

Revolutions

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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The result of a
successful
Log Hunt
by George Watkins



www.awgb.co.uk

A Company Limited by Guarantee - Company Number 8135399
Registered Charity Number 1150255

Corporate Members of the AWGB

For full information refer to previous copies of Revolutions or the AWGB website

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All available from the AWGB secretary(details on page 3)
Make all payments to AWGB

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PLEASE NOTE

We are changing
e-mail addresses
of members of the
committee to
reflect their
position.
Consequently a
number of
addresses have
changed, (shown
in red), hopefully
the rest will follow
in due course.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

Your personal details are held on computers belonging to Executive Committee members.
Your details are held purely for the use of the Association and are not passed on to any third party. If you object to your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address being held in this manner then please contact the Secretary.

Chairman's Notes

These are my first Chairman's Notes after taking over the reins from Reg, and interestingly I begin with Lionel asking the same question Reg was so pleased to be escaping – "Where are they?". Sorry Lionel!

Stepping in to any new role is daunting enough, but when the former holder of that role was Reg Hawthorne the effect is tenfold. Ray Key once introduced Reg to a seminar audience with the claim that, "He is the best Chairman the AWGB has never had"; well now we have had him as Chairman Ray can console himself with the fact that his claim held true. Reg carried the Association through what must surely be its period of greatest change with energy, dedication, and that indefinable flair that anybody who knows him is both aware of, and mildly jealous of. He is an almost impossible act to follow.

I will of course endeavour to work to the best of my abilities, keeping the best interests of the Association, the members, and woodturning at the forefront of my mind. There are bound to be differences in the way I do things to the way Reg did them, but so long as the membership accepts that I am more George at Asda than Reg's Jermyn Street, I think we'll get along fine.

The Association is in a good place right now; the trials and tribulations of the substantial changes we have undergone are largely behind us; the Association has a strong and dedicated Executive, we continue to develop member training programmes and the recently trialled Certificate in Woodturning that Reg and Peter Bradwick have worked so tirelessly on is the first of a number of advancements which will benefit woodturning in general. Watch this space for the others.

Finally I would thank all those members and branch representatives who braved the snow to attend the AGM in March. It was a good and productive day, saddened only by the retirement of Dave Grainger who has been a stalwart of the Association for more years than many have been turning. We all wish him well, and know we will see him around at events for a long time to come.

Reg Hawthorne also officially stepped down at the AGM and handed over to myself. Reg has been the driving force over the last four years and I know we will all miss him; he has become a friend as well as a colleague, and I am happy to say that he is still helping in his role as seminar coordinator.

And finally, speaking of the seminar, the hands of the clock are fast approaching *seminar time*. We have an excellent range of presenters and tickets are selling fast, so if you haven't booked yet I suggest you do, and avoid the disappointment of missing the best woodturning event the UK has to offer.

Finally just to make a point clear that a recent hiccup in the e-bulletin left un-stated. **We have Simon Hope demonstrating!** (Hopefully that will get me out of his bad books!)

Andy Coates

AWGB - AGM 2013,

Oddington Village Hall, Gloucestershire - Sunday 17 March 2013.

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from: Brian Gibbs, Graham Lovett, Lionel Pringle, Brian Hensby, Stuart Mortimer, Peter Martin, and Tony Southey.
2. **Minutes of the 2012 AGM.** These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes of the 2012 AGM.** A member from Kent had asked why the Regional Representative East should not be titled Regional Representative South-East. Following the recent review of Regions, that Region **is** now referred to as **South-East**.
4. **Treasurer's Report for the Year ending 31 December 2012.** A copy of the Treasurer's Report follows these Minutes. The Treasurer, Dave Atkinson, made the following additional comments:
The accounts, for the 'old AWGB', up to 31 December 2012 showed a small profit of £3K+.
Looking ahead, with the AWGB now being a Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered Charity, probably the biggest benefit would be Gift-aided annual subscriptions. This would probably be administered by Branches submitting the total subscriptions, and then receiving the rebate subsequently. Details will follow.
Three bank accounts had been opened with Santander who offered very competitive charges of £7.50/month.
Demonstration Grants would be paid over the 'net, this saving both time and expense.
The PayPal account was receiving extensive use.
A Trading Company was being set up which would deal with the Seminar and goods sold.
5. **Chairman's Report.** Reg Hawthorne delivered his Report which follows these Minutes.
6. **Announcement of the result of the ballot for Trustees.**
 - 6.1 **Election of General Trustees.**

The Chairman said that now that as the AWGB is a Company and a Charity, the Executive comprises 6 General Trustees and 5 Regional Representative Trustees. The Trustees decide amongst themselves which appointments they will be responsible for. Thus Ray Key becomes the Executive President, and Andy Coates would become the new Chairman at the end of the meeting. The Chairman further reported that:

 - 6.1.2 David Atkinson has nominated himself to be a General Trustee (to continue as Treasurer.)
 - 6.1.3 Sam Webber has nominated himself to be a General Trustee (to continue as Secretary.)
 - 6.1.4 Paul Hannaby has nominated himself to be a General Trustee (to continue to be Data Manager, Membership Secretary and Insurance Officer.)
 - 6.1.5 There having been no other nominations, those above stand.
 - 6.2 **Election of Regional Representative Trustees:**

The Chairman reported that:

 - 6.2.1 For the South-West Region, volunteer candidate John Aitken had been nominated;
 - 6.2.2 For the North Region, volunteer candidate Russell Gibbs had been nominated; and
 - 6.2.3 For the Scotland Region, volunteer candidate David Willcocks had been nominated.
 - 6.2.4 There being no other no other nominations, those above stand.
7. **Vote on the Appointment of Accountants/Auditors for the AWGB,** namely Howard Wilson, Chartered Accountants. Proposed by John Montgomery and seconded by Russell Gibbs. Carried unanimously.
8. **Result of ballot on any resolutions.** There had been no resolutions.
9. **Any other business.**
 - 9.1 John Montgomery wished to record the appreciation of the Membership for all the good work done by the Executive, particularly by the Chairman. and to thank those who had provided such excellent catering. This was unanimously approved.
 - 9.2 The Vice Chairman, Mike Donovan, said that Dave Grainger was now retiring from the position of

Regional Representative – North, having done sterling work there for 20 years (this was amended to 15 years by Dave!!), and presented him with a farewell gift from the members of the Executive, adding that it was noteworthy that Dave had been replaced by two new Representatives!! Dave Grainger replied to thank the Executive for their kind gift, and to say to those present that they should consider volunteering to join the Executive in the future as it was both enjoyable and rewarding work

- 9.3 The Chairman-elect, Andy Coates, reminded the Meeting that Reg Hawthorne had been Chairman of the Executive Committee, and now the Executive, for the last four years, and was now retiring as required by the Articles of Association. Andy quoted a comment by Ray Key several years earlier that Reg “was the best Chairman the AWGB had never had”, but that that had now been rectified, and that Reg had steered the AWGB through a time in its history encompassing more changes than ever before. Andy presented Reg with a farewell gift from the members of the Executive with sincere thanks for all that he had done for the AWGB.

Ray Key, Executive President of the AWGB, reiterated many of the foregoing comments, and was pleased to note that Reg ‘would not be lost’ to the AWGB as he would be continuing to organise the 2013 Seminar, and would also continue working with Peter Bradwick on certification and diploma issues.

10. **Date of the next AGM.** This will be Sunday 23 March 2014 at Oddington.

The meeting was closed at 15.15.

Postscript:

The Chairman then presented his prize for his choice of work from the gallery to Bryan Milham (otherwise known as ‘Dragonfly’ on the AWGB website Forum).

Treasurer’s Report to the AGM

Seminar

Bookings have been coming in steadily since the last edition but we have room for many more. We have reprinted the booking form in this edition again. We have an outstanding selection of presenters from the UK and overseas and you can find full details of these on our website.

We’d be delighted to see you and if you can’t find the package you would like let me know and I’ll tailor something for your needs.

