



The Newsletter of the Register of Professional Turners

Supported by The Worshipful Company of Turners of London



Issue 13
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AGM AND CRAFT MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on 28th March at Skinners' Hall. Although numbers were up on last year we do have to ask if it is worth the expense of using a livery hall for this meeting when we could easily fit everyone into a meeting room in a hotel and save some money. Perhaps we should consider having a livery hall meeting once every two years with a smaller meeting without lunch or wine in between. It is the old saying I'm afraid...use it or lose it.

I would also like to include my thanks to all of our members that were unable to attend the AGM but took the time to send in their apologies and proxy votes, and to those that have indicated that they are happy to be notified via email, in the future, of forthcoming AGMs.

This last meeting gave the committee the opportunity to explain the work that has been done on your behalf over the last 12 months. Disciplinary, complaints, assessment, application and expenses policies and procedures have been written and put in place. These policies and procedures will help with the day to day running of the register and will be a reference for future committee members in the years to come.

We have attended three shows since the last AGM; Wizardry in Wood, Harrogate and the Newark show. Each time we have had members on the stand working hard on your behalf to publicise the RPT and the work that our members can, and do, carry out. At Harrogate, Philip Greenwood, our Vice Chairman and Membership Secretary, was accompanied by his wife Wendy on the stand along with Gerry Marlow and Bob Chapman. At Wizardry in Wood, Patricia Spero, Gabor Lacko and Gregory Moreton were present. I was also present at these shows, meeting RPT turners and explaining to members of the public all about the RPT.

At this last AGM I reported that we now have 2 Facebook accounts, one of which is used as a

private forum for members. Thanks to Richard Findley we also have an Instagram account which allows our members to post pictures of their work on the internet. We also sent Patricia Spero on a social media course to help us, as an organisation, to take advantage of the modern communications network that is prevalent in our society today.

I reported how the website has been rebuilt and is now more user friendly. It will be easier to hand over to subsequent webmasters when the time comes and all website enquiries are now being dealt with very quickly, in some cases in a matter of minutes.

Andy Fortune gave us a very succinct talk about the website and its development and how our members will now be able to benefit from its ease of use. I reported how Gary Renouf is now actioning the feedback forms quicker than ever, which will allow the members to take full advantage of the feedback they are receiving. Actively welcoming feedback shows that we are a forward thinking organisation and that our members are striving to be the best that they can be in our chosen craft and that being a member of the RPT really is something to aspire to. The feedback forms can be filled in online now but if you still wish to download the form



The Chairman Presents His Report

you can find them under the "contact" menu on the website.

We also heard how Patricia, very ably assisted by Peter Gibson, now produces a regular newsletter.

This enables us to inform you of what is going on and is likely to happen in the future; it only works though if you read it and contribute.

Over the last 12 months we have overhauled the application process. No more will potential members be expected to shoulder the burden of an expensive trip to London for an interview. We have re-written the application process and forms. We have formed a more robust assessment process so that now when an applicant is accepted, he or she will know that they are good enough to be a member of the RPT and they gained access by meeting all of the criteria. All existing members should be comfortable in the knowledge that standards are being maintained and strictly adhered to.

One of the most frequent complaints I had when I took over the chairmanship was that the logo and shield were not available for members to download for use on their paperwork. I am pleased to report that these logos have now been placed on the members only page on the website. They are in a prominent place, under the title "branding". They are vectored images which means you should be able to make them different sizes to suit your business stationery without loss of detail. Once again we have demonstrated that if you ask we will do our very best to deliver.

I am grateful to Richard Shock, who on your behalf and following a request from one of our members, has carried out a feasibility study to explore the setting up of an online gallery to sell members' work. There is still some work to be done on this, so watch this space.

I explained how a 3, 6 and 12 month plan was formulated, how in the first 6 months everything on the 3 and 6 month plans had been completed and how now, 12 months on, the 12 month plan is all but complete. The one item that needs completing is the links to all your websites. The department responsible for that, dear members, is yours and not mine.

