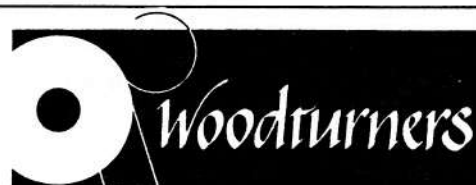


# REVOLUTIONS

ISSUE No 22 July 1992

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain



## Chairman's Report

Well, here we are again. Another issue of REVOLUTIONS comes off the drawing board and with it another Chairman's Report.

The past three months have been fairly quiet (what a change!) and I have had time to give some thought to a redefinition of the 'Aims and Objectives' of the AWGB. The results of this will form an article in (hopefully) the next REVOLUTIONS.

The Loughborough 93 working party has met and planned a provisional timetable of events and has invited a number of demonstrators who between them are able to cover a wide ranging number of subjects. We are going to have to work hard to better the 1991 Seminar, but I reckon we shall succeed. For 1993 we are considering an external awning outside the refectory just in case it should rain!

On the Training front, the Committee are now looking at how other bodies in woodturning go about training procedures. With this in mind our next step is to closely review the policies followed by the 'Woodturners Training International', a body formed, we understand, to consider particularly the training of woodturners at all skill levels. More on this in the next issue.

I am particularly pleased to see that a Mini-Seminar being organised by the Norfolk Branch is now at an advanced stage. The list of demonstrators is quite awe inspiring. This task has involved the Branch in a great deal of work.

NOW FOR THE MAIN ITEM IN THIS REPORT. HOT OFF THE PRESS:  
ONLY CONFIRMED AS I WRITE THIS.

Practical Woodworking Magazine are to stage a SHOW, just for the woodturner. The show is likely to be titled 'THE NATIONAL WOODTURNING SHOW'. It is to be held at The National Exhibition Centre (near Birmingham and on the motorway network) on 9th, 10th & 11th October 1992. This event has to be a MUST for us all. The AWGB has been given a stand for which we are most grateful.

The other interesting thing that the AWGB is going to do for the show is to organise a turned object event, similar to the very successful GOBLETS GALORE event some 18+ months ago. We would like as many members as possible to turn 'A TREE' (that is a tree shape). Maximum height 12". Style, well, that's up to you.

The entries are NOT returnable, but will be sold at the show, and

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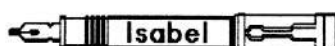
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## Chairman's Report cont.. \_\_\_\_\_

future shows and seminars, with the proceeds going to the charity The Woodlands Trust.

I regret that time is against us due to the tight schedule, so all of you who wish to submit entries, please DROP ME A LINE and I will send you details of delivery address and any other information that you may need. So come on members, let us try to better the Goblets Galore event. Those of you who are members of Branches will also be able to get these details from your Secretaries in due course.

## Editorial \_\_\_\_\_



### HELLO

Welcome once again to another issue of Revolutions. I have received many branch newsletters, and letters from individuals, and it is obvious that there is a growing movement of turners being nurtured by local branches and their activities. For anyone wanting to start a branch don't forget than you can call on the branch organizer, Dave Reeks, to get you going and support you.

We have a variety of articles in this issue, from the pens of various members, keep sending them in along with your tips and views. I would be particularly interested in hearing from anyone on the subject of chucks and chucking.

For those of you who enjoy travel and turning, time is running out for pre-registration at the World Turning Conference in USA April 1993 - fuller details can be found in the last issue or I can send you a leaflet.

Have a good read and enjoy your turning.

Craft Supplies Ltd  
International Woodturning Seminar

Friday 28 August - Sunday 30 August  
Sheffield Polytechnic

David Elsworth Jean Francois Escoulen Bert Marsh  
Ciaran Forbes Chris Stott Jamie Wallwin Keith Rowley

Ring 0298 871636 or write to Craft Supplies at Millers Dale Buxton  
Derbyshire SK7 8SN

## Information Sheets \_\_\_\_\_

Apologies to all those who wrote in asking for a copy of John Jagger's dust extractor instructions, and are still waiting. John has written a very full and detailed account plus drawings. It is at present being prepared, on computer, by a member's two sons who have devoted about thirty hours to its production. Once I receive it I will send out copies, thank you for being patient - it will be well worth waiting for.