AWGB Trading Ltd

As a charity there are various pieces of guidance we must abide by and one of them relates to trading. A charity that buys and sells goods should establish a trading company. The trading company deals with all sales of promotional goods and in our case the seminar. As well as complying with the guidance this has two main advantages – any profits the trading company makes are donated to the charity free of any tax and it also simplifies the VAT situation.

On the advice of our accountants we have established a trading company called “AWGB Trading Ltd”. This started trading on 1st April and I am in the process of transferring our VAT registration across from the Charity to the Trading Company. This takes some time as it involves writing to HMRC and whilst they are very quick when I do things online, snail mail takes weeks!

Gift Aid

One of the major advantages of being a charity is Gift Aid. There are two aspects to this, firstly donations. If anyone wishes to make a donation to the AWGB, perhaps after a member development workshop we encourage you (if you are a UK taxpayer) to complete a Gift Aid form and return it to me with your donation. This enables me to claim 25p in the pound from HMRC.

Secondly, I have been informed via the HMRC Gift Aid helpline that we can claim Gift Aid on subscriptions for all members who are both UK Taxpayers and have not taken advantage of a member development workshop during the year. Our legal adviser and accountants have both advised me to write to HMRC to confirm this statement and I am waiting for a reply. So it’s “watch this space” for more information on Gift Aid for subscriptions.

If you would like to make a donation and require a Gift Aid form please let me know and I can email one across.

PayPal

In the last issue I told you I had applied for charitable rates. However, having completed a myriad of forms I was told we have to put £63,000 through the PayPal account before these would come into operation! You may guess what I said!!!!!!!

However the PayPal facility is proving popular and I'm pleased that members are using the facility.

2012 Accounts

At the end of last year we closed the books on the old AWGB – the unincorporated association and the accounts were approved at the AGM on 17th March. A copy of the Profit and Loss Account and Balance Sheet can be seen on page six.

We are in a solid position financially and if anyone would like a full set of accounts please email me (treasurer@awgb.co.uk) and I will send you a copy.

Retiring Chairman's Report to the AGM

I seem to report that every year has been busy and this last year has not been an exception but as it is our intention to keep improving and adding to what we do that will always be the case.

To increase our links with crafts in general we have become an organisational member of the Heritage Craft Association, we also now have a board representative with Voluntary Arts England and were sponsors of the Epic Awards for voluntary arts groups nationwide.

During this year we responded to comments made last year about lack of communication as some thought Revolutions and the web-site were not enough. A new e-bulletin has been introduced which allows us to send out any items of news or announcements in between issues of Revolutions. This is expanding after initial problems due to out of date e-mail addresses. We also now use Facebook and Twitter in addition to the web-site forum.

Charity

The amount of extra work associated with becoming a Limited Company and a Charity has been great, most of it shouldered by our treasurer Dave Atkinson working with our North London member Robert Craig. Our first application for charity status was refused so a lot of work had to be completed to emphasise what we do that can be a benefit to the public. I would like to thank them both for carrying this through to a successful conclusion. I have been made to sign so many forms I no longer know who owns what.

Our charity statement is:

1: to promote the craft of woodturning for the public benefit and in doing so raise the appreciation of the creativity, skill and heritage of woodturning.

2: to advance the education of the public in the skill and craft of woodturning

Now that we are a charity we will be looking at the way forward for the Association which will benefit the members and enhance the standing of woodturning in the United Kingdom.

Training

Our training courses under the leadership of Peter Bradwick have been increasing and developing and it is our intention that this trend should continue. We are looking at new ways of delivering courses and instruction to the members and bringing in new turners through the youth training events.

Last year I mentioned we were running a trial scheme for a certificate in Woodturning in association with the Worshipful Company of Turners, and I'm pleased to report that the first certificates were presented by the Master of the Worshipful Company in South Wales on the 7th March, with several more not too far behind. Axminster Skill Centre has also embraced the idea and some of their courses go some way towards the certificate. We will now look again at the certificate after this trial and make modifications if required, then start finding other suitable locations where it can be taught - this will require assessment and validation so that there is a guaranteed standard.

After the certificate we will be looking at introducing a diploma which will be a much more advanced qualification with many more modules and needing a much longer time frame to achieve.

Peter Bradwick will be concentrating on the certificate and diploma as we move on and although he will keep a watching overall brief, Brian Hensby will look after the day to day operation of our other courses.

Seminar

The Seminar planning has been taking a lot of my time and is now well under way. You will have seen the line-up and I hope many of you will be able to attend either for the whole week-end experience or for a day. If you can't do either of those please remember that visiting the trade show and viewing the usually tremendous gallery is free to all, as is parking.

We will be again holding the internet auction on Friday evening and it is the income from this which has allowed us to expand our training. This has become an enjoyable feature and an eye opener for some at the prices that can be achieved for woodturning.

As a result of development at the University we are now able to hold the whole event within the James France building which will make it more compact, and avoid the use of the nearby theatres in the Brockington building.

Committee/Executive

Paul Hannaby has joined the committee (now executive) and with his expertise in computers he has been a godsend and has been able to take on the duties formally carried out by Dave Atkinson, freeing him up for the treasurer's role. He has also been able to take over the membership secretary role from Sandra Needham and I would like to again thank Sandra for filling this post.

There are other changes to the executive taking part, Dave Grainger our Northern Rep is standing down, having been there forever and his role will be split, Russell Gibbs will be the representative for the North of England and Dave Willcocks will be the new Scottish representative, a warm welcome and thank you to both of them. Sam Webber jumped into the hot seat when the secretary post became vacant and has been on a steep learning curve ever since but has quickly reached the stage of prompting me about anything I've been a bit tardy on.

It would be fair of me to say that the whole committee has worked very hard this year and more importantly worked well together to overcome the many changes and additions. Thanks are also due as always to those outside the executive who work on your behalf –Lionel Pringle who continues to edit and improve Revolutions and Ron Caddy and John Montgomery who assist in organising training courses.

A new era is now beginning and for that I'm pleased to hand over to Andy Coates after this meeting who take the reins as Chairman, I'm sure he will be well supported as I was. I will still be involved as Seminar Organiser and in working with Peter Bradwick and the Worshipful Company of Turners on the certificate and diploma

Thank you

Reg Hawthorne, Chairman AWGB



Bryan Milham's prize winning piece from the AGM Instant Gallery

Presentation Night

Peter Bradwick

The first two successful candidates were presented with the 'Certificate in Woodturning' award by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Turners, Peter Gibson, at the venue of Crow Valley Woodturners in Cwmbran. The candidates, Eddie Fleming and Julian Cleak achieved the award through a course run in conjunction with Torfaen Adult Community Education.

Honourable guests attending the evening included the following:- from the Worshipful Company of Turners, Peter Gibson - Master, Peter Ellis - past Master and Nic Somers - Chairman of The Howe Committee.



Peter Bradwick, Eddie Fleming, Julian Cleak and Peter Gibson

From the AWGB, Ray Key and Reg Hawthorne. Representatives from Torfaen Adult Education were Ann Brain and Linda Brown. Also present were some 30-40 club members of the Crow Valley woodturning club.

Peter Ellis gave a speech outlining the background of how the 'Certificate in Woodturning' came about and the aspirations regarding the future. What follows is a short abstract from his speech...

Two years ago, on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Turners I approached the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain with my idea for the creation of a Diploma in Turning and, due entirely to the enthusiastic support and technical ability of chairman Reg Hawthorne and training officer Peter Bradwick, we now have the embryonic entry-level qualification of a 'Certificate in Turning'. Working together we hope to gradually rollout this qualification nationally and, in parallel, commence work on the creation of the higher-level course towards the attainment of a 'Diploma in Turning'.

With these being the very first attainments of the award, The Worshipful Company of Turners decided to have the certificates mounted in a frame. The Master Peter Gibson presented them to Julian Cleak and Eddie Fleming and congratulated both of them on their well-deserved award.

During the breather for refreshments, Ray Key and Reg Hawthorne judged an excellent display of members work for the Crow Valley Woodturners 'OZ Award' with Terry Everson being the winner of this with his beautiful inlaid bowl.



The full complement of honoured guests

The evening concluded with thanks to everyone present for supporting the event, especially to the honoured guests who had travelled some distance to support this very special event.

