

REVOLUTIONS

ISSUE No 2 April 1992

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain



Chairman's Report

It seems only yesterday that I penned the last Chairman's report, yet here we are again three months on. These three months have been quite hectic, although there has only been one committee meeting since.

So, what has been happening? The committee have now put some foundations under a possible Branch structure reorganisation. I have received many detailed letters from members setting out the changes they would wish to see. This is really very positive as it is far easier to bring about change when the membership gets involved.

We continue to have problems with the AWGB computer (no names but not unlike the American railroad system Amtrak). The problems are such that we may have to consider replacing the core of the system.

Loughborough 1993 is now on the drawing board. The working party, little changed from 1991, will be having its first planning meeting at the end of February. Given the tremendous success of the 1991 event it is likely that the formula in principle will be followed.

The training group under its new Chairman, Ken Spencer-Mills, is getting the AWGB in the van so far as the NCVQ is concerned. We cannot stress too highly how important this is going to be. It does appear that there may be EEC regulation implications in the future.

Having had two issues of REVOLUTIONS in the new format, I must say that the changes have really been great. In due course a new computer printer will improve the appearance even more.

Contents

Chairman's Report	1
Editorial	2
Wembley Show	3
Members Profile	
<i>Simon Keen</i>	
Ornamental Turning	4
Lathes - L.R.E.	5
Branch News	7
The Woodcutter	8
The Coaster	
<i>John Holyoak</i>	8
Design - Geoff Heath	9
Dust Extractor	
<i>John Jagger</i>	10
Adapt an Airstream	
<i>J Dingley Linton</i>	11
Letters	11

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Chairman's Report *cont....*

We have had a few adverse comments regarding local or Branch exhibitions advertised as being AWGB events. The committee must therefore repeat the rule that at such events there must not be displayed nor offered for sale woodturners own adverts, books or offers of courses. I do know that this has always been a bit of a hot chestnut, but unless the AWGB as a whole rewrites this rule then it must stand.

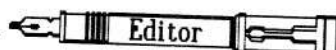
Touching now on Branch matters; I am frequently told of the names of supposedly AWGB Branches out there, but of which I have no knowledge. So, if 'you' exist and are not on the list, please drop me a line and tell me about yourselves. Hopefully the Editor will have space to include the list of known Branches.

Please note that you have a new branch co-ordinator, he will, I know, give you all the support you have come to expect.

Dave Reeks, Rogues Roost, Heath Road, Weybridge, Surrey. KT13 8TL

I am about to revise the list of unselected Demonstrators from which Branches choose a Demonstrator for their various events. If you would like to be included on the list then please drop me a line.

Editorial



Hello

and welcome to the April edition. There is a variety of reading thanks to those who have written in, keep doing so, that way I will know it is what you want to read!

I have now analysed the results of the questionnaires and have included in my findings the comments received from individual members including a Mr. Coe. Most members liked the new layout, but room for improvement; the photographs were well received (more room for improvement), as were the illustrations. Everyone wanted tips and letters and nearly everyone wanted news. Branch news received wide ranging responses from no change wanted to contacts plus phone number; cost, venue, topic and if visitors are welcome. In answer to your comments on branch news, I can only put in what you sent in! I have tried to incorporate your ideas in

this issue. One branch found little they liked but the majority of comments were favourable. Keep writing in, I need tips and letters as well as articles (suggestions included: finishing techniques, selling items and what sells, organizing an exhibition, and appraisals of tools and devices).

Meanwhile the PCW plods on whilst its big brother remains uncooperative! Ah well.....

Spring is just around the corner (it snowed here yesterday!) so there can be no excuse for not being out there turning. Have a good read!!!