Over the next 12 months we will consolidate the work we have already done. We will explore more training courses for our members to help them increase their skills base and now that the website is finished we will harmonise the website with Facebook, Instagram and other social media sites. We are now starting to create a clear professional corporate image. Over the next 12 months we will be attending the Heritage Skills Festival at Lincoln Cathedral and at that event we will have the opportunity to sell some of your work. If you are

interested in this please get in touch with me.

As if what I have mentioned above is not enough, we will also be setting up retired member status for those that wish to retain the letters RPT after their name once they have retired from turning. We will also be exploring the possibility of putting on an RPT members only exhibition, and we will also strengthen our ties to the Worshipful Company of Turners, because without their support we would not exist as an organisation. We will also be working closer with the AWGB, as between our two organisations we are the leaders of our craft in this country.

Over time a guidance document for Health and Safety will be produced. Not only will this set standards but it will also act as a guide for those coming into turning with no craft background. This may not please everyone but if an accident were to occur when we demonstrate to clubs and organisations or when we carry out tuition, particularly to young people but to those of any age, the first thing the Health and Safety Executive will ask for is our risk assessment. To make my job easier and to help the RPT, I invite those of you that have a risk assessment already, to send me a copy so that I may incorporate details that you have thought of and I may have missed. We will then see a document produced by professional turners that other groups and turners could use as a guide for



The Committee

their own and others health and safety. By doing this we will again be demonstrating our commitment to the craft as a whole and showing that despite all of us being individuals we are members of a professional organisation that is respected the world over.

We will also take the time to look at the constitution and decide if any revisions are needed at the next AGM. And so members I come to the end of my report from the Annual General Meeting. Over the last 12 months we have adjusted the foundation for the future of the Register with quality and professionalism as the corner stones. Together we will build upon these foundations to ensure that the RPT moves into the future in a stronger position than ever before. I am confident that if we all do our bit then sooner, rather than later. we will achieve our goals.

Motions Passed at the AGM

1. To approve the minutes of the last AGM. Carried unanimously.
2. To accept the annual accounts statement. Accepted unanimously.
3. To increase annual subscriptions to £36 from 1st Jan 2018. Carried unanimously.
4. To increase subscriptions to £48 per year with effect from 1st Jan 19 at the discretion of the committee. Carried by majority vote.

Guest Speaker

Our guest speaker, Patricia van den Akker gave a very good presentation on making our marketing work.

She explained how the marketplace has changed over the last 10 years and spoke about the opportunities for sales both here and abroad using that modern phenomena called the internet.

Patricia mentioned how we should be standing out from the crowd in the marketplace and communicating our stories to the millions of potential customers who are looking for quality, bespoke turnings. All in all it was a very enjoyable and useful presentation.

Patricia can be contacted through the Design Trust at this email address:-

www.thedesigntrust.co.uk



Lunch

I was very pleased to meet so many of our members at the Skinners' Hall. Some had travelled quite a distance to be with us that day. The meeting on the whole was very pleasant with many encouraging and constructive comments. One point during lunch stands out for me; the Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners, Nic Somers, presented me with a small palm gavel that he had turned himself. He then called for the members of the Turners' Company present to raise their glasses in a toast to the Register of Professional Turners and I thought that was a very nice gesture. In a similar gesture of friendship I returned the compliment on behalf of our members, and proposed a toast to the Turners' Company. I feel that a tradition may well have been set here and so, at the next AGM, I will be sure to take my new gavel with me.

Instagram

Richard Findley reminded us that, on Instagram, there 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 he needs is a good quality image of your work along with some information about it and, if it's for sale, a price, and he will do the rest.

Email images to richard@turnersworkshop.co.uk

New Members

This year we also welcome two new members to the RPT.

They are Darren Wheeler from Dorset and Chris Foweraker from Devon.

I am also pleased to report that we have several other potential members waiting to be assessed. This will happen over the next few months.

Over the next few months the assessors will be contacted and the new process and procedure will be outlined to them. New forms will be sent out and new assessors will be trained

NEW RPT WEB-SITE LAUNCH

Over the last year your committee have been busy updating and redesigning the Register's website.

