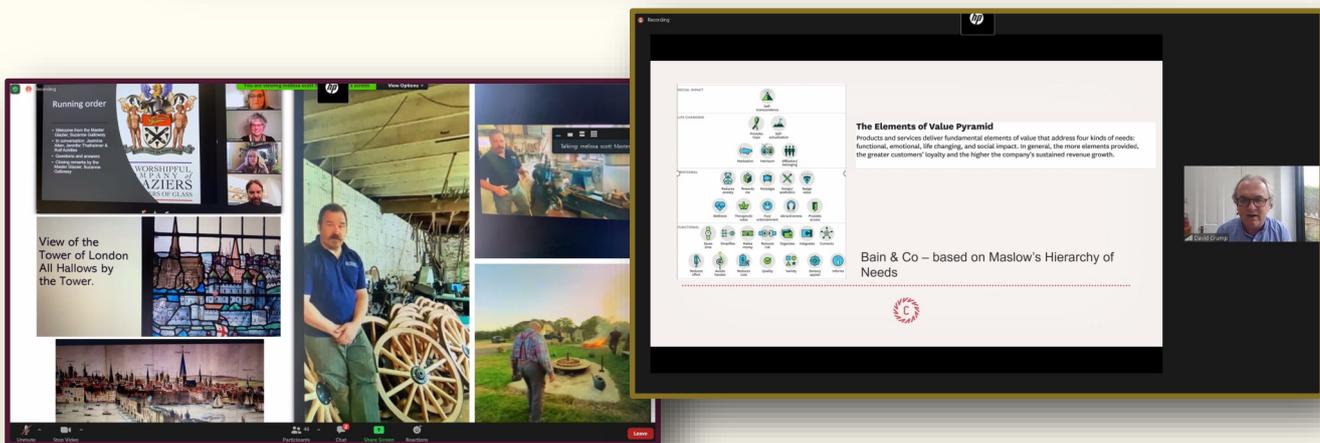




## AGM Report

## A quick round up of the Annual General Meeting

Full information will no doubt be sent your way when the minutes are written and all members formally informed of the day's events. Meanwhile, here's a brief round-up!



An introductory talk was given by The Master, Melissa Scott, who then handed over to John, the outgoing chair. The usual financial report showed a healthy state for the Register's bank balance, then we heard John's "Chairman's Report" and his farewell speech, both of which are included in full, in this newsletter. The annual Craft Meeting took the form of a very informative and well illustrated talk by David Crump of cockpit Arts, followed by a question-and-answer session.

Following the meeting, the committee met to vote-in new members and to acknowledge the resignation of Mike Wood from the committee.

The make-up of the committee of the RPT is now.....

Jay Heryet –Chair  
Andy Fortune—Vice Chair  
David Willcocks  
Andy Pickard  
Martin Saban-Smith  
Carlyn Lindsay  
Les Symonds

...plus the two Company's members who officiate on the RPT Committee...

Alex Robertson and Christopher Scott

...and we are, as ever, grateful for the input and support of Rebecca "Becca" Baker...



# Wizardry in Wood 2021



We all need something to look forward to and it doesn't get much better than this!

(Lots more detail on the next 2 pages)

## Wizardry in Wood 2021

ART | BEAUTY | SKILL | MYSTERY



Wednesday 13th October  
to Saturday 16th October 2021

Carpenters' Hall  
1 Throgmorton Ave  
London EC2N 2JJ

10am–4pm each day



## Wizardry in Wood 2021

ART | BEAUTY | SKILL | MYSTERY



Europe's largest exhibition  
of contemporary and  
historical wood turning  
in the heart of the  
City of London.