STOP PRESS

Heart of England

This new branch is up and running, demonstrators are booked, just a venue to be finalised. Contact: Frank Haliday 9 St Peters Road Kington Warwick 0926 641508

Helpline

From Mr RGS Morris

15 Pennard Drive Southgate Swansea

I am looking for 1/2 doz rubber sealing rings (discs) to fit turned lids of jars of approx 3 1/2 internal diameter. I have looked everywhere with no success. I have contacted William Warke of Berkshire who manufactures them (in 1000's) but none of that size were available. He kindly put me on to CA Dixon who make lids, but they were also unable to help. Surely there are some out there somewhere!

From Michael Moore

St Anthonys, College Road
Kilkenny Ireland

My father has lost the use of his right side due to a stroke. I remember a device from Australia, advertised in magazines some time ago, which could be manipulated to turn easily with one hand when it was fitted to the side of a lathe. Perhaps you could suggest where one of these could be found, or an alternative.

Visitors to the Practical Woodworker Exhibition at Wembley this year, can't have failed to see the A.W.G.B. stand. I called in there myself to meet the members from the Middlesex branch who man both this and the Alexandra Palace stand every year.

The stand was in a prominent position and visitors could not fail to see it as they passed by to buy or watch the demonstrators. There was a selection of members work, of a high standard, to entice people into the stand. Once in there you were likely to be met by one of Mac Kemps volunteers. At the time I called there was Dave Moore, Peter Garrison and Thornley Rogers, who were only too pleased to tell people of the advantages of joining an organization such as ours! Several eager people were signed up and we warmly

welcome them into the organization.

All three of the workers agreed that it was a team effort, with Middlesex branch members keen enough to book leave from work to participate! Thanks also goes to Mac who devotes an awful lot of time to the organizing of the stands, to ensure we spread the news and continue to grow.

Also at the exhibition was the ex editor! - now freer to earn a crust but again promoting the A.W.G.B. Reg was demonstrating the Poolwood lathe (should be an article in the national woodturning press soon) with Nigel Voisey, whilst our third wonder spindle turner, Ray Jones, was over with the competition on another stand. One thing they all had in common is Mrs. Voisey's smocks!

Merryll Saylon, surely by now an honorary Brit., was demonstrating both the L.R.E Variturn lathe and her own colour techniques. From the number of people around the L.R.E. stand, woodturning must be attracting a lot of public interest!

National committee member Chris Stott had a fine display of his wares on sale. Chris tells me that his next exhibition will be in Belgium - now that is the kind of event I would like to report on!!!

Practical Woodworker can't have been disappointed with the quality of the majority of stands - we certainly were not disappointed with the standard of A.W.G.B. stand, members who were demonstrators or the good selection of items turned by members

Member's Profile

Simon Keen

Simon Keen, Secretary of the Avon and Bristol Branch of the AWGB, is an amateur woodturner.

His full-time occupation is as a Fitter with a large chemical company, where he has worked for the last 25 years.

His interest in woodworking started in about 1966, when he began designing and making furniture - an interest he still pursues.

In late 1979 he bought a Myford ML8 lathe, and taught himself turning by reading books on the

subject. Then, after reading an article in a local newspaper about Don White, he arranged to take a one-day course. Don's skill and enthusiasm led him to join the AWGB not long after it was formed, and also to attend many more Workshops with top turners from Great Britain and America.

After reading one of Dale Nish's books he developed a fascination for twig/weed pots. These he has exhibited at Wembley, Hay-on-Wye, and Martock, and John Boddy bought one for inclusion in their 1990/91 eighth edition

catalogue.

Simon is also an expert on industrial safety - we hope to hear more from him in the future.

If you know an interesting turner or someone whose turning is interesting - Write In!

Contributions can be accepted on 3.5" discs (MSDos) in ASCII. 3" & 3.5" discs (C/PN) in ASCII & Locoscript. By fax, audio & dictaphone tapes; & A4 paper!



Many people decorate their work: Martin Turner carves on his and Merryll Saylan adds colour; adding textures and taking a blow lamp to it is also not unknown! Not many of our members, though, 'embellish' their work, Andy Clayton is a notable exception to this. John describes the art of embellishing or ornamental woodturning.