Information Sheet One is available now. This covers Involuting turning and was written by Frank Ashworth, who was inspired by Tobias Kaye. It is contained on one A4 sheet and clearly produced by Tom Radcliffe with CAD diagrams.

Do we have any members who have access to CAD who can produce information sheets. It would help to have a pool of people share the load. For those who wish to send in drawings as part of an article, I can now scan clearly drawn simple line drawings.

## Helpline \_\_\_\_\_

From J Jagger Holly Bush  
Santon Bridge Holmrook  
Cumbria CAY 1UY

Does anyone have information on infinitely variable speed change - mechanical, not electric. John is working on this thorny problem and has been exploring variable speed potters wheels. If anyone has already found a workable solution drop John a line.

## The Training Working party is charged

'To examine and make recommendations upon the training of woodturners, both amateur and professional, and to produce whatever guidelines, syllabus and accreditation schemes may be necessary for these purposes'.

As a result of the lengthy discussions between members of the Working Party, other turners specialising in training and with the members of the National Vocational Council for Vocational Qualifications committee on Competence Levels for Woodturners, the Working Party made recommendations which were accepted by the AWGB Committee.

The essential requirement of any training scheme is that the student should be thoroughly grounded in the basic principles of woodturning so that he or she can understand and apply them in all situations.

A Foundation Course in training should consist of units to be taken serially enabling fresh skills and knowledge to be built on that already learned and practiced. For example two or three units could be devoted to spindle turning which then could be followed by units on faceplate turning of dry timber. Following the Foundation Course further advanced units could be taken according to the needs of the student, including courses on the teaching of woodturning

The units should as far as possible be compatible with the standards of qualifications for NVQ. Given proper tuition this standard is attainable by all of us. To be successful the Foundation Course and advanced units require that the trainers use and teach a common syllabus, a common terminology and a common understanding of safety in the workshop and have a common understanding of basic educational principles. It follows that training courses will need to be provided for teachers of woodturning and that an effective system of accreditation of teachers must be instituted.

The question arises as to whether any of the courses currently available or the process of development meet the stated requirements? There have been significant developments in the last two years which point the way forward for the AWGB in training. The first is the very active work going on to produce the woodturning NVQ which should be in its draft form by the autumn. The training schemes should cover the requirements of the different Levels of Competence of NVQ. The second started with an International Woodturning Instructors Conference in 1990 to discuss the training of teachers and the design of modular courses for woodturner training. The result was the production of the draft Ring Programme as a complete training programme in woodturning from an introduction

for the novice through to Instructor training for the professional.

This programme is being used and developed in Canada, the USA, Sweden, Australia, New Zealand and here in the UK. The preliminary results will have been discussed at a conference held in Saterglanten Sweden at the end of May.

I have seen the ring programme it meets all the criteria I had formulated from my professional experience and I consider that it is likely to meet all the training needs of the AWGB and would be compatible with the requirements of NVQ.

The Training Party recommended to the AWGB Committee "that the Association should co-operate with the Woodturning Training International in the implementation of the Ring Programme for approved training courses for woodturners in this country and in the setting up of an effective professional accreditation scheme for instructors of woodturning."

It also recommended "that the AWGB Chairman and Vice-Chairman should attend the WTI Conference in Dublin on August 20 - 21 this year." These recommendations were accepted by the AWGB Committee at its meeting on March 30. The work by the professional trainers in the WTI, supported by the AWGB, will lead to raising of standards of woodturning in the UK and increasing its acceptance by the public.



