



The Newsletter of the Register of Professional Turners

Supported by The Worshipful Company of Turners of London

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The RPT Committee would like to wish all of our members a very happy and prosperous New Year.

AGM AND CRAFT MEETING

The AGM and Craft Meeting this year will be held at Skinners' Hall in London on the 28th March. It will start with coffee at 11am, followed by the AGM, promptly at 12pm. Those of you that are coming by train should get your tickets now, to take advantage of cheaper prices. Those of you that drive and then come in via the underground, please let John Aitken know where you will park and what stations you use, so that he can pass this useful information on to other members.

Patricia van den Akker, Director of The Design Trust - an online business school for designers and makers, will be our main speaker after lunch, and the topic of her talk will be -

Make Marketing Work

Many creatives don't really like self-promotion and marketing. Don't really know what to do, especially as the market for crafts and commissions has changed dramatically in the last 10 years. In this practical session Patricia van den Akker will share with us what marketing really works for 21st century makers, both new and established ones. She will talk about the changes in the market and how to attract clients, commissions and press interest, and get more repeat business too. She will show you how creative and individual marketing can be – indeed often needs to be to get interest and sales in today's challenging market, both in the UK and internationally. She will give practical advice on how to present yourself and your work professionally and effectively, how to make your marketing more creative and attractive to your clients, and why story telling and branding has become so important and how to do it well.



Patricia van den Akker, will be hosting this practical marketing session. Patricia has worked with 1,000s of crafts people. More than 20 years ago she started at the Crafts Council and was part of the Chelsea Crafts Fair team and helped many makers to show their work in the UK and overseas. She worked with Peta Levi MBE at The Design Trust and for New Designers, and was the Studio Manager of ceramic product designer Robin Levien for many years. Since 2011 she runs The Design Trust and regularly runs online and live workshops and courses on professional development. Over the last 5 years she has also written the business column 'The Design Doctor' for Crafts Magazine, published by the Crafts Council.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We are again looking for volunteers to join the RPT committee. The two roles that need filling, are that of Membership Secretary, and Committee Secretary. We meet four times a year at the Skinners' Hall in London, and travelling expenses are paid. If you would be interested in applying for either of these important posts, please contact the Chairman.

LES SYMONDS RPT - NEVER KNOWINGLY UNDERTURNED!

The John Lewis Partnership owns a private hotel just half a mile from my workshop, which it operates as an activity centre for its staff, or 'Partners', as they are referred to. In the summer of 2016 the hotel management took the decision to remove several 'ornaments' from the lounge, reception and restaurant areas, replacing them with locally made pieces. I was very fortunate to be awarded the contract, and then invited to design, make and install the pieces for them. The brief was very open: the pieces should reflect the local geography and geology, they should have an organic, natural feel and should use principally local materials. Thus, out went the departmental-store bling, and in came the hotel's own collection of artistic wood-turning.

The managers who talked me through the commission made a slightly disconcerting statement, 'We don't really know what we want, but when we see it we'll know whether or not we like it'. That put the pressure on!

So here's the collection.

For the guests' lounge...Oak Candle stands, incorporating natural oak bases and capitals, with scorched and limed oak columns. Candle-spike dishes set into the capitals. A 24" x 10" sculptural panel of a single piece of oak burr, the outer wings scorched and limed, the centre partially left natural, but partially gilded, and with a local slate detail at the very centre. 2 Sets of three menhirs in local yew. Each set comprises a 12", a 9" and a 6" menhir.



In the reception area....a 22" diameter, rippled and spalted ash platter with a Mariam Jasper cabochon on an ash cushion-mount at its centre. Also, on a

mantel-shelf in this location, and backed by a large mirror, the 'Partners' sculpture, which incorporates 11 assorted shapes depicting human forms. Whilst having fundamental differences of height, girth, timber species and wax types and gilding creams, what connects these figures and makes them so similar, is the surface treatment of each shape. This piece depicts the differences and the bonds between the 'Partners'.



In the restaurant area...a 15" diameter x 8" deep, textured ash bowl, turned from green timber. The surface was wire brushed whilst still freshly cut, then dried, scorched, scoured, Verdigris waxed and dappled with copper gilding cream. There is also a single, 15" tall oak menhir which has been scorched, scoured and lime waxed.