What is ornamental woodturning? It is the embellishment of a basic plain turned object. Since early times, certainly B.C., the lathe has been used for the primary shaping of materials which were then removed from the lathe for skilled craftsmen to add decoration and thereby create

artistic objects.

From the earliest times to the 19th century this method remained unaltered. Ivory and certain dense woods were the materials most favoured.

Nowadays artificial ivory of a high quality is available and if wood is used it has to be dense and capable of accepting and holding fine cuts without the risk of splitting or splintering. Examples are, boxwood, African blackwood, lignum vitae, purple heart and other woods of a similar density. It was not until after the Holtzapffels perfected their ornamental turning lathe in the 19th century, with its milling type

accessories, that the ornamentation of objects could be undertaken on the lathe.

A very good book on the subject which can be obtained from some libraries (ask for it and be prepared to wait) is "Ornamental Turning" by Frank N Knox, obtainable also from Roy Arnold, tel. 0449-720110. Also, "Ornamental Turning" by T D Walshaw, published by Argus books, is full of useful information. Details of the Society of Ornamental Turners can be obtained from Mr W Thurlow, 62 Boscobel Road North, St Leonards on Sea. (Tel.0424-444202)

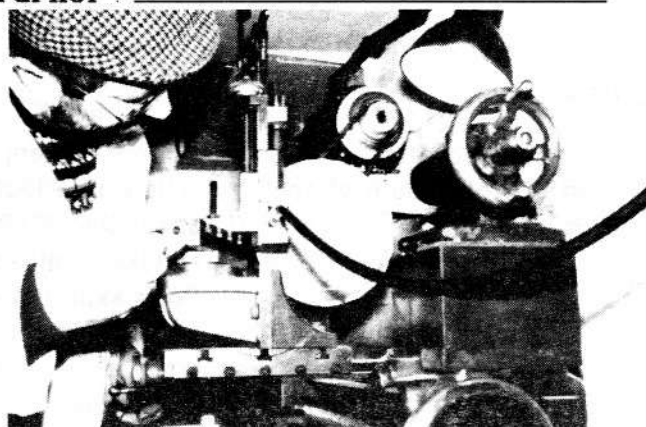
John Holyoak, our staff reporter!, is a member of The Norfolk Branch.

Andy Clayton

Ornamental Turner

Andy is an electrical engineer by trade but a turner by choice. He also has a remarkable record for ornamental turning on lathes he has adapted himself. Not only has he been replacing all the ancient door knobs at Alnwick Castle (removed by visitors), he won a 1st and 2nd prize for ornamental turning at the London Woodworkers Show in 1991.

Andy turns an item on his Jubilee union lathe before transferring it to his Myford ML4 (circa 1934) which he has adapted to ornamental turning. His lathe, and the ones he produces for sale, are designed with production in mind. With traditional lathes, he feels, the machine and process takes precedence over the product. Andy also uses a variety of chucks including oval, eccentric and vertical to get the required effect. The item is approached by a H.S.S. cutter held

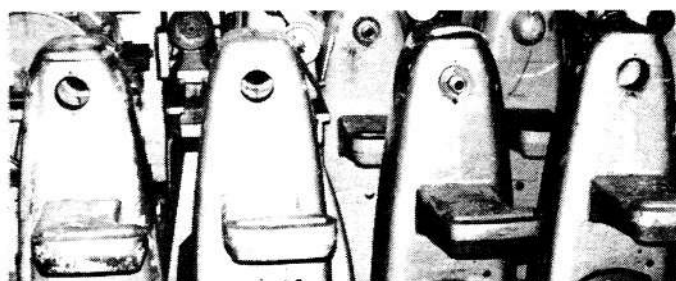
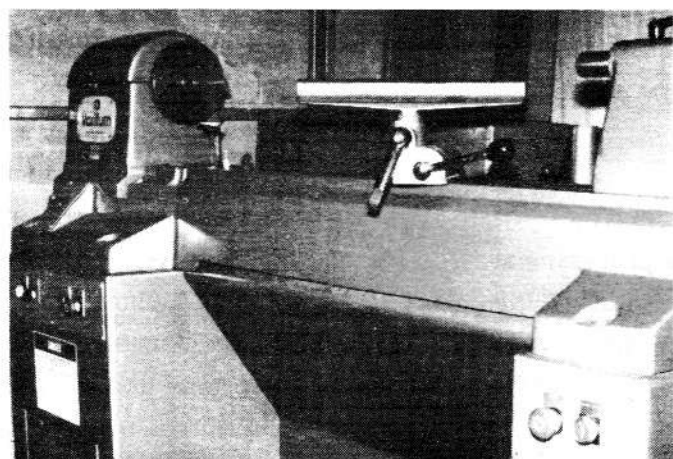