## Forthcoming Events

### Hampshire

Sept 7 Demo/talk Tyme Lathes

Oct 5 Talk - Timber preparations by Yandles  
Surrey

Sept Outside speaker

Oct Finishing

### Devon

Sept 2 day workshop

Oct to be confirmed

### Wessex

July 31 Chucking - bring own chuck

Aug 28 Hands on - bring own tools

Sept 25 to be confirmed

Oct 30 AGM

### West Sussex - Exhibitions

Sept 27 Amberley Chalk Pits Industrial Museum

Nov 14/15 Arundel Wildfowl Trust, Arundel

### Cumbria

July/Aug Tours of coppice wood & timber  
suppliers

Sept 26 Melvin Firmager two mini-seminar  
Surrey

Aug Timber identification

### Kent

Aug 13 Lace Bobbins - Ken Spittlehouse

Sept 19 Visit to Liberon

### West Yorkshire

July 14 Great Yorkshire Show - 3 day event

*If you would like your branch forth coming activities including in the listing please send me your programme. It helps new members, and existing ones who do not belong to branches, to see what is available*

## Heart of England

Frank Halliday reports that the branch is growing strongly and they are heading towards a membership of fifty. The committee is working confidently on arranging demonstrations, talks, seminars etc. for turners with all levels of

## Round and About

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### Easter in Suffolk

It seemed a shame to have a four day holiday available without a woodturning event, so we in Norsuf organised one for ourselves. On Good Friday we persuaded Chris Stott to forsake hearth and home and journey a couple of counties south, ready for a bright and early start on the Saturday. All bar one of our members were in their places on time, for a cracking CS special. Needless to say we were treated to a feast of skill, technique and wit, for which our mentor is justly famous. A right royal good time was had by all.

The following day the 7 lathes that we had sweated to install in Viking Road were put to very good use by the members, as Chris patrolled around correcting and cajoling our efforts. It goes without saying that few of us produced anything like the models that we were supposed to be copying, but what the heck! - we all enjoyed ourselves and learned a lot. Thanks once again Chris.

Finally a word of thanks to the AWGB, who provided by way of a grant, the stimulus for us to get off our butts.

Ed. Apologies to this branch for geographically misplacing them in the last issue. Dick Dowsett also tells me that A Survival System is an 'arty crafty' name for an oil rig life boat - so now I know, thanks.

experience. Dave Attwood gave two very professional demo's (delivered with his usual warm sense of humour!) which set the branch off to a good start. Frank would like to encourage more women to join so give him a ring on 0926 641508





## Members Work

Getting members to display their work, and at the same time turn items which inspires creativity and extend their skills is a function of many of the branches.

**Surrey** branch have a novel idea to get their members turning and displaying their work at the meetings - free tea was given to all those who turned and displayed a light pull recently. I also heard of a branch who fines members 20 pence for not displaying their wares! What incentives do other branches use to get the shy to display their wares?

**Devon** branch had a small idea when it asked members to turn an item or items, which will fit into a Bryant and May match box, with the match box being the packing case.

At the **West Pennine** branch members were asked to turn an egg - quite a difficult thing to produce especially for members who are new to turning.

## News Round-Up

John Hunnux and Matt Calder are exhibiting their work at The Gallery, Yandles, Martock Somerset on the 11 Sept to the 2 Oct. Along with the exhibition is a two day event covering demonstrations of woodturning, woodcarving, machinery and tools etc. Tel 0935 822207 for details.

Reg Sherwin is holding the next Avoncroft Special Event on Sunday 4 Oct with Phil Reardon as guest turner. Cost is £22, non AWGB delegates £25 (inc lunch). Cheques made payable to AWGB please. Booking to Reg The Woodturners Workshop Avoncroft Museum of Buildings Bromsgrove B60 4JR. Reg also offers 5% discount on any course of instruction with him, if they are members of AWGB tel 0527 76800

brought inside for a further two weeks to dry. He then works the outside again before finishing the inside, turning it down to a pre-drilled depth. Graham then spends half as long again on the finish as he did on the turning; he finds the finish influences the impact his work has. The result is a fine, silky finish - but dull.

