

Honorary Assistant Nigel Glendinning Woodwark

After many years' brave battle against the insidious creep of Parkinson's disease, Honorary Assistant Nigel Woodwark slipped quietly and uncomplainingly away on Sunday 21st July 2013, aged 62.

Nigel Woodwark became a Liveryman in 1973, joined the Court in 1990, and by 1997 had reached the office of Renter Warden, supporting Peter Worlidge as Master. The other members of the Court knew of the progression of Nigel's illness and felt that it would be fitting for him to follow in the footsteps of his grandfather Sir Stanley Woodwark and father, Richard Woodwark.

The Court, therefore, decided that Nigel should be accelerated into the Mastership in 1998. Nigel, however, having been told on medical advice not to engage in any mental nor physically challenging roles, as to do so would hasten the development of his Parkinson's disease, declined the appointment and retired from the Court, being made an Honorary Assistant. Nigel's inability to accept the office of Master was both a personal and a family disappointment.

Nigel was a man of gentle manner committed to the Company, its management, and the projects, that were being formulated



at that time, to promote the Art and Craft of Turning. His counsel was valued and his announcement that he had to resign from the Court, in order to engage in a quieter and less stressful life, was received with great sadness.

Some one hundred family members, friends, sporting and business colleagues gathered in Norwich for a service of celebration, at which the Company was represented by Past Master Rob Lucas and Freeman Peter Mitchell – Nigel's brother-in-law.

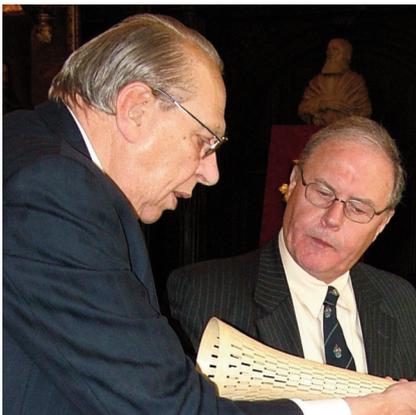
Chosen representatives addressed different facets of Nigel's life – but all spoke consistently of the high-quality contribution or advice he provided, whether to his extensive family or in his work as finance director for Eversheds solicitors.

His sporting ability and leadership were spoken of, at Charterhouse School and beyond, in both football and cricket, and the lifelong friendships established from his early years living in Ealing. Not least were the several mentions of his forthright attitude, his unflinching good nature, and his acute sense of humour accompanied by an infectious giggle!

Subsequently, reminiscences were swapped, initially in a local pub and then after repairing for refreshments on a gloriously hot summer's day to his home in nearby Saxlingham Nethergate. Here, we were made very welcome by his family, and where Lyn Woodwark's extensive and beautiful garden, so enjoyed by Nigel, was much admired.

Freeman Peter Mitchell
PM Colin Field

Liveryman Geoff Brandon 1923 - 2013



Geoff Brandon with PM Peter Ellis

With the passing of Liveryman Geoff Brandon, the Company has lost one of the staunchest of supporters of the craft of turning.

His contribution to the Society of Ornamental Turners and its link to the Company was immense.

Geoff was without doubt one of the main pillars on which the SOT was built, having joined the Society

in 1949 at its second meeting. He served with distinction as its President for 30 years from 1964 to 1994.

Geoff was apprenticed to Vauxhall Motors Ltd in 1939 and then had a number of jobs concerned with automation and robotics for the automobile industry, ending up as Group Managing Director of VS Remec.

He was a Member of both the Institution of Mechanical Engineering and the Institution of Engineering and Technology and was a Chartered Engineer.

He had numerous connections and associations with various outside organisations in his professional life particularly with the local Technical College and University, where he was a visiting lecturer for over 30 years. He was also a member of local model engineering and woodturning clubs and indeed was President of Bedford Model Engineering Club for two years.

He served on the Company's Craft Awards committee (later to become the Howe committee) for a period of 35 years starting before even becoming a member of the Company. He was presented with the Company's Gold Medal in recognition of this service.

His eye for design always held him in good stead and he won numerous medals and cups within the Company, the AWGB and the SOT. He had his own "trademark" design for the artefacts and spent many hours sketching and planning before turning commenced.

Geoff was married to Beryl for 48 years until her very sudden death some 20 years ago. He was fortunate to share the friendship and companionship in later years with Joyce Woodard, to whom we send our sympathies.

Geoff died on 1st September 2013 and his funeral was attended by members of the Company and the SOT as well as a large group from his other activities. We shall always remember him as a fine engineer, turner and one of life's true gentlemen.

Upper Warden Nick Edwards