The 'Certificate in Woodturning' is designed to provide a training programme that covers the basic skills needed to become competent at woodturning.

The certificate is aimed at candidates with little or no experience, and is made up of modular training and assessment criteria recorded in a Candidate Logbook. The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain and the Worshipful Company of Turners jointly award the 'Certificate in Woodturning'. The trainer carries out assessment with external verification by AWGB approved verifiers.

The programme continues to be delivered at Cwmbran with three candidates having completed 75% of the certificate course and three more candidates about to start. Axminster Skill Centre and the Max Carey Woodturning Trust in Portishead are also offering the delivery of the course within their activities.

We now have the challenge of rolling out the 'Certificate in Woodturning' throughout the country; therefore we have the task of seeking out establishments with suitable facilities, with skilled trainers to be able to deliver the award. In parallel we shall be working on developing the more complex higher award 'The Diploma in Woodturning', watch this space!

For further information please contact the Development Officer. (Details on page three).

AWGB Insurance Scheme

Summary of Public Liability Cover

What is covered

Member to Member liability

- Demonstrations by club members at scheduled club events
- Tuition by club members at scheduled club events including tuition of non members
- Exhibitions
- Damage to rented or hired premises

What is NOT covered

- Demonstrators or tutors who are charging for their service are not covered under the club policy. We advise individuals to take out their own cover if they are charging for their services.
- The building where the event (club meeting, show, training session etc.) is not covered by the club policy. It is the responsibility of the officials organising the event to confirm adequate insurance is held by the venue owners.
- Unsafe events – Organisers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of the event and/or equipment. It is the responsibility of the organisers to perform safety checks and risk assessments and it is the responsibility of the owners of equipment to ensure it is safe for use.

Please consult the guidelines for demonstrations, tuition and other club events in the AWGB handbook for recommended practices.

Limit: £5,000,000 at any one event and in the aggregate any one period in respect of products.

Additional cover

Additional all risks cover for equipment can be taken out at the rate of £45 per £1,000 of value.

Equipment cover is based upon New for Old and the sum insured should reflect the full replacement value of the equipment etc.

Laptops and stills cameras are not covered under the policy.

The details of our broker are as follows:

Ian Wallace

Ian W Wallace Ltd

PO Box 5063,

Verwood, Dorset BH31 6WB

Telephone: 0800 919359

e-mail: ian@craftinsurance.co.uk

www.craftinsurance.co.uk

Seminar Instant Gallery

Paul Hannaby

As you are no doubt aware, the 2013 International Seminar is taking place at Loughborough University from August 9th - 11th. As in previous years, there will be an instant gallery open to all delegates. Up to three exhibits per delegate can be submitted and they can be for sale if you so wish but that isn't compulsory. Forms for gallery registration will be sent out with booking confirmations for everyone who has booked.

Advance registration is recommended to avoid the queues on arrival so post or email your forms to Paul Hannaby.

All exhibits entered by delegates will be considered for the prestigious Tony Boase tribute award, and the maker of the piece considered the best in the gallery will have their name added to the platter.

The instant gallery is open to the public and there is no charge for viewing so even if you are not attending the seminar, the gallery is worth a visit. There will be a selection of exhibits from both presenters and delegates so there will be plenty to inspire.

Thank You

May I just take a few lines to express the thanks of your editor to all those members who responded positively to my 'Scribes Wanted' appeal in the March issue. I am pleased to say that I now have a good supply of bits and pieces for future use, not everything will find its way on to the page immediately as some of the contributions are time related and will have to be published first, but your time will come. More input is always welcome however, so if you are still hovering please make the final leap.

Demonstrator and Instructor Training

John Montgomery

The Demonstrator Training Course that the AWGB run helps to take club demonstrating to another level and we would recommend it to all members wishing to improve their skills.

A number of courses have been held as far apart as Cornwall, Norfolk and Strathclyde. 2012 also saw the introduction of the Instructor Training Course of which I am also co-ordinator.

Most courses are organised through clubs affiliated to the AWGB who have members wishing to attend the course.

There are also a number of members who wish to attend the courses, but have no club in their area. We try to accommodate these members but it is more difficult due to the necessity of finding other candidates within a suitable travelling distance.

At the moment I have Russell Gibbs from **Bolton**, Patrick Murphy from **Carlton, Nottingham**, Graham Ambrose from **Berwick-on-Tweed**, Eric Hudson from **Derby** and Eric Smith from **Lowestoft**.

Ideally we need three or four members on each course. So if there are any members in the areas above that might wish to attend the Demonstrator Training Course, or a club affiliated to the AWGB wishing to run a course which could accommodate these members, please will they contact me. Email: john.r.Montgomery@sky.com
Tel: 01752 894083

Would members please use the Demonstrator Training application form, which can be downloaded from our website or obtained direct from me.

First Epistle from ScotRep

Dave Willcocks

Hi one and all from Scotland, this is my first attempt to put together an article for the newsletter. We have quite a lot going on here north of the border and I hope a lot more in the future.

In this my initial excursion as the Scottish area representative of the AWGB I ventured north from my home of Livingston to Monifieth on the east coast, a little beyond Dundee. The branch I was visiting is the Taywood Woodturning Group, which meets once a month in a local community hall. When I arrived the main room was set up with four small lathes and one larger Wivamac machine. Having been met by Dave Beat, and the obligatory coffee provided, I made my way around the various operators to see what was

going on. This was a hands-on day and the various member-demonstrators were very actively answering questions being put by the members.

The primary demonstrators were very active in encouraging others to have a go and guide them to master various tooling techniques.

The club treasurer was busy away with a deep hollowing exercise on the Wivamac, while another member was creating small boxes and on another mini lathe a very patriotic kilt adorned member was pushing the limit of the maximum size of bowl that could be handled over the bed. The deputy chairman was productively engaged in producing some smaller bowls, and lastly a very active area was set aside for sharpening with a water cooled slow speed grinder and a conventional bench grinder, one of the members was aiding and enlightening other members in tool sharpening methods. The sharpening of tools, (I will admit this is one of my pet subjects but this can be kept for another day), is all too often overlooked, without sharp edge tools we cannot efficiently undertake our pastime of generating wood shavings.


A very enjoyable afternoon was had by all, and to cap it off there was a competition to be judged. The subject of the challenge being a candle holder. The group turnout was in the order of thirty plus and was quite a busy affair. I did particularly like the library section where the club have an extensive collection of books and DVD's that could be borrowed between the monthly meetings.

Let's hope the branch continues to grow and develop, it was nice to see a number of lady members in attendance, you see lads it's not just a male hobby. Future events are planned for later in the year including a visit by Rocky Donnachie. I thank all at Taywood for the hospitality you extended to me.



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Raising Awareness of Woodturning Among Youngsters- Can You Help?

John Leach

For several years, the East Herts Woodturners, in collaboration with the AWGB and other AWGB Branches, has been running hands-on woodturning taster sessions for young people at Scout events. Often, at these activities, we are asked if we will demonstrate woodturning or run similar taster sessions for young people, at other events. Frequently, these would be in other parts of the UK.

I know there are many other clubs with similar youth activities. At the recent AWGB Branches Meeting, I spoke about this and asked which other clubs are involved with spreading the woodturning experience to youngsters. When we get requests for a woodturning activity for young people, it would be useful to know whether there are clubs in that area, that are willing to participate. At the Branches Meeting we circulated a questionnaire for those present to indicate their club's involvement. Thank you to those who did complete these questionnaires. However, many Clubs and Branches were not at the meeting. If your Club or Branch was not at the meeting or did not complete a questionnaire, I should appreciate an e-mail from you as to your Club/Branch's willingness to become involved.

Please **email me** at woodturningsurf@aol.com with answers to the following, as you feel appropriate:

Club Name

Name of Contact Person for the Club

Email address and/or phone number

1. Does your Club have any Youth (under 19 years) members? **Yes/no** If so, How many

2. Is your Club involved with any youth woodturning activities? **Yes/no**

If so, **please indicate all which apply**

2a As part of club evenings

2b At public events

2c At meetings of youth groups

2d Woodturning demonstrations

2e Youth training days

2f Hands-on taster sessions for young people

2g Other - please specify

3. If your Club were to be asked to demonstrate woodturning to youth groups, is the club likely to:

3a be willing to demonstrate woodturning

3b be willing to set up hands-on woodturning for the young people

3c Not want to get involved

4 If your club isn't involved with youth training events,

4a Are there particular concerns that inhibit the involvement? **Yes /No**

4b If yes, what are these concerns?