Cecil is known for his mazers, which for those of who don't know, is a medieval design of wooden drinking vessel. The mazers were traditionally made from burrs but Cecil incorporates

The National Woodworker is running a competition and are encouraging entries in no less than seven categories including turning. A certificate of acceptance will awarded as a memento and prizes to be won include Henry Taylor tools, Robert Sorby tools, Ashley Iles tools and prizes from Kity, Craft Supplies and A & H Supplies. To enter contact Argus Specialist Exhibitions Argus House Boundry Way Hemel Hempstead Herts HP2 7ST enclosing a large S.A.E.

Craft Fairs: Richard Palmer organises them in the Essex area. He would be interested in offering stalls to individual members and branches. Contact him direct for details and costs: 210 Moulson Street Chelmsford Essex CN2 0LY

silver in his design. Cecil's skill in silver smithing has been put to use in other items he produces such as coasters and pyxes (which hold communion wafers).

Both turners are not only masters of turnery but wizards of invention when it comes to lathes and accessories. There is a video available which demonstrates the use of the nesting device they have developed. Contact Cecil on 0258 860252 or at Orchardene Candys Lane Shillingstone Blandford Forum Dorset DT11 0SF

## Members News

AWGB members Graham and Cecil Colyer have both recently featured in Woodworking, with two page splashes on their work. Graham, known for his 'reversible' bowls, first turns a wet blank which is left for at least a month outside of his shed to dry then

More people make the wrong choice when purchasing a bandsaw than with any other machine.

My experience shows that owners' disappointment is with the machine's wood thickness cutting capacity. This is usually as a result of believing the bandsaw maker's claim of capacity, or assuming the machine will cut wood as thick as will pass under the top blade guides when raised to maximum height. A capacity of 5" is claimed for one design of 3 wheel machine and this would be adequate for many woodturners who only cut flat wood as opposed to round, i.e. log shaped wood. This particular machine may cut 5" thick balsa - but who wishes to do this? A more realistic capacity would be nearer 3" in hardwood, unless the user has infinite patience.

Of the non-industrial machines available, woodturners should disregard the small and medium sized 3 wheel models. The next

size up includes some good European made 2 wheelers such as Inca, Kity, Record/Electra Beckum and British made Startrite.

Many owners of small 3 wheel machines curse the numerous times the blade has broken, but often wonder why. The main reason is that because the wheels are often only 6" diameter, a flexible thin gauge blade usually 14 or 15 thousandths of an inch thick is required. Most 2 wheel models have wheels of at least 12" dia. and can run blades of 19 or 25 thou. thick. The extra thickness giving more strength and blade life.

Whilst any bandsaw should cut curves, the makes listed earlier have sufficient precision to enable users to undertake straight line cutting with confidence. For this to be done easily a decent rip fence is required which is fastened at the edge of the table nearest the user. The fence supplied with some cheap imported machines is hopeless.

Modern blades are usually of the 'hand edge-flexible back' type. The teeth have been induction hardened in manufacture to keep a sharp edge - good for preparing wood for the lathe and also when cutting man made boards like chip board.

In this brief article I have tried to provide help for prospective and existing bandsaw users. In my talks at AWGB branches throughout the country I am able to cover many more aspect of this, the third most useful machine for a woodturner.

*Derek Pyatt, AWGB member, runs Pyatt Woodworking. He sells new and used machines of interest to amateur and professional woodworkers. Lathes are his speciality and he can usually offer a wider range of used lathes than anyone else in the country. The business is run entirely by Derek, who has over 40 years experience of woodworking.*

\*\*\*\*\*

## Room Required

The AWGB committee are looking for a cheap / free room to hold their meetings in. It should have facilities for making drinks. If no catering services are available it should be near to a hostelry. It is essential that it is located within a short distance of Birmingham Airport and accessible to the motorway network. Meetings are held on



Sundays once every three months from about 12 o'clock to six p.m.. If anyone knows of such a place would s/he please contact Tony Waddilove as soon as possible, at 11 St Johns Court London Street Swaffham Norfolk PE37 7DB.

