

# Newsletter of the Register of Professional Turners



Issue 6  
February 2016

## *AGM AND CRAFT MEETING*

**The next AGM and Craft Meeting is to take place on April 26th 2016 at Skinners' Hall, London, from 11am to 4pm.**

The day commences with the formality of the Annual General Meeting of the RPT. Full details of the AGM, together with the formal calling notice, will be despatched to members during March. This will be a particularly important AGM as not only will the new constitution be voted on but also a number of committee vacancies have to be filled. Further details can be found below.

Once the AGM is over, the Craft Meeting will commence. There will be several speakers and a delicious lunch.

It is well worth making the effort to travel to London for this special event. Please put the date in your diary and come and join us. Those who are unable to attend are encouraged to take advantage of the proxy voting process to ensure their views are heard.

We have an urgent need to find somebody to look after the IT at the meeting. The individual would be required to sort out the speakers' images and project them as they speak. Stuart King has done stalwart service on this duty over the years, but it would be good to give him a break and hopefully find someone to take it on in future. Please contact the Chairman, Guy Ravine, if you are able to help. [gr245@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gr245@hotmail.co.uk)

Concerns have been expressed that attendance is falling away, and it would be helpful to know why you are not coming – if you do not intend to. Is it the cost? The difficulty or expense of travelling to London or reluctance to take time off – or something else? The Chairman would be pleased to hear your views at [gr245@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gr245@hotmail.co.uk)

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## *THE RPT COMMITTEE*

At the AGM, we will be voting on the adoption of our new Constitution, an early copy of which was sent with the calling papers for the 2015 AGM although it was withdrawn from consideration. The final draft of the constitution will be sent out prior to the AGM and in good time for your consideration. The consequence of the new rules (should the constitution be approved by the membership) will be that three of our long standing members are to stand down, after serving one more year on the Committee.

The Chairman of the past three years, Guy Ravine, has indicated that he wishes to stand-down.

Not only will we need replacements for any member of the Committee who may decide not to stand again, but we will also need more members to volunteer to join.

The Committee meets four times a year, usually at the weekend. The current venue is De Vere Hunton Park Hotel, Hunton Bridge, Hertfordshire because this suits the current team. This can always be changed. Committee members are expected to attend at least three of these meetings (all reasonable expenses paid), and be prepared to contribute to the running of the Register. There are several different roles to be filled. Your support, as

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a committee member, would have a positive impact on the running of the RPT and be to the benefit of members. Above all, we have an urgent need of a secretary. In addition we need a safety officer, and a new Chair will have to be appointed by the elected committee. The Webmaster will be leaving within the year and we have an immediate need for an understudy who will, in due course, take over the role. Full details of the committee structure are at the end of this Newsletter.

Those of you who are able to help please contact either the Chairman, Guy Ravine, or the Newsletter Editor, at the email addresses below, who will provide you with full details of the roles available:

[gr245@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gr245@hotmail.co.uk)  
[patricia.spero@btinternet.com](mailto:patricia.spero@btinternet.com).

WITHOUT YOUR HELP THE REGISTER WILL  
 HAVE NO FUTURE

## PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE WEBSITE

The website is our window to the world, and it is important that we try and make the most of it.

Please could all members who have not done so, access the members-only part of the RPT site (password is *verysecret*) and upload as many as 6 photographs of your work. It is important that any member of the public using the RPT site can see an example of all the members work. Following on from that, it would be advantageous if every member of RPT had a Website, as this is now a requirement for all new members and is the medium likely to be searched by potential customers. Production of a simple web-site, using very cheap software, should be within the capabilities of us all.

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## APPLICATIONS TO JOIN THE REGISTER - SPONSORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Any turner wishing to join the Register has to undergo a three-phase selection process. The initial phase is the completion of the application form, which has to be countersigned by two current members - the Sponsors. It is vital that sponsors understand the importance of their role. In recent months, two applicants who have been invited to attend stage 2 of the application process (the interview) have been found to be ineligible for membership. In both cases the sponsors have certified, erroneously, that the individuals were indeed eligible. As a result, the applicants were called for interview thereby wasting both the committee's and applicant's time.