Young people today have very limited access at school to activities such as woodturning. However,

the expressions on the youngsters faces when they proudly show what they have made, indicates the interest there is which could be tapped for the future of woodturning. Please **email me** with details of your Club/Branch involvement.

South Downs Woodturners - Club Opening

Tony Matthews

A group of us have been meeting periodically in each other's workshops, and decided one day over lunch that a new club was needed in the local area. That decision set in train a whole host of activities designed to create a new club from scratch. We wanted to provide a full range of facilities pretty much from the outset.

Having found a suitable venue that is well situated in a major conurbation with good transport links, parking, and all of the facilities we needed, we set to work planning a programme. We felt that if we planned well, produced a website, and mounted a publicity campaign, we would stand a fighting chance of getting off to a good start.

We waited in trepidation for the first meeting on the 7th February without any idea as to how many people might turn up (excuse the pun). The snow in the weeks before didn't help our nerves as we had no way of telling people, who we didn't know, if we had to cancel. In the event the weather was kind to us and we opened our doors early at about 6:15 to a steady trickle of prospective members. By the start of the demonstration there were 39 people present - a great result.

We had laid on a 'Tools 'n' Turnings' table, a raffle, and tea, coffee and biscuits. Our membership secretary did a roaring trade and we are well on our way to our target for members required to enable us to break even in our first year.

One of our founder members Chris Grace volunteered to undertake our first demonstration.



Chris Grace demonstrating to an attentive audience

Chris brought in his small lathe and explained that he would illustrate the various stages used in creating a winged box with a lid and finial.

Throughout his demonstration Chris continued to explain both what he was doing and why. He emphasised elements that are sometimes skipped over, particularly how to hold the wood. He illustrated the use of tailstock pressure to press a small piece of wood directly against the chuck jaws to turn a dovetail spigot on it. Using the chucking spigot he had created, he screwed it onto an MDF disc and used double sided tape to attach a cork floor tile to make a cork faced faceplate - all neatly trimmed up with a small skew chisel. He then used the cork faceplate to support the blank and provide sufficient friction to drive the work with light tailstock pressure as he turned away the back of the log to form extremely thin wings for his vessel.

Members eagerly quizzed Chris about his work during the coffee break, and the 'Tools 'n' Turnings' table stimulated lively discussion.

We learned a lot from our first meeting, and will continue to aim to provide the facilities our members want. Thanks to new volunteers we will have a library and shop at our next meeting. Since our first meeting we have had a steady stream of enquiries and visitors to our website www.SouthDownsWoodturners.com so we all hope this is the start of something that will grow and flourish.

Scouts 'Turn' Up

Leslie Cumming

Inspired by articles in recent issues of 'Revolutions', Weston-Woodturning-Circle contacted a number of local Scout Groups to raise awareness and interest in our hobby and its potential for developing arts and crafts skills – not to mention the chance of earning another coveted badge.

The indefatigable John Hepworth (Membership Secretary) wrote to a number of Regional Scout-leaders; at first the response was pretty subdued and unpromising, but this just made John all the more determined and his efforts were soon rewarded when Jane Gomm (Assistant Scout Leader – Banwell Scouts) "wondered if you were able to do a session for about 15 Scouts?"

The club members rallied round and we soon had a promising 3-lathe, 4-step programme: Two short demonstrations run in parallel; A short talk on working safely; supervised hands-on for all Scouts; club-member's display table.

Given the age-range and interests of the audience, the event was centred on two of our youngest members and focussed on making a Woggle (Scouts scarf clip) and a Spurtle (porridge/baked-bean stirrer).

Russell and Keiran (13 and 11 respectively) were

novice members only twelve months ago but, such are their natural talents, that both had acquired the skills and confidence to be happy to open the show by making a Woggle and a Spurtle. This was followed by the club chairman giving a short presentation on safe working practices.



Russell coaching a scout with Peter Davis keeping a watchful eye

Then on to the main course. Russell and Keiran, ably assisted by some of the more seasoned members, supervised and tutored all 12 Scouts while they enjoyed about 25 minutes each to make their very own Woggle or Spurtle. The result was 12 very happy and proud Scouts each wielding their very own, and highly individualised version of a Woggle or Spurtle. It was good to see so many enthusiastic youngsters enjoying themselves, with a tremendous amount of concentration being given by everyone involved. A follow up offer was made to the Scout Leaders offering further tuition for those Scouts who couldn't make it on the night, with many of the club members volunteering their time.

The success of the evening was recorded for posterity by a local press-reporter whose article appeared in



Just look what we made! A pleased bunch of scouts

the next edition of the Weston Mercury. You can find out more at www.westonwoodturningcircle.co.uk

So what now? Our members are keen to promote the joys of woodturning to local younger audiences such as Scouts. But we are very much amateurs at this stage and would appreciate advice (and other support) from clubs that have gone down this path before us. For instance, copies of training programmes and documentation developed by others, including Scout's badge attainment details, would be very useful as would contact from other clubs interested in collaborative activities in the region.

Lottery Grant for Mid Wales

Mid Wales Woodturners have recently been awarded a Lottery Grant by the Big Lottery Fund under the "Awards for All" scheme which gives grants to community groups - in the case of Mid Wales Woodturners - to help attract new people to woodturning and to develop the skills of our existing members.

The award of just under £5,000 is for a project entitled "Training and Technical Library for woodturners in Mid-Wales". The grant will cover the cost of purchasing an Axminster AT1416VS lathe with extension bed, chuck, accessories, and a basic set of woodturning tools, the setting up of a Club Library, and two Workshop Days which are intended both as training for existing club members and to encourage complete beginners to come along and try woodturning for themselves.

The Workshop Days are to be held on the 19th May and 18th August in Carno Community Centre. The club will have four lathes available, plus tools, accessories, safety equipment and a sharpening system. There will be a Professional turner in attendance on both days to guide and instruct turners of all ability levels. Gerry Marlow will be looking after us on the 19th May and James Smith on 18th August. The Lottery funding also paid for the production of a colour leaflet in both English and Welsh in order to advertise the Workshop Days in the local area.

The Club Library is now available with a wide range of woodturning books, DVDs and specialist tools available for loan to club members.

For further information regarding the Workshop Days, please contact Kym Price, Secretary of Mid Wales Woodturners by e-mail at secretary@midwaleswoodturners.com or by phone on 01650 511572.

Why do mountain climbers rope themselves together?
To stop anybody who comes to their senses from going home.

From Humble Beginnings!

Peter Martin – Bill Carden

As we approach another seminar and having recently celebrated 25 years since the inception of the Association some history has come into my possession which I thought would be of interest to others.

The first British Seminar was held at Loughborough College of Art and Crafts from 14th to 16th August 1987. The seminar was held following an apparent rapid growth of interest in creative woodturning throughout the world and was sponsored by the Crafts Council, Robert Sorby Ltd and Craft Supplies. The list of contributors will still be recognised today: Albert Le Coff (USA) who organised the first symposium in America in 1975 and founded The Wood Turning Centre in Philadelphia.

David Elsworth (USA) President of the American Association of Woodturners

Ray Key (UK) one of England's best known turners at that time, and author of Woodturning and Design. At that time Ray specialised in boxes and work with exotic woods.

Stephen Marchant (UK) who was the only fully trained turner in the team, having served a full apprenticeship in woodturning. He was working in the area of interior design making large scale columns and urns.

Ed Moulthrop (USA) an architect, engineer and studio artist who specialised in giant bowls and spheres from end grain and developed polyethylene glycol for woodturners.

Michael O'Donnell (UK) using Scottish Hardwoods to make delicate bowls.