in a flexible drive shaft which is fixed into a slide table. It is a strange experience watching patterns cut without the item flying round, it needs to be seen!

Andy can be contacted at 448 Giburn Road Blacko Nr. Nelson Lancs. The lathes cost £600 for an adapted Record Drill Master and £1200 for a Myford Metal turning lathe. They are fully adapted with slides, drill bits etc.

Most members must by now be familiar with L.R.E. They appear as regular advertisers in *Revolutions* and are keen supporters of the Association, providing demonstration lathes at Loughborough seminar.

The firm began in 1978 as a two man business and remains so. Roy, and his son Lee, set up the business having been made redundant. Although metal turners/engineers, they decided on selling woodturning lathes after gaining a school contract for machinery. They began by 'cleaning up' and selling second hand lathes, then moved to reconditioning them. They also began to specialise and chose Harrison after a two year search, becoming the 5th major stockist in the U.K. All machines are stripped completely before parts are either replaced, or remachined, refurbished or re-chromed and the casing painted. Drawings are made of parts during this process, and Roy says he can reproduce the parts



of any machine that has passed through his hands!

Roy and Lee have now become importers of the General lathe which, once they have ironed out the bugs, they will be building under their own trade name of Commander. This can have a infinitely variable and reverse motor fitted which runs between 250 and 2.250 rpm. It also has a raising kit and outboard turning - plus inbuilt indexing with 48 divisions and a 1½ hp motor. They feel that this lathe compares well with the Graduate, and will be competitively priced. They have had produced to their own specifications the Variturn Electronic Drive System (with soft start) which can be sold fitted to one of their machines or separately for the turner to fit him or herself.

For those who do like to do for themselves they will sell a lathe 'as seen' from their vast stocks. Lee and Roy will be more than happy to discuss your requirements with you, refurbish your lathe or sell you a newly renovated one. Prices start at £1200 + VAT for a renovated Graduate. The variable speed kit costs £425.

Photographs

The photographs on this page, and page 4, were taken by Peter Schofield. He printed them out to the size required by our printers. Usually I take the photographs you send in to the printers. He then photographically reduces them prior to sticking them onto the page layout and then photographically reproduces the page ready for printing! We have had variable results! Is there anyone out there who has the technical know how and ability to reproduce photographs, to size, for us (from photographs!) for this method of printing.



L.R.E. Machinery & Equipment Co

Bramco House, Turton Street
Golborne, Warrington WA3 3AB
Telephone: (0942) 272323 -
728208 after hours or FAX

Suppliers of new and reconditioned Graduates,
ML8, Jubilee, Viceroy, Wadkin-Bursgreen and Wadkin.
TRY US FOR BANDSAWS, PLANERS, SAWS & EXTRACTORS

Around the Branches

Kent branch is having to review its policy of limiting membership to sixty people (fire regulations limit), in view of the almost weekly request for membership. This raises the tricky issue of 'keep growing' or 'form a sister branch'. Anyone out there successfully sorted such a matter?

Devon branch held four successful exhibitions in 1991 and two are planned for this year (see forthcoming events), in addition to their usual full programme.