**Showcasing** work from leading  
UK woodturners

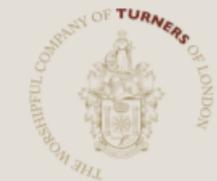
**Exhibitions** turning in music,  
magic and prehistoric turning

**Live demos** plain, ornamental  
and pole lathe turning

**Curated talks**  
and special events

**Retrospective** of  
Master Turner Ray Key's work by  
the Register of Professional Turners

**View, love, buy**  
works from the Turners' Company  
2021 Competitions



**Tickets:**

Buy tickets through  
Eventbrite. Early-bird prices  
until 31st August 2021

Single ticket: £10  
Double ticket: £18  
Student tickets: free

**More information:**  
[turnersco.com/turning/wiww](https://turnersco.com/turning/wiww)



Scan to buy tickets  
through Eventbrite

The Turners' Company | Skinners Hall | 8 Dowgate Hill | London EC4R 2SP  
020 7236 3605 | [clerk@turnersco.com](mailto:clerk@turnersco.com) | [www.turnersco.com](http://www.turnersco.com)

#wizardryinwood   



## Wizardry in Wood 2021 is coming soon!

The Worshipful Company of Turners announces the competition postponed from October 2020, will now go ahead at Carpenter's Hall in the City of London on 12th October 2021. Emerging from over a year of pandemic and lockdowns, the event will be a beacon of hope for woodturners and woodturning enthusiasts alike.

With categories for all levels of interest, skill and turning speciality, including plenty from young tuners in schools and colleges, it is the largest of its kind in Europe with entries from the UK and abroad.

### Art • Beauty • Skill • Mystery



All entries registered with the Turners' Company by Monday 4th October and received by Monday 11th October will be exhibited as part of Wizardry in Wood, the Company's major exhibition from 13th to 16th October, which usually attracts over 2000 visitors. Competition entries can be offered for sale as part of the "Love View Buy" theme.

Held every four years, up until the 2020 pandemic, Wizardry in Wood was launched by The Turners' Company in 2004 on the 400th anniversary of the granting of the company's Royal Charter in 1604.

Melissa Scott, Master of the Turners' Company, said "The Turners' Company Competitions are now firmly embedded in the turning community's calendar and we're excited to provide a platform that reveals the very best in contemporary turning as well as an opportunity for turners new to the craft. Simply by entering, their work will be seen by turners, art lovers and the curious public who decide to come to Wizardry in Wood and be amazed at our time-honoured craft."

**Please enter—and remember there really is a competition for everyone.**

#### How to enter the Competition

The Competitions are run in association with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain, the Association of Pole Lathe Turners and Greenwood Workers, and the Society of Ornamental Turners. Full details are at: <https://turnersco.com/turning/turning-competitions-2021/> There are thirteen categories, including those requiring special turning techniques such as combining two species of wood, or special themes such as creating a piece depicting "Music". There are categories for young turners, and several where you can just enter whatever you like. The top prizes are worth over £1,000, along with sponsors' prizes of tools.

#### About Wizardry in Wood 2021

Some of the UK's leading turners will be exhibiting including Sally Burnett, Maragret Gerard, Mick Hanury, Louise Hibbert, Simon Hope, Phil Irons, Tobias Kaye, Richard Kennedy, Carlyn Lindsay, Stuart Mortimer, Gary Rance, Joey Richardson, Mark Sanger and Les Thorne..

In addition there will be exhibitions of 400 years of turning in music, turning in magic and pre-historic turning, as well as curated talks on specialist turning subjects. There will be demonstrations of plain turning, ornamental turning and pole lathe turning and all entries to the Company's 2021 Competitions will be displayed. The AWGB will display its travelling exhibition and the Register of Professional Turners' stand will include a retrospective of the work of Master Turner, Ray Key.

For more information on the 2021 competitions, <https://turnersco.com/turning/turning-competitions-2021/>

Wizardry in Wood.... <https://turnersco.com/turning/wiw/>



## Wizardry In Wood - Live Demonstrations



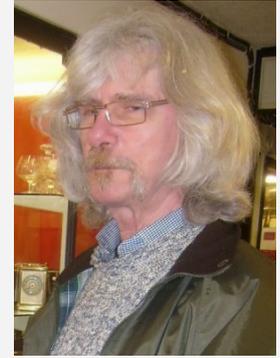
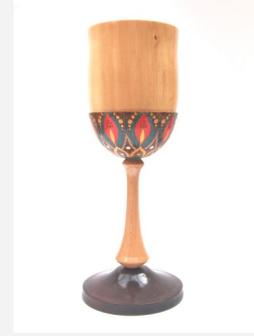
A significant feature of Wizardry in Wood 2021 will be the wealth of professional woodturners demonstrating their skills in a variety of woodturning disciplines.