Jim Partridge (UK) trained at the School for Craftsmen in Wood and designer and maker of individual furniture and bowls

The organiser of the Seminar was Ray Key, the Programme Advisor, Mick O'Donnell and the Administrator Margaret Lester and the theme was something which is still discussed regularly today "From Craft to Art" – a matter that is still to be resolved.

Following this Seminar there seemed to be a deal of correspondence regarding the setting up of an Association in the United Kingdom and, indeed there are letters from Margaret Lester to people in Kent who subsequently formed a nucleus of the infant Association and were also founder members of Kent Woodturners, as it is now known, (previously AWGB Kent Branch) amongst whom was John Hunnux the author of a number of very relevant woodturning publications.

This led to John Hunnux and Bill Carden holding the first regional seminar called "Practice and Pleasure of Woodturning" at the Chatham Secondary School in Kent where members of the newly formed Association of Woodturners of Great Britain inaugurated their first meeting in Kent as invited guests.

John Hunnex and Bill Carden conducted demonstrations in the morning and Mr Jarvis, a director of British Gates and Timber of Biddenden introduced the theme of "Turning for Pleasure".

There were also demonstrations of Spinning, Lace Making, Pyrography and Fret Sawing with videos being shown of Dennis White, Richard Raffan and Del Stubbs. At the end of the day donated monies were given to the Association and forms were distributed requesting feedback for the Association on the day in general.

Following this seminar the Kent Chapter, as it was then known, was set up and held its inaugural meeting on 18th March 1989 at the home of David Crawford, a member of both the AWGB and the American Association of Woodturners. David was appointed Chairman of the Kent Chapter with John Hunnex as Secretary and Eileen Dawes as Treasurer. The initial subscription was £10 per member. And so it grew!!

To bring this up to date it would appear that:

Albert Le Coff is now 62 years of age and is still active with American and international wood artists in the Wood Turning Centre which he founded. His books are still available. David Elsworth is now aged 68 and lives in Buck's County Pennsylvania. He has been turning since 1958 and is still active. Ray Key is known to us all, is President of the Association and still seems to be very busy. Stephen Marchant is still working in the Cheltenham area. Ed Moulthrop lived in Atlanta, Georgia and has work featured in many prestigious collections throughout the USA. He died in 2003 at the age of 87. Michael O'Donnell lives with his wife at the most northerly point on the Scottish mainland where they run a Bed and Breakfast establishment. Jim Partridge has designed and made furniture for 22 years. He and Liz Walsley completed an altar for Christ Church Cathedral in Oxford and many other large projects.

As can be seen the history of the Association is littered with well-known craftsmen from around the world and they still attract the very best from the market when they put together the bi-annual seminar programme and attendance has been an opportunity to learn from the best since its very inception in 1987.

The Kent Chapter has also gone from strength to strength through a number of incarnations and the original half a dozen members can be very proud of what they passed on to future generations.

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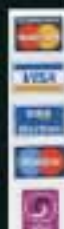
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Log Hunting and Processing

George Watkins

I think the main reason that I enjoy woodturning so much is that there are so many different facets and specialisations within the main title of woodturning. One of those facets I really enjoy is sourcing and buying logs and I am very lucky to have two friendly tree surgeons who I can call on. One chilly but sunny day last November I did just that and drove the 9 miles to the log yard.

I love looking around the yard (see pic 1, 2 or 3) and seeing what's new. The majority of this timber will become firewood, although some oak will be planked for timber frames etc. Knowing that it's destined to be firewood is great as I'm free to cut the end off as many logs as I like, enabling me to check the colour and figuring of the timber, as well as identifying any defects before I commit to buying.

I found an ash log tucked away near the back of the yard (see pic 4 or 5), and judging by the colouration on the ends and the height of the grass and weeds growing around it, I would estimate that it had been there for some time, maybe as long as 2 or 3 years. I like logs this age, the main benefit being that the free water has long since gone, but there is still enough moisture to make working with it enjoyable. There was the large main trunk of the tree complete with crotch and a smaller limb, which also had a crotch alongside it. It showed great potential to be an interesting piece of wood to work with, so I decided to cut the ends off of the limb and see what colour the timber was. To my delight it had some very nice heartwood colouration with some signs of olive figuring too. The limb was around 10' or 12' long and between 18" and 24" wide. I set about cutting it into manageable sections of around 20" in length. This size allows for any cracking on the end of the logs whilst they are stored in my log pile, whilst still leaving me with a good sized piece to turn. I didn't get a before photo, but in pictures 4, 5 & 6 you can see the larger trunk with the debris pile from processing the limb. Having cut the pieces I wanted I loaded the logs into my van and brought them home (see pic 7). I don't seal the ends of the logs, but I do store them out of direct sunlight and under old blankets until I want to work with them (see pic 8 or 9)

I have been using this batch of ash logs over the winter and wanted to show you the process of cutting one and the resulting forms I made from it.

To start with I pulled out one of the larger logs and looked at the end grain for any sign of defects (see pic 10, 11 & 12). The end grain had discoloured since I obtained the logs so it was difficult to determine the internal colour and figuration. I cut a couple of inches off each end so I could assess the quality of the timber and also see where the pith was located,

as this allows me to work out how best to cut the log. Pictures 13 and 14 show both ends of the log after cutting. On one end there was some amazing dark colouration but also three piths, with a bark inclusion between two of them! The other end only had one pith with a small heart shake. As a general rule I want to avoid having the pith in my forms as it will cause excessive movement as the piece dries, and it also increases the chance of ending up with a cracked or split finished form. With this in mind it was quite a challenge to cut this log and avoid having any piths in the final forms. After much head scratching, I decided on cutting 4 blanks, two 6" and two 5" (see pic 15). Two forms were going to be without any pith and two might have some pith at one end of the blank, but I **hoped** to be able to use that end for my faceplate and avoid the pith altogether. Pictures 16, 17 & 18 show the centre of the log and the final four blanks.

Over the next day or so I mounted all four blanks on my lathe and turned some forms, unfortunately one of the 5" blanks had a deep hairline split and I decided it was too dangerous to work with. However the other three blanks were fine. I turned them all to around a 1/4" wall thickness. My pith avoidance plan worked out well, so I was happy with the outcome. These unseasoned turned forms were then placed into a cupboard in my house, with the door open slightly to allow airflow. Over the next two weeks they dried slowly with minimal distortion. The pieces were now ready for finishing, I applied my preferred finish Woodoc 10 which gives a hard wearing satin finish.

I really enjoy log shopping and although it can be heavy work I believe it is well worth the effort as it allows me to have full control over the process.



Result of a successful shopping trip



Whistles

John Boyne-Aitken

At one of my regular venues there is a miniature railway, the kids love it. On warm days in the spring and summer they queue up for a trip and the mums and dads, or more likely the grandparents, nostalgically talk of train rides of yesteryear. Always looking for different things to make I decided to try my hand at making whistles for the children to blow when on the train. I am sure that I heard the train driver say that he was really pleased to be able to hear the sound of my whistles.

I like to make these out of a timber that is not generally dusty and so I chose ash. Ash will turn cleanly and you can get a nice finish on it. This is a good project for using up your off-cuts. I made the last ones from an off-cut of wood that was 100mm square by 75mm long. From this piece of wood I was able to make about 35 whistle blanks, and allowing for setting up and machining mistakes, and the odd bit with knots, I ended up with 30 whistles, I'm sure the train driver loves me!

Cut the blanks to about 13mm square and 75mm long, mount between centres and turn to a cylinder. If you are making a batch then it is easier to use a 'Steb Centre' in the head-stock and a live centre in the tail. I am happy judging the centre of my blanks by eye, but it doesn't hurt to mark it with a pencil if you prefer. Once my blank is round, I then fit a chuck to the head-stock. The jaws on this will grip down to 10mm. In order to make sure that the wood runs true I bring up the tail-stock and position it on the dimple left during the previous operation. Then I tighten the jaws and run the lathe to make certain that all is OK.