A great deal of effort and time has been expended on the website especially by your Chairman, John Boyne-Aitken and his son, Alex Boyne-Aitken. It has now been completely rebuilt from the 'floor up'

which will enable the site to be updated and altered far more easily in the future.

Apart from the alterations to the mechanics of the site a great deal of thought has gone into the look and the features that have now been added.

We hope that the new look will offer a professional window into the work of RPT members and allow visitors to the site to learn about our work and easily find what they are looking for in a user friendly and engaging way. We have also included a section for General Enquiries, Feedback and Complaints.

The 'Members only' area has also been revamped and there are a range of new additions including useful documents, pages of information relevant to RPT membership, and a database of regularly used forms which can be downloaded for use. Each member will also have access to their own entry in the RPT directory and will be able to add photographs of their work and update their personal details themselves. There is a 'how to' section for those unsure how to do this in the members' area, or I am only a phone call away to offer assistance if you need it.

As well as the website, pages to promote the RPT are active on Facebook and Instagram and we also have a RPT forum page on Facebook where 'members only' can communicate and exchange ideas, ask for help or advice, and share their work. If you are on Facebook, please be sure to like the RPT public page and also join the Forum. If you are not on Facebook and are unsure how to join then

please give me a call and I will be happy to help.

To make all these promotional tools work, however, it is necessary for you all to participate and contribute, I particularly noticed that only a ¼ of the membership have photos and a completed profile about themselves on their pages. The more information you can add to your own pages the better. We are also keen to promote events and personal achievements etc., so please let us know if you have anything to add to the website or promote on social media.

Now the website is live please check it out and let me know if there is anything you would like to add, take away or improve. The new version of the website is only the start of ongoing improvements and as such will never really be finished, there will always be new features to add and those that will need to be removed or changed.

We all hope you like the new site. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any help or have any suggestions.

Andy Fortune, Webmaster

Email: webmaster@rpturners.co.uk

Work: 01983 472696 Mobile: 07974 240870

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Now that the AGM is over, the current membership of the Committee is:

Chairman	John Boyne-Aitken
Deputy Chairman	Philip Greenwood
Feedback Form Officer	Gary Renouf
Newsletter Editor	Patricia Spero
Web-Master	Andy Fortune
Applications & Membership Offr	Position Vacant
Committee Secretary	Position Vacant
Turners' Company Rep	Chris Scott
Newsletter Coordinator	Peter Gibson

LIAM FLYNN

Although he was not a member of the RPT, we think it appropriate that we announce the sad news that the Irish woodturner Liam Flynn died recently in his sleep. His skill as a craftsman and his unique

designs have been admired the world over and his passing is woodturning's loss. The Register of Professional Turners would like to express our condolences to his family on hearing this news.

THE NEW WEBSITE

We would like to remind our members that, in order to access the new members only page of the website, they will have to set up a new password

which is individual to them. You may wish to change the password from the one that will be automatically suggested.

TURNERS' COMPANY BURSARY AWARDS 2017

Don't forget that 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.

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

LINCOLN HERITAGE SKILLS FESTIVAL

Be inspired by craftsmen and women who will be demonstrating ancient skills against the backdrop of one of the finest medieval buildings in Europe. The City of London Livery Companies will be exhibiting their crafts at Lincoln Cathedral on Friday 23 June and Saturday 24 June, from 10am to 4pm.

The Turners will be in a marquee in the grounds, and our very own RPT Chairman John Boyne-Aitken will be one of the demonstrators. There'll also be a display table where we can sell your own turned work for you (with 20% going to the Cathedral) - contact John in the first instance (chairman@rpturners.co.uk). The organisers hope for 5,000 visitors over the two days, so a good potential market.

As well as all the Livery Companies, there'll be a medieval market, mystery plays and live music. If you're in the area, be sure to drop in and see us!

An electronic copy of the flyer for the event is enclosed with this Newsletter.

NEWSLETTER

As we mentioned at the AGM, this newsletter is produced for the members of the RPT. Please could you help us by contributing with any news you think might be of interest to the other members. Details of exhibitions or commissions or even new ideas about turning are always very much appreciated.

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