

Newsletter of the Register of Professional Turners



Issue 11
November 2016

Dear Members

We hope that many of you were able to come to Wizardry in Wood, organized by The Worshipful Company of Turners and held at Carpenters' Hall last month. It was a very successful show and attracted a lot of visitors. We were very pleased to see so many entries for the competitions which were held at the same time. The standard was extremely high and many of the pieces were sold.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I sit writing this amidst a flurry of emails and phone calls as I get ready for the show in Harrogate. It only seems like last week that I was doing the same at Wizardry in Wood. And wasn't that a good



The RPT Stand at Wizardry in Wood

show? I was proud to see that almost all of the exhibitors were members of the Register; I congratulate you all for putting on such a fine display of top quality woodturning, you really are the envy of the woodturning world. Confident that the stand was in good hands with Patricia Spero and Greg Moreton, and thanks too, to Gabor Lacko, I spent time talking to our members that attended the exhibition, (taking advantage of explaining face to face what changes are being made to the running of the Register) but also talking to the many visitors and guest dignitaries about the work that our members can and do carry out. All in all, although very tiring, I thought it was a good exhibition.



*Master Turner and
Reg Hawthorne
judging the 2016
Turning
Competitions*

The RPT is supported by the Worshipful Company of Turners

REG HAWTHORNE - MASTER IN TURNING CITATION

As part of the opening ceremony of Wizardry in Wood 2016, Sheriff of the City of London, Peter Estlin, presented Reg Hawthorne with the award of *Master in Turning*. Reg was selected by a panel, formed by the Turners' Company, from names put forward by all the UK turning associations. Before the award was presented, the Master Turner - Nic Somers - read the citation:

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 onto 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 and was their Chairman for the maximum allowed period of four years. He is also a member of the Society of Ornamental Turners, a Life Member of the Heart of England Wood Turners and finally a member of the American Association of Wood Turners.

While on the Association committee, the President, Ray Key, appointed him to the role of International Seminar director and shortly afterwards he was elected to the post of

Chairman. In this role Reg continued to organise their 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 his and he became involved with Stuart Mortimer in his Teenage Training weekend, courses as both a tutor and supporter; enlisting sponsorship from both the Association 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 Association to this project, working with the then Master and AWGB development officer to produce a set of trial modules. 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 the Hero's workshop syllabus at Catterick. He also serves as a member of the Company's Education and Standards sub-committee.

Reg has won awards for his work from The Turners' Company, The Midlands Woodworking



Sheriff Peter Estlin presents the award of Master in Turning to Reg Hawthorne

show, The International Woodturning Show, at both Alexandra Palace and Wembley, The Society of Ornamental Turners and The Guild of Irish Wood Turners. Most of his exquisite pieces are turned from wood acquired locally in the Cotswolds and he ensures that any exotics are from approved sources; you will have the pleasure of seeing his work displayed in this exhibition.

Reg Hawthorne is both an outstanding wood turner, servant of the wider craft environment, the 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'.

REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON THE NORTH OF ENGLAND POWER TOOL & WOODWORKING SHOW

The Harrogate show was very well attended by members of the RPT and I was particularly pleased to meet members that I have not had the pleasure of talking to before. The Registered Professional Turners that I spoke to, all assured me that they read the newsletter when it is sent