Move the tail-stock down the bed and replace the live centre with a Jacobs chuck. In my shed I had some 6mm dowel that would do for the reed part and so I carefully measured it and found that it was in fact more like 6.5mm in diameter. So I fitted a 6.5mm drill bit in the Jacobs chuck to drill the holes. Try not to drill at too high a speed or you will end up burning the hole, once you have burnt the inside of the whistle you will struggle to get a good fit for the reed and if you "blue" your drill bit it will never hold a satisfactory edge again. Start the lathe and wind the drill bit into the end of your blank. Do not try to drill the hole in one go, take small bites and then withdraw the bit and clear it before re-introducing it. Be careful to hold the chuck on withdrawal to ensure it does not come loose.

At this point we should talk about the tone of the whistle. The general rule is the deeper the hole, the deeper the sound, but the sound is also altered by the width or diameter of the hole. It also gets a little more complicated when you realise that tonality is also affected by the size of the hole in front of the

reed! I think the easiest way to work all this out is to make a few and tune them using trial and error, for instructional purposes drill the hole about 45mm deep.

To streamline the production of whistles I wanted to put them on a mandrel to turn, I soon found out that if you make a mandrel from wood you will sometimes end up with the whistle jammed on it and you are unable to remove it. To overcome this problem I went to the local market and purchased a cheap (of course) cross point screwdriver, one with the shank of 6mm which I then cut off close to the handle. I sharpened up the cross points and put this in the Jacobs chuck with the cross point towards the tail end of the lathe, and I then had a cheap, small, 4 point driving head. The point of the driver engages in the bottom of the whistle, and as it is inside you cannot see any damage caused through the turning.

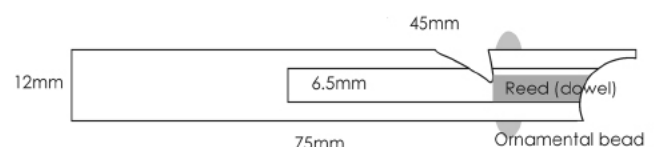
Put the whistle on the mandrel and turn to final shape, I like to turn a small bead just behind the mouth piece. I have a few favourite shapes that I turn all with fairly simple embellishments, one bead, two beads etc. At this point any sanding and finishing should be carried out. I normally finish with friction polish.

Once all my blanks have been turned I then remount them one by one on a short piece of dowel in the chuck to make the cut out. This I do with a small hacksaw cutting vertically down behind the mouth piece bead and then in at an angle (about 30°) to remove a small wedge shaped piece. This is much easier to do if the tail stock is brought in for support with a small cone drive fitted.

All that is left to do now is to plane or sand a flat onto the dowel and fit. Do a dry fit first, if the whistle does not sound right then it can be adjusted by altering the size of the flat on the dowel (reed) or making the wedge shaped hole larger. Once you are happy with the tonal qualities mark where the dowel fits, remove, glue and replace.

Sand the end of the mouth piece once the glue has dried and also shape the underside to make it a similar shape to the mouth piece on a recorder.

I take with me to the shows a whistle without a reed and ask the children if they have ever heard of a 'wont whistle', they look a bit blank as do their parents until I explain that blow as hard as you like it 'won't whistle'. Another trick is to drill an extra hole in the side, at the bottom end; it will not make a sound until you block this hole with a finger.



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Ray and Reg cogitating

Pressure at the Crows Nest

Jim Hitch

This year the club held a special social evening combining the club 'Oz Award' ceremony and the presentation of the 'Certificate in Woodturning' of which you can read more elsewhere in this edition.

The highlight of the evening for the club was the presentation of the 'Oz Award'. This shield is in memory of our late, first Chairman – Tony Jenson or 'Oz' to his friends. It is presented to the club member whose turned item in the instant gallery, is awarded the most judges points for turning techniques, design, finish and technical challenge. The winner has a replica trophy to keep and his/her name is engraved onto the shield itself, which is kept on display at the centre.

Each year the standard of the items in the gallery has improved, in part, because members have had the opportunity to attend monthly design and development sessions incorporating 'bring and tell' critiquing. The gallery clearly demonstrates that all members have the skills and artistry, to be intuitive in their choice of wood and design. The pieces on display varied in size, were useful and/or ornamental with a variety of decorative finishes. This continued improvement in the standard of finished items reflects the progress of the club and its members; though of course, there is always room for improvement.

Representatives of the 'Worshipful Company of Turners' including Peter Gibson, Master; Peter Ellis, past Master; and Nic Somers, Chairman of The Howe Committee came to the Centre to present Certificates to Eddie Fleming and Julian Cleak. They are the first two successful candidates to achieve the 'Certificate in Woodturning' through a course delivered at the Centre in conjunction with Torfaen Adult Community Education. Ray Key, the AWGB President and Reg Hawthorne, the AWGB Chairman, who also attended the presentation kindly agreed to make their selection from the club's gallery.

Whilst club members enjoyed a delicious buffet, Ray

and Reg were left to the serious business of selecting their award-winning piece from an excellent display of members work. Eventually Terry Everson was announced the winner of the 2013 'OZ Award' for his beautiful inlaid bowl. In addition to presenting the trophy, Ray and Reg gave a very enlightening critique of many of the gallery pieces including the top three.

It was interesting, inspiring and educational to hear the views of two top turners, especially those of Ray Key who judges competitions around the world, and one important lesson we all learnt was that we should all spend more time and attention to the finishing process.

At the end of proceedings, the club Chairman congratulated the members on a successful evening and thanked Ray and Reg for doing the honours and raising the profile of the 'Oz Award'.



Terry Everson with his winning piece and the trophy

Simple Gifts

Dave Grainger

I was commissioned recently to turn some simple objects for a seed exchange to be held in our village during February. These are strictly simple pieces of basic woodturning, but they have become popular as gifts for gardeners therefore I have called them 'Simple Gifts'.

However these simple devices are an opportunity to practice basic skills principally the use of the skew chisel. They are also good for demonstration 'fill-ins' taking only a few minutes to produce. They also make good starter projects for beginners.

There were to be five pot making devices, used to produce little pots made from folded newspaper, in which seeds would be planted for germination. After germination the paper pots would be planted out and would rot down as the plant develops. There were also five little 'dibbers' to prick holes in which to plant the seeds.

Let's begin with the pot making tools. These were made from pieces of ash pulled from the firewood pile and they consist of a plunger and an anvil. The plunger is 125mm long and 50mm in diameter. A 25mm diameter hole is bored 19mm deep into the business end of the tool whilst the top end can reflect all of your artistic skills in the form of a knob or handle. The lower 50mm is simply left as a smooth cylinder.



The pot making device in action

In use, strips of newspaper are wrapped around the smooth 50mm section, whilst some of it is folded and tucked into the 25mm hole in the bottom.

The anvil is simply a disc, 125mm in diameter. A 22mm diameter raised portion is left in the centre which is surrounded with a moat, 13mm wide and 19mm deep. The whole unit should not be a tight fit so as to allow room for the newspaper pot. The plunger with the newspaper pot is simply pushed onto the anvil, the 'tucked in' portion of newspaper is compressed to form the bottom of the pot and behold you have made a little inexpensive seed pot.

The other accompanying device was simply a small dibber made from a cylinder of ash, 125mm long by 25mm in diameter tapered to a blunt point with a handle or knob to match that on the plunger.

It's All Quite New to Me

Peter Stubbings

At the tender age of 60 I decided that I would like to take up woodturning in my retirement, and that an ideal present from my better half would be a woodturning lathe.

My good friend George lent me an excellent video produced for Record Power featuring Reg Slack and Roy Sutton – now sadly no longer available, and some very good friends clubbed together to buy a starter set of Robert Sorby tools.

In the event, due to lack of space, it was another eight years before buying my first lathe (a Record Power CL1) on ebay in May 2012, and starting to put into practice the lessons learnt on that old video, which was revisited, and added to by CD's and books from Keith Rowley (brilliant) and a CD from Richard Raffan.

Starting with goblets, egg cups, twig pots, and candle-holders I have now progressed to toadstools, platters, bowls and boxes. We have even started on fruit! What a totally fascinating and rewarding hobby this really is. The CL1 is now resident in the UK, while a CL3 is installed at our other home in Brittany. The tools of the trade, now expanded through Christmas and birthday presents, travel back and forth between the two workshops.