West Midlands branch now meets every six weeks with attendance at around thirty people. They have three day workshops lined up in the near future with demonstrations by Ray Jones and Reg Sherwin.

Surrey branch has grown from forty to almost seventy members in the last year and the chairman in his annual report states that it has been a very successful year. A look at their programme tells you why!

Hampshire branch have started an 'Association Shop'; regular items for sale will include sandpaper, waxes and sanding sealer. Members can also sell their own unwanted items through the shop. They have a club notice board on which members can advertise their services or goods for sale. The branch also have a lively

newsletter with a host of interesting information in it.

Wessex branch had a recent visit from a well-travelled Tobias Kaye, but a lot of its energy was also put into producing items for the A.W.G.B. stand, and the 'Turn Up For Dinner' competition at the Practical Woodworker Show.

North Sussex sends its sawdusty greetings as it continues to provide a forum for turning in their area. Contact Dick Dowsett on 0502 730640 or he and Mike O'Connor during the day on 0493 654111. Don't be surprised if the person answering the 'phone says, 'Survival Systems International' *What do these guys try to survive each day!?*

New Branch

Wealden - East Sussex

Trevor Booth, a professional turner, writes to tell us of this new branch, which meets every third Sunday. A regular venue is yet to be found, it will probably be in the Battle/Castlefield area. Members from South Kent and East Sussex are welcome. Ring Allan Beecham 0435 882489 for details. Allan is a listed A.W.G.B. demonstrator specializing in barley twists, thread chasing, ball in ball, caribole leg and box turning. With Allan and Trevor in charge the branch must be off to a flying start.

News Round-Up

Cecil Colyer had an interesting experience recently, he rang a number and mentioned Revolutions, thinking I would be answering the 'phone. He got a somewhat puzzled response; there probably are men in belted macs hanging around his house now! His story reminded me of a friend's comments, on hearing that I had taken over as editor, he thought I could probably sell a dozen or so copies in Rochdale market place before anyone realized it was about woodturning!

From the newsletters received it sounds like there is plenty of discussion around on the subject of 100% A.W.G.B. membership. The West Pennine Branch has given a resounding vote of confidence in the A.W.G.B. by introducing 100% membership now. Cumbria took this step some time ago and Wessex recently re-iterated its intention to remain a 100% branch. Dave Register made an important point at the Devon branch meeting: that they would not have formed without the A.W.G.B. (and its members). An organization is only as good as its membership, local groups and the national body are now well placed to go from strength to strength in promoting and providing a forum for woodturning and woodturners.



Forthcoming Events

West Sussex tel 0903 762582 Peter Coxall - publicity Exhibitions of members work

13 June, St Mary's Hall Goring by the Sea West Sussex

30 August, Singleton Open Air Museum Nr. Goodwood

Wessex tel 0935 881874 Ken Tettmar hon. secretary

7 June Visit to Hook Park College Nr. Beaminster

26 June Talk/demo on chucks

31 July Chucks & chucking - bring your chucks!!

Devon tel 0363 866729 John Taylor

10 June John Sainsbury: Life and Times (informal talk)

? July Barbecue at Peter Bomford's

21/23 May County Show Details from Gordon Moore

12/13 June Exeter Craft Fair Details from Gordon Moore

West Midlands tel 0384 277398 Graham Lovett

24 May Pole lathe demonstration Phil Hiscox

4 July Ray Jones demonstration (day workshop)

23 July Facts about finishing (details to be announced)

Hampshire tel 0635 253917 Sue Dixon

1 June Demo/talk on Finishing Nick Butler

6 July Demo/turn-in. Turn a box

3 Aug Competition: Fruit bowl & threefruit - social evening

Surrey tel 0276 23424 Mike Morley

May Photography - Ron Dewer

June Timber Auction & Tool exchange

July Practical Basics - Mike Morley

Aug Timber identification

East of England Woodturning Seminar

15 August 1992 Fakenham Norfolk

The Norfolk branch have been planning for some months to provide us with a mini Loughborough, and from the programme below they appear to have pulled it off. If you are interested get in touch now.