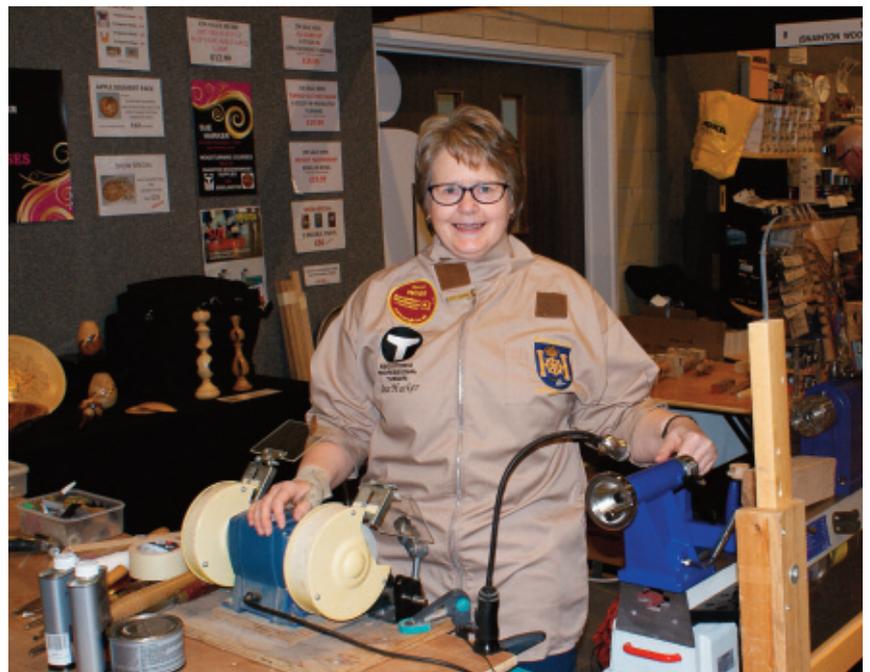
out, which is good news, as this is one of our major communication tools. Talking to them gave me the opportunity to learn what more we can do for you as members but it also served to reinforce that the direction we are veering to is the right one.



The RPT Stand and the Team at Harrogate Show

I would like to express my thanks to Bob Chapman and Gerry Marlow for their time spent at the show turning and entertaining our visitors and I would also like to thank Philip Greenwood who did a wonderful job in talking to potential new members and taking a turn at the lathe et al. But special thanks are due to Philip's wife Wendy; although not a member of our organisation she

put in just as many hours and worked just as hard as the rest of us. As a couple they were working so hard that at one point I had to insist that they go for lunch. Dedication such as that is hard to find and I say thank you to all four of you, for the effort and commitment that you have shown, you are an inspiration for the rest of us.



Two of our female members. Sue Harker (above) and Margaret Garrard on the left

The RPT is supported by the Worshipful Company of Turners

I would also pay homage to those of our members who were there to demonstrate either in masterclasses, or as product reps or any other capacity. Although I tried to get some pictures of you all working, at times it was difficult just to get near you. However from what I did see you had the audiences in the palms of your hands, they were enthralled with the skills that were being

demonstrated and as ambassadors for the Register of Professional Turners we could not have asked for better. As I watched sharp tools being skilfully manipulated in the hands of our members and listened to the comprehensive explanations accompanying them I realised once again how lucky we are to belong to an organisation such as ours where others can only aspire to reach.

Some more photographs of RPT members at Harrogate



Stuart Mortimer (Left)



Andrew Hall (Right)



Les Thorne (Left)



Mick Hanbury (Right)



Saturday evening supper for RPT members and members of the Worshipful Company of Turners who were present at Harrogate.

If you did not make the supper in 2016, why not put it into your diary for 2017. (The Turners' Company buys the drinks!).

WIZARDRY IN WOOD 2016

Wizardry in Wood took place in Carpenters' Hall in the City of London from 11th to 15th October. The exhibition commenced at about 7pm on the 11th with a Reception for Masters and Clerks of other Livery Companies and during which, the event was opened by Sheriff of the City of London, Alderman William Russell. After Sheriff Russell opened the exhibition, the second Sheriff presented Reg Hawthorne with the award of *Master in Turning*. There is more about the presentation on page 2. Reg is the third recipient in recent times following Ray Key and Stuart Mortimer.



*The Master's Opening Speech
(Picture by Stuart King)*

Of the greatest interest to many visitors were the 19 stands showing and selling the work of some of the UK's best wood-turners. The majority of individual stands were located in the main hall where 11 out of 14 stands were allocated to RPT members. Also in the main hall was a Collective Stand - an innovation for 2016. Here, of the 6 turners exhibiting, 4 were RPT members.

Located next to the main hall in the reception ante-room were 3 more individual stands all held by RPT members. In this room, also, was the RPT's own stand, mentioned by the Chairman in his opening letter. The stand, this year, was located in an excellent position, directly by the door-way from the main hall though to the ante-room. An excellent display was provided by the Chairman and his assistants, resulting in a stand for the Register to be proud of.