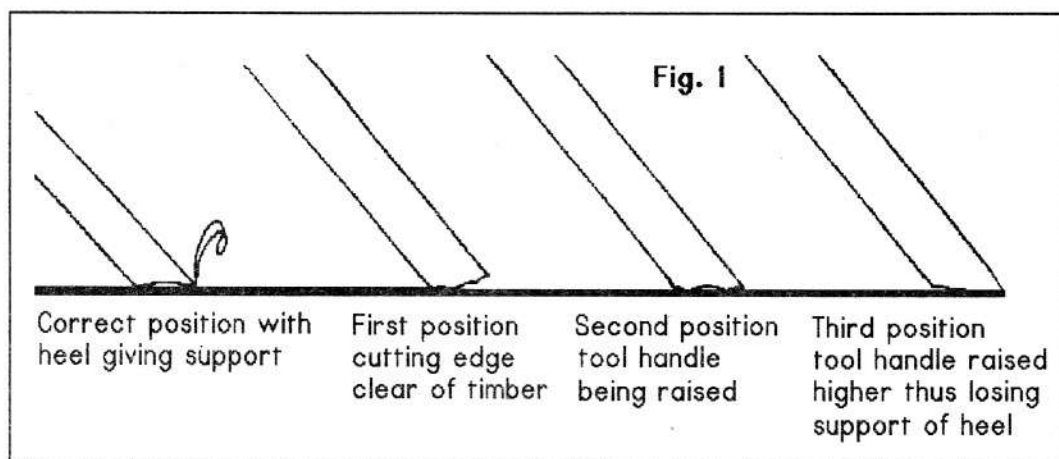
\* Next Meeting is to be held in August \*

The most popular grindstone for the woodturner is a 150mm (6") double ended electric grindstone. A larger one (7" or 8") would be better than a small one (4" or 5"). Remember to always work on the face of the grindstone, NEVER ON THE SIDE, excessive pressure on the side of the grindstone could cause the stone to fracture and then break.

You must exercise patience when using the grindstone, trying to grind too quickly by putting too much pressure will result in the cutting edge of the tool turning blue; this softens the steel so the tool will quickly become blunt when in use. The grinding of the tool should be done in one attempt; continually removing it from the grindstone will probably result in more than

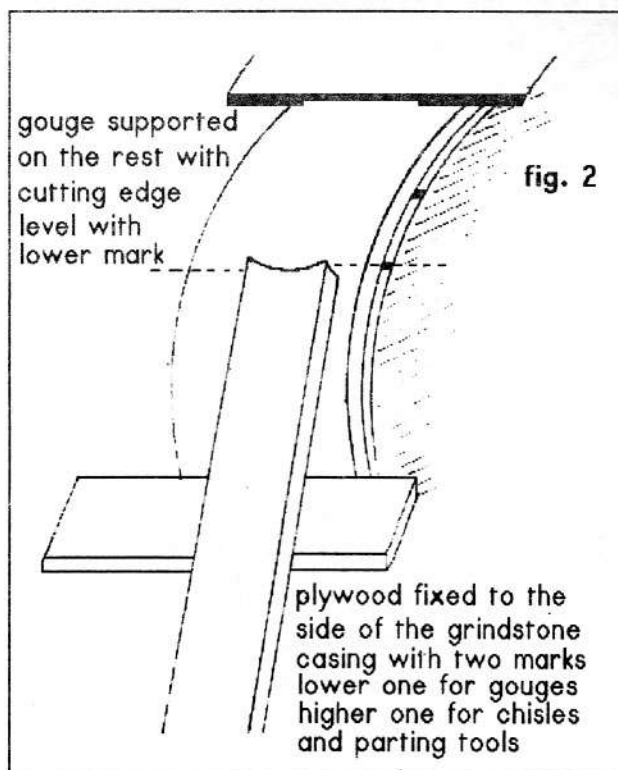
one bevel which could give you problems when turning, fig. 1