Demonstrators: John Ambrose Tobias Kaye, Ray Key, Reg Sherwin, Chris Stott and a chain saw demonstration.

Trade Exhibitors: Ashley Iles, Apollo Lathes of Dereham Heigham Saw Mills of Norwich, F.T.C. Power Tools of Fakenham, Liberon and Rustins

Details from BG Rose Norwich 36990

Branch List

These are the branches known to Tony Waddilove; can you confirm your existence to Dave Reeks please. If you are not listed please contact Dave and tell him about yourselves!

Branch	Telephone
Avon & Bristol	0454 41262
Cumbria	
Devon	0363 866729
Dorset	0202 418237
Hampshire	0635 253917
Herts & Beds	0582 36382
High Peak	0625 873679
Kent	0303 49005
Martock	0458 252796
Middlesex	0927 429844
Mid-Staffs	
Norfolk	0603 36990
Scotland	0620 4555
Suffolk North	0502 730640
Suffolk, Essex & Cambs Borders	0787 71842
Surrey	0726 23424
Wessex	0935 88874
West Midlands	0384 277398
West Pennine	0706 46347 NEW
West Sussex	0903 762582
West Yorkshire	0484 429422
Worcester	0527 892507

Kiwi Visit

Ken Sager is visiting from New Zealand in June & July. For a small charge he will visit branches and give a slide show/talk. Details from Ken Sager Box 152 Putaruru New Zealand



Coasters



We have all seen the tiles to be bought from Craft Supplies and John Boddy's to add interest to our turned coasters – but did you ever wonder where they originated. John tells us.....

Just a few words on coasters. In the 18th Century, small round trays with a decorative rim, some quite shallow others up to 2" high, were turned to hold glass decanters. Previous to that, plain round oak trays with a small upturned rim of sufficient size to hold a wine bottle were made.

The small tray was intended to be used for passing drinks by sliding it along the table, and the base was covered with green baize to avoid scratching the table as it was slid from person to person.

The most usual woods to be used were *lignum vitae*, mahogany, padauk, burr yew, oak, or indeed any other suitable hardwood. As they were a table item they relied for their interest on the beautiful grain of the wood and brass or silver rings decoratively embossed or pierced. Sometimes the inside of the base had 4 runnels

carved into it, running from the edge to a hollow in the centre, in order to catch the drips.

Beer coasters were also made and available in the 17th Century but these were larger, cruder and heavier and often brightly painted. These were to be found mostly in servants halls, at military reunions and celebratory functions.

The term 'coaster' also extends to a platform or tray on wheels used for the same purpose.

Our staff writer, John Holyoak is a member of the Norfolk branch.

Timber! Notes from the Woodcutter



APPLE is better known for its fruit rather than its timber and is a craft wood rather than a commercial wood. It is grown in Britain and at its best is a small tree no more than 8-10 metres high, and often of a distorted shape. There is little difference between one apple tree and another, whether they be cultivated, wild, or crab.

The wood is hard and heavy, about the same weight as beech, with a fine and even texture.

If the wood is taken from a

mis-shapen tree the grain is likely to be spiral and distorted; even from a good tree the grain can run in opposite directions. It dries slowly and in drying tends to warp and to split, but when dry it is relatively stable.

It saws well and can be machined to give a good finish, but it is quite hard to work and care is needed if the surface is not to be torn when the grain is irregular. Always use sharp tools.

The colour varies from a pale yellow to a pinkish brown. It

can be coloured well by the use of light coloured spirit or oil stains sealed with beeswax or shellac. It polishes well. If used in conditions likely to lead to decay it is perishable.

Having regard to the restricted size of the tree, its use in furniture making is restricted, but it is used in turned work and for inlay. It turns extremely well and can be carved to show intricate detail. Its uses include carpenters tools, shuttles, cog wheels and, I am told, golf club heads.