Needless to say there has been no shortage of Christmas presents to friends and relatives this year, mainly bowls, with nut-crackers and walnuts to the lucky few. We even received a present from George of a fine yew branch (now a toadstool and box) wrapped in Christmas paper. However, the mountain of turned items is building, and my good lady has advised that visits to craft fairs will be the order of the day later in the year. Luckily the Bretons (never call them "French") love hand crafted items,

so we should have no shortage of customers and subsequent euros to fund this growing hobby.



Traders at the Seminar

As is customary at the AWGB International Seminar a range of woodturning suppliers will be supporting us in the trader's area. If there is something specific that you would like to order for collection at the Seminar please get in touch with any one of those named below and save yourself some significant delivery costs.

Ashley Iles (Edge Tools) Ltd

As usual Tony Iles will be on hand offering almost our full range of turning tools in HSS, carbon steel pole lathe tools, a small selection of carving tools and cabinet makers tools. As always we are eager to attract pre seminar orders for collection with or without pre fitted handles.

Axminster Tool Centre

Axminster Tool Centre welcomes pre-orders for any products from the 2013 catalogue. If you wish to pre-order, please e-mail mark.vincent@axminster.co.uk with product names and codes. Mark will bring your orders with him to the Seminar. We will also be putting together some attractive offers exclusively for the Seminar.

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The ToolPost

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Turners Retreat

Turners Retreat is a specialist woodworking retail outlet offering an extensive selection of tools, timber and accessories for the woodworker. Products are available through our free mail order catalogue, securely online and in-store. Throughout the year we stage a number of in-store demonstrations. www.turners-retreat.co.uk - eshop@turners-retreat.co.uk - 01302 744344

A View from the Audience

Phil Stephenson

Having been a member of West Midlands Woodturners for approaching a quarter of a century, I have had the pleasure (sometimes dubious) of sitting through many visiting professional demonstration days. Were they all brilliant? Well, many were, but sadly a few were not. Did the occasional demonstrator in question go away, knowing that he had failed to capture and inspire his audience? Once again, probably not. We tend to be friendly folk in the woodturning world and the last thing on our minds would be to upset a visitor to our club by telling him he had bored us rigid for most of the day, or had disappointed us with an ill-prepared presentation we had all been looking forward to and had paid good money for!

Naturally we often discuss our opinions of the day but unfortunately the criticism, positive or negative, rarely gets back to the demonstrator. So here are a few personal do's and don'ts to any one of that august band of itinerant experts who put their skills and reputations on the line to educate and entertain us mere mortals of the woodturning world! I know most of these comments seem blindingly obvious, but it's invariably precisely these things that can make, or mar, a demo day.

Some don'ts first:-

Don't come ill-prepared. It is insulting and annoying to start off by telling your audience how busy you've been in the last week, so half your tools and gadgets are still back in your workshop, and you've forgotten to bring your special little skew and you can't find your chuck key which you definitely had last weekend.

We've had some very embarrassing silences while a very well-known turner rummaged for endless minutes muttering to himself, oblivious to the murmurings of an audience of 40+.

Don't revel in the sound of your own voice. We come to see shavings flying, not listen to your life story. Our record is 75 minutes chat, leaning on the work mounted in the chuck, waiting to be turned while the demonstrator rattled on about - well, I've no idea, and actually I turned off after about five minutes. Sadly, the bigger the name, often the greater is the volume of verbiage. Talk less, turn more. Don't tell us how skilled and successful a turner you are, show us!

Don't use your visit as an opportunity to hard-sell your latest jig, tool or tin of shiny finish. We are all interested in products and materials but a gentle approach is appreciated.

And a few do's:-

Take advice from the Bookings Secretary about what you plan to do for the day. One of our most venerable visitors offers a menu of activities from which our secretary can choose in advance - an excellent idea!

Set out your objectives clearly as you go along and explain what you are doing (in as few words as possible).

Encourage audience participation. Ask us questions; plant a few in advance if you think we're a quiet bunch. Get one or two of us up to have a go, or help you out. Remember the graveyard slot is straight after lunch when we all fancy a snooze so this is when you need to be at your most dynamic!

Demonstrate something complicated by all means (after all, we have come to be impressed) but don't forget that we are not all experts so always demonstrate something - a technique or a finished item - that everyone can have a go at when they go home. Mix the 'wow factor' with the 'your turn now factor'.

Show us something we are not likely to have seen before. Many of us have been watching demos for half a lifetime so don't just repeat what you've been doing for the last 15 years - or change the jokes at least!

Ask for feedback at the halfway point and at the end of the demo. Don't just ask the open forum as no-one is going to say anything negative, so ask the secretary for some honest feedback. We very rarely get the chance to make constructive criticism; and don't be offended if some of the comments are not as flattering as you might like.

We have heard of the existence of an official

feedback form but have never actually been offered one. Maybe the AWGB could implement something along these lines and make sure the whole subject of customer satisfaction is included in the excellent demonstrator training sessions now under way.

Rambling

Terry Littlewood

Doubtless you will be wondering why this article is headed Rambling? In a long and varied life I have been a Rambler in all its forms both verbal and physical.

My lifelong hobby and a greater part of my career have been concerned with photography in some form or other. I was a woodturner of sorts early in my teaching career and after a long absence I taught myself to turn again in my third age as a 'matured' citizen.

Combining this with my photography I have investigated the use of the internet to provide me with inspiration for both branches of the Arts. I don't know how the purists will react to that one but hey what the heck! My daughter put me in touch with the website 'pinterest.com', primarily it is a site where if you see an image you like, you can pin it onto your Pinterest page.

Having a page will cost a small amount; I paid less than £2 when I joined after trying out the free trial first and liking it. I can upload my images to it and achieve some exposure for my artistic/craft interest as well as finding new ways to do things and fresh ideas. Early on I put in a search for woodturning and found a large number of examples, mainly of American turners work but depressingly few, two in fact, of British turners both Jimmy Clewes bowls. Some turners from the rest of the world get a look in but there are not many.

Given the amount of exposure our woodturning press give to American turners, symposiums etc. left me with the feeling that we could redress the balance if we started pinning our images or images of British turners onto the American Scene. I realise that our professional turners may well have their own website where their work gets a suitable airing, and there is Facebook and Flickr and many other ways of disseminating photographs on the web but I find Pinterest useful, easy to use and for the moment they don't sell your images to anyone, which cannot be said of some sites that I have read about. Any serious photographer will tell you about the thorny issue of theft of Intellectual knowledge and content. So if you do post any of your images to the web or any other of the media check to see about copyright and make sure your imagery is acknowledged.

So British turners show the web your work!

The Woodturner's Wife

Jane King

If you're a Woodturner, who has a wife,
Your life needn't be full of trouble & strife.

Just make a few things, that she will desire,
But also make sure, you've a wood-burning fire,

As the odd little error, you make at the lathe,
Will then heat the house, so it won't be so grave.

You're bound to trail shavings, all round the house,
But if you clear up, then she can't really grouse.

Make sure that you finish, whatever you start,
So that half-mangled wood does not clutter the
hearth.

You need a house full of artistic & beautiful things,
Not shavings & chippings & old metal rings.

The fact that you like to spend hours on your own,
Should not be a problem, she won't need to phone,

To find where you are, if something goes wrong,
She knows you are there, and can come right along.

She waits every time, just a while at the door,
To make sure you don't slip & add more to the floor.

If she complains, she's left out in the cold,
Then get her involved, it's time to be bold.

A pyrograph tool that will burn nice designs,
Will capture her interest, in all your new lines.

If you turn something pale, that is int'resting too,
She can burn what you turn, an enhancement for
you.

So this is a story for you and your wife,
Your life needn't be full of trouble & strife.



Original artwork by Rosemary Hatton

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Too Cold to Turn

Jane King

Too cold to turn, it is, he said,
So inside he came, with me, instead.
Some time together, at last, I thought,
But bored and restless, more work, he sought.

So, to the computer to draw, plot and plan,
Then order online, timber, paving and sand.
Outdoors in the cold, his body warmth saving,
By digging, levelling, walling and paving.

Then timber posts too, hanging baskets to come,
New patio area, waiting for sun.