An extract from the Sponsor's form is shown below:

3, 4 and 5 are  
 Mandatory  
 requirements

3. Can you attest to i) the good character,  and ii ) ability of the applicant?
4. Do you feel the applicant will adhere to the RPT code of practice?
5. Does the applicant meet the required criteria?
6. Any other information you feel is relevant to this application. <i>(Please add additional sheets if necessary)</i>

As a reminder, the Code of Practice and the Selection Criteria are reprinted below:

### Selection Criteria

1.	<i>Quality of Work – requisite skill level must be shown.</i>
2.	<i>Execution of work must be demonstrated to be of high standard.</i>
3.	<i>Certificate of Public and Products Liability Insurance must be produced.</i>
4.	<i>Professional Outlook – evidence of accounting, letterheads, website etc. must be shown.</i>
5.	<i>Safe working practices are followed</i>
6.	<i>Agree to adhere to the code of practice.</i>

## Code of Practice

1.	<i>Charge reasonable hourly rates – i.e. not undercutting other professional turners</i>
2.	<i>Not undercutting the suggested minimum charge for demonstrations, and teaching.</i>
3.	<i>Public Liability insurance must be held.</i>
4.	<i>Must be registered with HMRC. (ie The Inland Revenue)</i>
5.	<i>Must maintain high standards in their work.</i>
6.	<i>Must accept obligation to hand out Demonstration and Teaching forms. - sanction being removal from lists.</i>
7.	<i>Must comply with the RPT complaints procedure.</i>
8.	<i>To adhere to safety standards. Guidance will be given.</i>
9.	<i>Must conduct their business in a professional manner.</i>

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## WOOD-WORKING SHOWS

The RPT is having a stand at the Midlands Woodworking and Power Tool Show, taking place on the Newark Showground on 18th and 19th March 2016. A number of members of the Register are demonstrating at the show. If anyone would like to have their work shown on the RPT stand, please could you contact Guy Ravine on [gr245@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gr245@hotmail.co.uk)

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## THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF TURNERS

The RPT is very closely supported by the Worshipful Company of Turners. Primarily, the Company provides the RPT Treasurer and pays the majority of the cost of the AGM and Craft Day. A member of the Company sits on the RPT Committee. A number of RPT members belong to the Company and if any other RPT members are interested in joining they should contact the Clerk of the Company.

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## AN IMPORTANT REMINDER

We would like to remind you about an important aspect of your RPT membership.

If you are a demonstrator or you are teaching, there are feed back forms which, under the Code of Practice, you are obliged to give to the Club or to your pupils. Please provide the recipients with a stamped envelope addressed to:

Gary Renouf RPT  
16 Portsmouth Road  
Liphook  
Hampshire  
GU30 7DJ

The return of these forms is necessary if you wish to keep your place on the Website as an approved Demonstrator or Teacher.

## NEWS

Please could you let the Editor have any news of exhibitions or of anything that might be of interest to other members, and we will put the details onto the Website, or into the Newsletter.

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## WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM THE RPT?

Finally – we are always wondering what members want from the Register. We carried out a survey a few years back, which resulted in as many opinions as participants. It is probable that we will send out an updated survey form with the AGM pack; but if you would like to pre-empt this; we are always listening! Please contact a committee member (preferably by e-mail or in writing) and give us your thoughts.

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## ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

A subcommittee has been formed to formulate a proposal for the formation of an Associate Membership, to be tabled at the forthcoming AGM. There are significant difficulties to surmount in order to achieve this, but it is felt that it would make a positive contribution to the Register and the craft in general.

## Wizardry in Wood

Art • Beauty • Skill • Mystery



12 – 15 October 2016

Carpenters' Hall, City of London EC2N 2JJ

## *THE RPT COMMITTEE*

1. Chairman (To be elected from the members of the Committee)
2. Vice-Chairman (The VC will usually also hold one of the roles below)
3. Honorary Secretary (Position is vacant - volunteer urgently required)
4. Treasurer (normally Clerk of the Turners' Company)
5. Honorary Safety Officer (Position is vacant)
6. Honorary Membership Secretary and Webmaster
7. Honorary Applications Secretary
8. Honorary Feedback-Form Officer
9. Honorary Newsletter Editor
10. Other elected or co-opted Members
11. The Chairman of the Worshipful Company of Turners Howe  
Committee is an ex-officio member of the Committee

***Patricia Spero***

***Newsletter Editor***

***Member of the RPT Committee***