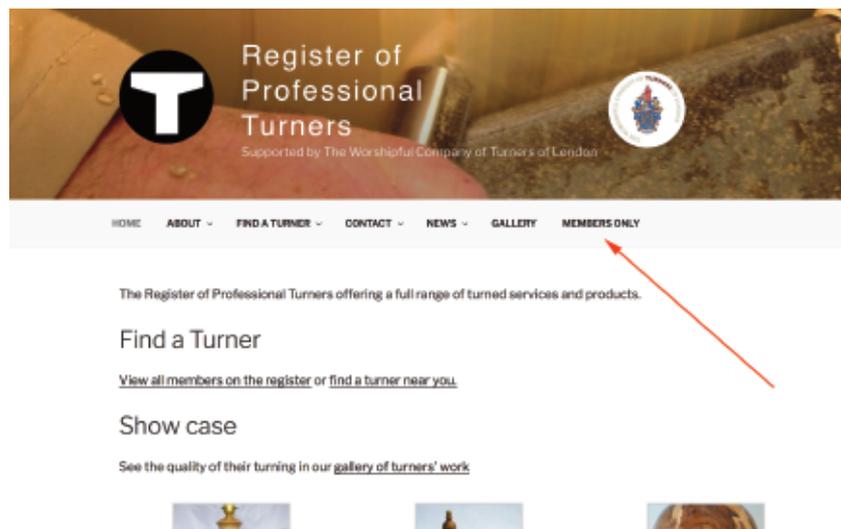
I am delighted to say that the management liked what they saw!



THE NEW RPT WEB-SITE - LOG-IN

The new RPT website will be launched soon and members will be able to edit their own webpage entry. Here are the instructions to get you access. You will need to do this to carry out alterations and update your RPT webpage.

Go to the Register of Professional Turners website. If you are logging in for the first time click on the menu-bar title "MEMBERS ONLY". You will then see a login window with the option to login



A screenshot of the Home page. The final look may be a slightly different

with a user name or email address and a password at the bottom. Choose "lost your password" and enter your user name or email address: entering your email address is easier. Click "get new password". Now go to your emails and wait for a message from the Register of Professional Turners website/WordPress. Click on the link which is highlighted

Now you have a choice, you can either remember the password that has been supplied or click in the

password box or press backspace to remove it and add your own password. Click "reset password". Click "login" enter the new password and login, this will take you to the dashboard. To go to members-only landing page, click on "My sites" (top left of page) and click on "visit my sites" on the left of the page. You will then see a screen with two options and will want to click "RPT Members only"

MORE ON THE WEB-SITE

In order to ensure that the new web-site is populated with accurate information, it is important that all members check their details on the current website. If you are unable to make the necessary corrections yourself, please email Andy Fortune with the details.

RPT INSTAGRAM - A NOTE 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.

ANDY COATES

We are sure most of you have now heard that Andy Coates had a fire in his workshop over the Christmas period. An online gallery has been set up. The address is:-

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

The Gallery is in the form of an auction site. However, beware, as not every item is being auctioned in aid of Andy.

We wish Andy every success getting his business up and running again.

EXHIBITIONS

Here are some details of Exhibitions for which you might be interested to apply for entry.

SCULPT AT KEW 9th September - 15th October

Deadline for entry - Tuesday 28th February - sculpt@handmadeinbritain.co.uk

HANDMADE AT KEW 12th - 15th October

Deadline for entry - Friday 31st March - www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk/kew

HANDMADE EDINBURGH 27th - 29th October

Deadline for entry Friday 28th April - www.handmadeinbritain.co.uk/edinburgh

GOLD LEAFING COURSE

Unfortunately, due to unexpected increase in costs, we are unable to run a Gold Leafing course at the moment. Hopefully we will be able to arrange one in the future.

TURNERS' COMPANY BURSARY AWARDS 2017

For 2017, The Turners' Company is offering one or more Bursaries, worth up to a combined value of £10,000, to assist talented woodturners to develop their craft skills and to move to a higher level of achievement. The awards are open to UK resident turners whose work is well regarded by their peers and who can put forward a clear plan of how the award will advance their work, expand the boundaries of the craft of turning and raise the profile of the craft. There is no upper age limit.

What are Turners' Company Bursaries awarded for?

- To fund further study, research or training and practical experience for craftsmen and women, who want to improve their craft and trade skills.
- Bursaries may not, normally, be used for premises or other business set-up costs.
- Bursaries may be used for acquiring specialist equipment, provided it is part of the

whole request.

What is the Company looking for?

- Well thought-out proposals which will contribute to the excellence of our craft in general.
- On the submission you need to explain clearly why your proposals will improve your skills and what you expect to achieve as a result. You may have assistance in writing your submission.
- You also need to give a reasonably accurate estimate of the full cost of your proposals.

Who can apply?

- You must be 18 or over to apply, but there is no upper age limit.
- You need to demonstrate an ambition and commitment to develop your skills to a higher level within the craft and that you are firmly committed to the craft of woodturning.
- Only those who live and work permanently in the UK are eligible for the award of a Bursary.

- The Bursary is available to all Turners; amateur and professional.