A nice quiet place to lie out and rest,
But, then he'll get bored, what do you suggest?

What shall I do with a man, always busy,
Missing his lathe turning wood 'til it's dizzy.
So, roll on the Spring, for warmth we both yearn,
'Cause he just works so hard, when it's too cold to turn.



Avon and Bristol Woodturners

John Ruffle

Avon and Bristol Woodturners has operated in the Bristol area for the past 24 years. It currently has almost a hundred members and meets at St Teresa's Church Hall in Filton, on the third Thursday of each month, commencing at 7.30pm. Entry is free to all members and there are two free trial visits allowed for prospective members. Some members travel a very considerable distance to join in the activities of the Club.

The monthly programme includes regular demonstrations from a variety of professional turners, as well as 'Hands On' evenings, where a number of members demonstrate their particular skills in a 'Marketplace' atmosphere. These evenings may also include an 'Any Questions' session, where members have the opportunity to seek answers to their woodturning problems from a panel of more experienced members. There is also an annual social event when spouses and partners are welcomed to share in the fun. The Club publishes a monthly magazine, 'Turnings', which is supplied free to every member.

One unusual feature of the Avon and Bristol Club is its association with the Max Carey Woodturning Trust. The Trust operates a large workshop (The Mill),



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in Portishead. This has more than twenty lathes and ancillary equipment, to provide a truly unique low-cost training facility for woodturners. The workshop is open two days a week and participants pay a small daily fee for the use of a lathe, the loan of tools, (if they do not have their own), and tuition from a group of voluntary tutors. A number of the tutors, as well as being experienced woodturners, have worked for many years as professional teachers or lecturers. A body of skilled engineers, tradesman and administrators work tirelessly to make sure the Trust and its training facility continue to operate effectively.

The workshop was originally a commercial carpentry workshop with several lathes. The owner of this, Max Carey, who was President of Avon and Bristol Woodturners, used this, in retirement, as his private workshop. He used to invite club members to use the lathes in the workshop. He had a passion for sharing his love of woodturning with others. When, several years ago, Max became terminally ill, he wanted the workshop facility to continue to be available to club members. To make this possible, the Max Carey Woodturning Trust was set up. This now provides training in woodturning, and also runs occasional day workshops given by professional turners.

Although, because of its charitable status, The Mill will always be open to the general public for the purpose of learning the craft of woodturning, the Trust remains intimately linked to Avon and Bristol Woodturners. Perhaps understandably, because the Club provides a focus for woodturning in the Bristol area and beyond, the majority of those who use the facility are members of the Club.

Both Avon and Bristol Woodturners and the Max Carey Woodturning Trust have their own web sites, and these are to be found at <http://www.avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk> and <http://www.maxcareywoodturningtrust.org.uk>.

**Copy deadline for
the next edition of
Revolutions is
July 14th**

The Creative (Birstall) Club

Liz McFarlane

Our Thursday meeting is proving very successful, perhaps due to the eclectic mix of turners. Everybody brings something different to the meeting in the form of skills. In our short lunch break we have already enjoyed Tom Jenkins performing with the banjo. In a break from turning Ken Kitney is in the process of making a Lute and recently Colin Wood put pen to paper and wrote a poem about the frustrations of woodturning, which I commend to you here.

Turning Me Mad!

A Poem by Colin Wood

And OH!

Rotating, Spinning, Circling -

Chippings fly

High and Low

And Lo! - I know

That this design

(Is it truly mine?)

Looks really fine!

But "No!"

It needs just one more go.

Just one? Not so!

The cracks - they show.

But, "Why!"

I sigh, "Oh NO!"

(Don't worry -T'was only a glancing blow
As it soared away like a discus throw.)

Now, one small touch,

Is it too much

To hope and pray

That just today -

When all the mess is cleared away

That, gleaming - almost incandescent

A lovely gift, the ideal present

Reposes on the now - still lathe?

'Tis never thus!!

That damned machine o'er which I slave

To form perfection that I crave,

Holds - not the object I desire,

But one that I find rather dire -

Fit only for a funeral pyre

Accompanied by a fiendish choir.

The grand design inside my head

Is changed, mutated now.

Instead of my superb idea,

Brought to fruition, resting here

There lies the object I've completed

An egg - cup! (expletive deleted!)

Did you hear about the restaurant that had
a sign in the window reading "Now Serving
Food"?

You really have to wonder what they used
to serve!

Seminar Wordsearch

Eric Pearce (Answers will appear in the next issue)

L	J	S	A	T	K	I	N	S	O	N	C
M	O	R	T	I	M	E	R	T	V	R	A
H	R	U	X	B	R	A	N	I	M	E	S
A	D	Z	G	Q	C	F	H	N	P	K	S
N	A	V	T	H	E	O	B	A	L	D	I
N	N	X	U	W	B	R	E	E	C	H	D
A	D	G	J	L	A	O	N	I	R	T	Y
B	L	A	N	C	K	W	R	R	Y	S	X
Y	H	D	F	J	E	L	S	O	Z	U	E
D	S	T	W	Z	R	C	V	N	U	L	P
R	A	U	G	U	S	T	X	S	B	G	O
O	U	D	E	T	R	A	Y	K	E	Y	H

More on Oiling

Terry Littlewood

I too use the method described in the previous issue along with some variations. By adding pure turpentine to the oil it can be thinned and used to get a coating of oil deep into the grain, particularly end grain and into the softer areas of spalted wood, which can help to preventing it from tearing out.

I also use it in combination with beeswax and pure turpentine to make a thin paste wax as a filler for all my wax polishing and as a catalyst to help carnauba wax mix with beeswax to make a harder longer wearing polish version of beeswax. Similarly I make my own shellac filler by mixing blond or white shellac flakes in various dilutions by adding methylated spirits. It doesn't contain fillers as used in commercial preparations and dries rapidly and will, if polished and burnished, provide a hard wearing coating for pens and other objects prone to hard wear.

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Diamond Honing Rod tapered 10mm - 4mm Coated length 155mm)
Diamond Honing Rod Straight 8mm & 6mm (Coated Length 115mm)

TJT Abrasives

Abronet 70mm x 125mm Grits 80 to 600



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The Forum Gallery

Mark Sanger



Andy Coates

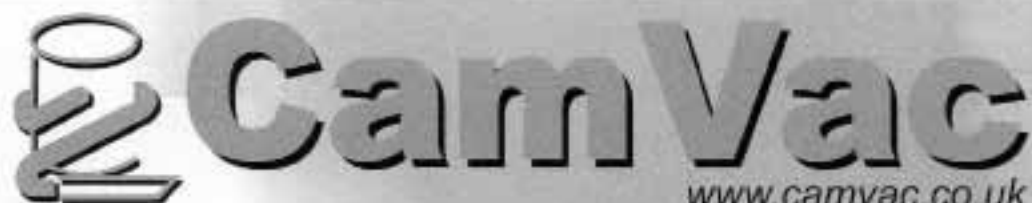
Les Symonds



Eric Harvey



Rod Evans



www.camvac.co.uk

Don't use your lungs as a dust filter.

Workshop machining - especially power sanding on a lathe - can produce very high levels of wood dust and debris, but it is the particles you can't see (under 5 microns) which pose the greatest danger to your health.

These particles will not only pass straight through the filters of poor quality extractors, but will also bypass our bodies natural defences, and lodge themselves deep into our tissues and lungs. Most worrying of all is the carcinogenic (cancer-causing) nature of some wood dusts.

This is why quality filtration is so vitally important, and it's why we specify all of our machines with triple-stage filtration capable of trapping 0.5 micron particles.

Benefits of the Camvac System:

- ▶ Triple-Stage 0.5 micron filtration.
- ▶ Large capacity machines from 36 to 200 litres.
- ▶ Powerful, high-pressure suction deals with large chips or fine dust.
- ▶ Robust & dependable British engineering.
- ▶ Full range of flexible accessories, reducers & mobility options to allow you to place all that suction just where it's needed!



**Poseable
Hose**

GV286
36 Litre Capacity
1100 or
2200W Power



**Dust Collection
Kit**

dust extraction for woodworkers

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