Plain turning, this year, will be demonstrated by three of our own, well-known members.....

[Paul Hannaby](#)



[Pete Moncrieff-Jury](#)



[Martin Saban-Smith](#)



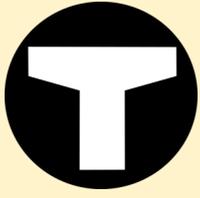
...there will be ornamental turning, by Jean Claude Charpignon and Bob Wade,...



.....while Pole Lathe Turning will be demonstrated by members of the Association of Pole Lathe Turners.

For more information on the 2021 competitions, <https://turnersco.com/turning/turning-competitions-2021/>

Wizardry in Wood.... <https://turnersco.com/turning/wiwi/>



New Member

Ben Dick RPT

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



A Special Welcome to our two new members, Ben Dick and Joe Creed-Kaile.



1...What do you hope to gain by becoming a member of the Register of Professional Turners?

It is nice to be part of a group of like minded people and an honour to be counted as one of a group that includes so many eminent and skilled turners. I hope some of this talent rubs off on me. I also hope to make use of some of the resources available.

2...In what way do you feel the RPT can benefit from your membership?

I hope to take part in the events that the RPT host such as Wizardry in Wood. I have entered pieces in past exhibitions and look forward to entering the members sections.

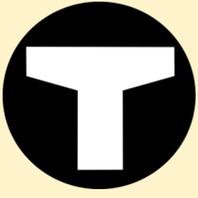
3...What do you feel has been your finest achievement in the field of woodturning?  
Without a doubt my proudest moment was being accepted onto the register. Close to this was having one of my pieces judged best in show at Woodworks at Daventry woodturning show.

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

Joining Her Majesties Grenadier Guards Band in 1972 at the tender age of 15 and attending Knellar Hall The Royal School of Music then passing out into the band. I was always proud to take part in Public duties such as the changing of the guard and The queens birthday parade.

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

Having been a member for such a short time and with the Covid pandemic making my time with the RPT quite different to how it should be, I don't feel that I am in a position to answer this question. However I would like to see plenty of emphasis on recruiting and promoting woodturning to attract new members, especially youngsters.



## New Member

Joe Creed-Kaile RPT

<https://www.ioecreedkaile.co.uk/>



### 1...What do you hope to gain by becoming a member of Register of Professional Turners?

For some, woodturning can be a fantastic hobby, but I have always wanted to make it a career. As with many crafts, experience and knowledge has always been key to success but the academic credentials are also important. Exceedingly difficult to expect people to put trust in tuition if the tutor is only 21. I can hear my Nan saying, "Doctors look younger and younger nowadays". Being accepted as a member of RPT will hopefully give me the chance to be appropriately qualified.

### 2...In what way do you feel the RPT can benefit from your membership?

With fear of upsetting anyone, youth. I would hope to do all I can to help encourage more young people to look at the craft as an accessible option. Ultimately, promoting RPT, woodturning in general and my passion for wood art.

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

I started turning at 14 and my Grandfather introduced me to AWGB Youth Training. 2 years later I went on to be a registered Tutor through the AWGB and then onto being awarded a bursary with Worshipful Company of Turners. Each step has, at the time, been my greatest achievement and now being a member of RPT, this has since become my highest point so far.

### 4...What do you feel has been your finest achievement outside the field of woodturning?

When I was 14, I started a successful business around my school education. I see that as probably my best achievement outside of woodturning although it was mainly to fund my new hobby at the time. Who would have thought we can spend so much money on a piece of wood with a metal rod coming out one end?

### 5...What changes, if any, would you like to see in the RPT?

To be perfectly honest, I feel underqualified to answer this as a new member. I hope to play an active role in the future.

*....and there's more....we also welcome Darren Crisp as our newest member, who made it onto the Register just a week ago. We'll hear more from Darren in the next issue.*