Part 1 - The Four 'F' Words *(of a five part series)*

At our local Branch of the AWGB, the members are invited to make a specified object each month for display and comment at the next meeting. Recently, I was asked to be the commentator.

In preparation for this critical appraisal, I began to think about design as an abstract subject. By chance, Woodturning had an article by an American professor on the subject, and then The Independent newspaper had a leading article on - wait for it!

- design!

It was this article which used the words I was seeking: 'Form should follow function'; 'Good design is more than pretty packaging or glamorous casing'; 'British misunderstanding of the purpose of design is deeply ingrained in two snobberies: a mild contempt for things artistic and a similar disregard for technology and engineering'. As a retired engineer who attends art classes, this last phrase really struck a chord!

In my job, I was taught that good engineering design should observe the three F's: Fit, Form and Function. There is no reason why we woodturners should not meet the same criteria, and in our case I would add one more 'F': Finish. In future issues, we'll look at each of these in turn, but not in that order; Function must come first, then Fit, followed by Form, whilst Finish - appropriately - must wait until the final instalment.

Geoff is a member of the High Peak Branch.

News

House of Harbru (Craftsman Original) are offering members 10% discount on their products which include friction polish, Danish oil, beeswax, pumice powder and gum rosin! Write to Barbara Fee 101 Crostons Road Elton Bury Lancs BL8 1AL for a catalogue and price list.

The World Turning Conference will be held in Delaware 21-25 April 1993. It will explore the social, technical and aesthetic context of lathe work. Anyone interested in speaking, demonstrating or simply attending, write to Woodturning Centre PO Box 25706 Philadelphia PA 19144 U.S.A.

RW Fernie, Goudiemuir Glenfoot Abernethy Perthshire PH2 9IS is in the process of setting up a woodturners supplies business, he would be pleased to hear from Scottish turners. Mr Fernie will stock according to their needs & wishes.

Great Yorkshire Show: Following the success of last years show the event will again be held July 14, 15, 16th. Last years entries from outside of West Yorkshire were very low; your support for such events is vital as without it we cannot hope to bring to the attention of the public - and we need to be noticed! The organizer, E.W. Newton, writes that for the sake of the craft of woodturning can people make the effort to submit an entry - the continuation of such an event depends on your efforts. Entry forms from The Secretary Yorkshire Agricultural Show Hookstone Oval Harrogate HG2 8PW

Tobias Kaye will be the guest demonstrator at the Avoncroft Workshop May 17. Toby will be demonstrating 'Involute' turning as well as other unique spindle work. Cost £22 (discounted fee for A.W.G.B. members) including lunch. Send cheques to Reg Sherwin Avoncroft Museum of Building Stoke Heath Bromsgrove

Make Your Own Dust Extractor!

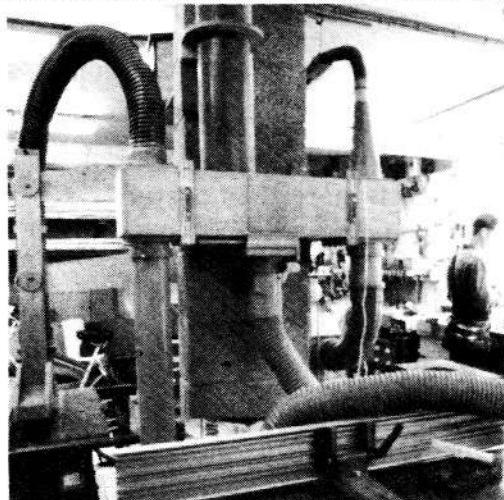
John Jaggor writes

John responded to my plea for home made dust extractors. He has been using his own design / built extractor, over a period of ten years. John is now preparing an Information Sheet which Revolutions will produce in an A4 format. Members can get their free copy by sending a S.A.E. to the editor.

The size of dust particle which does most damage to one's health is about 5 microns. Filter bags are not very good at stopping these, so tend to distribute an almost invisible cloud to the surrounding air, whilst keeping the larger gubbins safely inside. This is the most significant reason for building the unit outside the workshop: others are noise and space.

