

S.J. TURNER – CURRICULUM VITAE

Stephen spent his early years in North London before moving over the border to Cheshunt in Hertfordshire, where he attended the local Grammar School. He went on to read Medieval and Modern History at the University of Birmingham.

On graduating he joined the marketing department of the Electricity Council, then the parent body for the Electricity Supply Industry, subsequently moving to become Marketing Manager of Halfords. He then joined the Sharpe and Fisher group as Marketing Director of DIY retailer Sandfords, before becoming Marketing and Purchasing Director of their Builders' Merchants arm. His last post was a similar position with Jackson Building Centres, at that time the UK's largest independent merchant. He retired in 2009.

He met his wife Christine at university. She comes from Leamington Spa and for the last 41 years Stephen and Christine have lived nearby in Stratford-upon-Avon. Christine's claim to fame is that an ancestor sold Shakespeare his last home, so they are firmly rooted in the town. For many years, Christine taught history at Stratford Girls Grammar School.

They have two children, Alex, who is a television producer, and Eleanor, who is Head of Corporate Responsibility for Prudential UK. Both live in Greenwich.

Stephen served as Mayor of Stratford-upon-Avon in 1994-5 and for many years chaired the town's Charitable Trust. He has served as a Governor of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and as a Trustee of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust as well as a Governor of three schools. He remains active in a number of charities and organisations in the town.

He became a Freeman and Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Builders' Merchants in 2008 and joined the Court in 2011. He became Master in October 2016.

Stephen's other interests include looking at historic buildings, walking, antiques and the fine arts generally.