The stands of the Society of Ornamental Turners and the Pole Lathe Turners were also located in the ante-room while the AWGB's large stand was outside the main hall in the reception area. There were only two demonstrations of turning at the



The Opening Night Crowd (Picture by Stuart King)

This year, as well as the selling stands of exhibitor turners, the event contained two major exhibitions. The largest, a display of old wood and old wooden items from the Economic Botany Collection of Kew Gardens, was being shown in the City of London for the first time. In fact, the items brought together for Wizardry in Wood are only very rarely available for public view, and then only by prior arrangement. The second large display consisted of the Daniel Collection, very kindly loaned by the owners Jonathon Cuff and Shirley Sinclair. Many members of the RPT will have pieces in this collection. However, this is another private collection which is never open to public view, and the Turners' Company were delighted to be able to bring a small part of it to London.



*Gary Rance and his stand in the Ante-Room
(Picture by Stuart King)*

exhibition - one of ornamental turning and the other, on the ground floor, showcasing the young people who have attended the AWGB Youth Training Courses.

The opinion of both visitors and exhibitors was that Wizardry 2016 was the best ever. Certainly virtually all exhibitors were delighted with the quantity of pieces sold and the sums raised. As you have read above, this was - in many ways - an RPT exhibition!

THE WEBSITE

Work is progressing on the new website, eventually you will have access to your own page with suitable guidance to assist in maintaining your page. Over the next few months please check your personal information on the website is up to date. Andy Fortune is waiting to hear from you.

AGM AND CRAFT DAY

Planning has already started for the next AGM and craft day, which will be on Tuesday 28th March at Skinner's Hall. Prior to starting this missive I have sent emails to hopefully book the guest speaker. If all goes as planned I think you will enjoy listening to her. To get the best rates for your train travel to London, you need to book on the 3rd January.

RPT INSTAGRAM - REPORT FROM RICHARD FINDLEY

Today, social media plays a huge part in a business's online presence and done well, can be a real boost for a business of any size.

The RPT is trying to promote the organisation, Woodturning in general, and the work and services of its members in particular. Social media accounts are just part of this strategy.

I have my own Instagram account which has really worked for me and my business. Because of this I have been asked to manage the RPT Instagram account.

Instagram accounts work by gaining followers who will automatically see the pictures posted. The more followers, the more impact posts will have. I have found that gaining an increasing following is simply a case of regularly posting good content.

This is an opportunity to put your work in front of a large and ever growing audience. Currently we have over 300 followers, but with regular posts showing high quality work, whether this is art or production work, new work for sale or old work that you are particularly proud of, we can grow our following, which can only be good for the RPT and it's members.

To add images to the RPT Instagram all I need is a good quality image of your work along with some information about it and, if it's for sale, a price, and I'll do the rest. Email images to:

richard@turnersworkshop.co.uk

Take a look at www.instagram.com/rpturners to see what has already been posted.

DEMONSTRATOR AND TUTOR LISTS

I would like to remind you that to be included on our demonstrator and tutor lists you must hand out, the feedback forms. You should encourage the recipients to return the forms to Gary Renouf (NOT Malcolm Cobb as some of you are still doing). If you do not do this you will be removed from the lists. As a professional organisation we need feedback to ensure that we are moving in the right direction. As self-employed turners we are (probably) all salesmen/women or sales orientated. If our product happens to be a demonstration or a woodturning lesson we need to know that we are doing it well. This is basic sales technique, we need to know that we have customer satisfaction so that we can get repeat business or show a prospective client that we take care to ensure the service we give is always being explored to make improvements. There is no such thing as poor feedback if that feedback is utilised for a positive outcome.

RPT BADGES

We are exploring the possibilities of producing badges which can be sewn onto any colour smock.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Since the last AGM the committee have been working very hard on behalf of the members. We are pleased to announce that new disciplinary policy and procedures and a new complaints procedure along with a new assessment policy and procedures have been accepted into the RPT constitution. These new items have been accepted under the rules of the constitution according to para. 5 Administration of the Register Sect 2 sub para (f). In due course these policies and procedures will be placed on the website for all the members to read.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The interest in the continuing professional development courses still remains low, but we will be proceeding with the gold leafing course in the New Year. Dates and venue have yet to be decided but I will let you know in due course.

Talking of the New Year leads rather neatly to the end of this bulletin. We would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and hope that next year, even in the face of uncertainty, is a happy and prosperous one for us all.

Patricia Spero RPT Newsletter Editor