The Application Submission

The entry form should include the names of two referees (who should be members of the Turners' Company, the RPT, AWGB, SOT or APTGW) and must be accompanied by:

- A short curriculum vitae.
- One or more photographs of turned items made by you, with descriptions of the production methods and materials you employed.
- A written proposal outlining your aspirations and an outline plan of what you want to achieve from a Bursary (techniques; skills; training; equipment; new products).
- A costed action plan showing how you intend to use the Bursary money.

What next?

All submissions will be carefully read and appraised, and if your submission captures the attention of the Turners' Company Bursary awards committee you, and others selected, will be invited to attend an interview. The interviews are usually held in London. Those selected for interview will be sent further details of the award process. They will receive reimbursement of their documented travel expenses.

The Interview

At the interview you will be asked to make a short presentation in support of your proposal. You will be expected to show relevant samples of your work, to highlight what you would like to achieve should you be given the opportunity of funding and generally display a passion for your craft.

Applicants will have already been turning for some time and will, therefore, be able to demonstrate a reasonably advanced level of skill.

The decision of the Bursary Committee will be final. In the event that it finds more than one candidate of outstanding ability, the Bursary may be divided among them or, if there is no suitable candidate, the award will be held over.

The timetable

Applications must be received by the Turners' Company Clerk before 15th May 2017.

Those invited for interview will be notified during the week beginning 5th June 2017. Interviews can be expected to commence shortly after this date.

Details of those selected to receive awards will be published during July 2017.

The Application Form

Application forms are available on the Turners' Company website:

www.turnersco.com/turning/bursary-awards/

or by request to the Clerk of the Turners' Company at the address below. Forms may also be available from the Secretary of your Turning Club.

Queries or Clarification

Queries about any aspects of the Turners Company Bursary 2017 should be addressed to the Chairman of the Turners Company Howe Committee, Peter Gibson.

peter-h-gibson@ntlworld.com

ANNIVERSARY

The AWGB is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year and many events have been planned. The RPT was formed, formally, in 1983 which means we will have been around for 35 years next year. In

5 years time we shall have 40 years to celebrate and it would be nice to mark this somehow. As always we would like some suggestions of how this might be organized.

AGM AND CRAFT MEETING

As you will have read on the front page, the AGM, followed by the Craft Meeting, will take place on 28th March. Once again, it will be held in Skinners' Hall. A slightly later start is planned to allow members to travel to London on a later (and hopefully, cheaper) train. Although you have to make your own way to London, there is no charge for lunch, AGM or Craft Meeting.

The Calling Notice was despatched to all members on 2nd February. If you haven't received your copy please contact the Turners' Company Clerk without delay.

If you will be unable to attend - or may not be able to attend - please return the proxy voting form to ensure that you have a say in RPT affairs.

FEED-BACK FORMS

Under the terms of membership of the RPT, those members undertaking tuition or demonstrations are obliged to provide feed-back forms to those receiving the tuition, or to the Club hosting your demonstration. It is up to the member to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the recipient of the feedback form completes it, and subsequently returns it to Gary Renouf.

The Management Committee reviews the feedback form statistics at each meeting and it appears that very few members are undertaking tuition and/or demonstrating, or are failing to hand-out feed-back forms and encouraging the recipients to return them.

When the new web-site goes live shortly, members will only be shown as carrying out tuition or demonstrations if at least two positive feedback forms have been received by Gary Renouf in the last 12 months.

It is the responsibility of individual members to hand out forms with the correct return address (NOT to Malcolm Cobb or Skinners' Hall) and to do everything possible to ensure their completion and return. You are strongly recommended to provide a stamped and correctly addressed envelope with the form.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The last Management Committee meeting was held on 26th January and the one after that will be just after the AGM, so those of you that have issues to raise at this AGM should contact the Chairman or any other member of the Committee as soon as possible.

The current membership of the Committee is:

Chairman	John Boyne-Aitken
Deputy Chairman	Philip Greenwood
Feedack Form Officer	Gary Renouf
Newsletter Editor	Patricia Spero
Web-Master	Andy Fortune
Applications & Membership Offr	Position Vacant
Committee Secretary	Position Vacant
Standing down at AGM	Greg Moreton
Turners' Company Rep	Peter Gibson (Chris Scott after May 17)

CONTRIBUTIONS

As always we would like to have our members contributions in the Newsletter. If you have made any unusual commissions or have appeared, or will appear, at any interesting venues, please let us know by the middle of March for the next Newsletter.

Please send them to -

patricia.spero@btinternet.com

or johnbaitken@hotmail.co.uk

We hope to see many of you at our very enjoyable AGM/Craft Meeting in March.

Patricia Spero RPT
Newsletter Editor