Each machine needs a collecting hood as close to the dust source as possible and a sliding shutter to isolate it when not in use.

Ducting can be made from wood but the most effective is PVC soil-pipe. The available bends, couplings and junctions are easy and neat, but expensive. They can be fabricated from straight pipe



with the help of solvent cement and some geometry you thought you had forgotten. I use 4" flexible ducting to the combined hood/guard of the saw-bench and for the wandering hose which makes it easy to clean the floor and so reduce dust build-up. The main duct and branch to the lathe (the most difficult machine to collect from), is 6" diameter.

The extraction unit is based on a big, old, 1½ Hp motor (ex-milking machine) with the 21" impellar, designed to move

1000 c.f.m. mounted (very securely) on the shaft, which passes through a hole in the scroll enclosure. The scroll itself is barrel-staved, but could equally well be laminated from thin ply.

The inlet duct opens into the centre of the enclosure and debris is forced centrifugally into the trunk, with filter bag above and dust-bin liner below.

The impellar was designed and made for me by the Halifax Fan Manufacturing Co. and the unit has been working for 12 years with no trouble except the occasional collecting bag coming loose - a somewhat dramatic event and another reason for having it outside.

John is a member of the Cumbria Branch.

Exhibition Photographs

Has anyone sent in photographs of their work? If so please write to Hugh O'Neill as there has been a mix up! Tell Hugh exactly what is on your photograph.

Anyone wishing to be considered for our own exhibitions should also send in photographs to Hugh with their name and address on the back PLUS a *brief* description of the item.

Norfolk Folklore by Treen

Folklore you say, well did you know that in days of yore people who had gardens planted a Rowan tree at each corner in order to keep the witches out.

Readers Letters

Points of view

This is your forum, share your views and news with other members!

From Simon Keen Avon & Bristol
Writing with regard to an article in the
woodworking press which gave details for making
a bench grinder.

I was concerned at the level of safety this piece of equipment offers. My fears are:

- 1 that sparks and debris can fly out through 360°
- 2 the rest(s) are not fixed
3. the flanges do not cover one-third of the wheel
4. the wheel is not contained in a guard strong enough to retain the wheel should it burst

The Avon & Bristol Branch have available, for any members to read, copies of:

Abrasive wheels - safety in installation and use
Training advice on the mounting of abrasive wheels

The abrasive wheels regulations, 1970

Simon is an industrial safety expert.

The regulations Simon refers to are helpful and informative - perhaps we can persuade him to write us a more comprehensive Information Sheet once he is retired from his post of Branch Secretary

Readers Tips

over to you

The tips for this issue come from Jonathan Dingley-Linton who writes in response to the article in the January issue by Stuart Dean

I have used a Racal Airstream Helmet for about six years. It is one of the older style ones with the filter in the hat and the hard plastic chin piece. I found that I could tell what species of wood I was turning by the smell. I suspect that these very fine particles are the ones which do the most harm.

I also found that the motors only lasted about two years and that a replacement was about £60 then. So I bought a Clarke vacuum cleaner for my £60. This make enables you to fit the hose on the blow side or the suck side. So I placed the vacuum outside the workshop and fed the flexible hose through a hole in the wall and connected it to a system of domestic plastic drainage pipe feeding the air above each machine. Then another flexible hose from the drainage pipe to the air intake of

the racal helmet. This I glued into position after removing the motor.

In the cold weather I found that I froze so I bought a heating element for a tumble dryer and a 60 degree thermostat and arranged things as shown in the drawing. I wired a switch through onto my lathe so that if I get too hot I can switch it off without leaving the lathe.

For the summer heatwaves I am considering passing the air through a copper coil immersed in a tank of water, but that's a project for the future.

On the question of expensive plastic covers - I buy 6ftx4ft sheets of perspex and cut it to fit, and it clips into place exactly the same as the proper ones and seems as strong.