If a reasonably fine grindstone is used, 60-80 grit, only a light rub with an oil or slip stone is



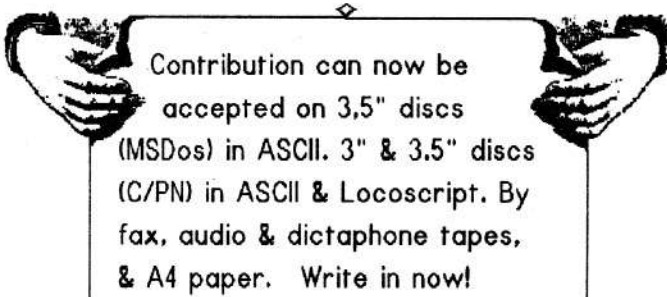
required, in fact some woodturners will use their tools straight from the grindstone, but this is something you will have to work out for yourself. Try, with and without sharpening to see which suits you.

I have found the most useful way to ensure that you always grind your tools at the same angle is illustrated in fig. 2



*Reg Slack is a professional turner who offers training courses. Contact him at Sarcens Head Coaching House Yard Brailsford Derbyshire DE6 3AS. Tel 0335 60829 (workshop) 0332 519563 (eve)*

*This article is re-printed by kind permission of Ashley Iles tools.*



## **Timber** Notes from the Woodcutter

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**Alder** is one of the most common waterside trees. It likes a wet site. It is a relatively small tree, rarely reaching 20 metres although when cultivated it can grow considerably higher. Alders are to be found in Britain. It is a tree with a wide distribution and important for its timber both in Europe and in America.

Black Alder and Grey Alder are found in Europe. Red Alder in Western America and Green Alder grows mainly in the Alps and South East Europe. In Europe and in America the wood tends to be used for craft purposes and in small industries such as making clogs, broom backs, handles and toys. It also makes a good general purpose plywood as it rotary peels to a good veneer. It is used in Russia to

supplement their supplies of birch, though it is softer and weaker than birch and does not have its clean white appearance.

The colour varies. It is pale when first cut but turns to a bright orange brown on exposure. It has a fine texture but lacks any distinctive figure. It is not a durable wood. The European variety is of medium density, about the same weight as mahogany. It saws easily and gives a good finish provided that sharp tools are used. It dries readily and well but shrinks more than the American red which is a common commercial hardwood in Western America where it is widely used in the furniture industry.

As to turning, if you have an available source, try it and let us know how you find it.

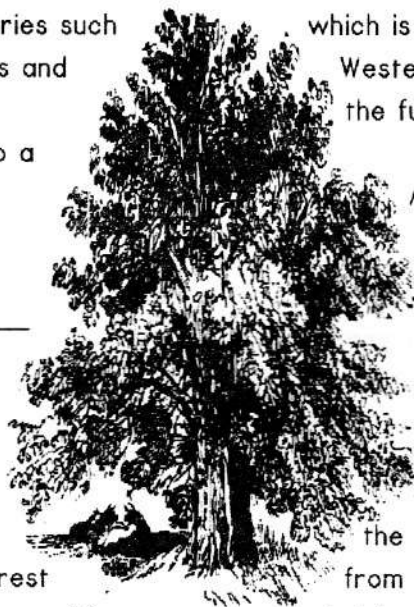
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### **Conservation**

I suspect it's my reluctance to part with hard earned spondulicks that makes me seek out wood that does not cost the earth. Saving the rain forest is a great idea but rescuing beautiful wood from my local firewood merchant is my personal contribution to conservation.

It is a sad reflection on our present world that the population of this country is content to pop down to the local DIY store and buy the shoddiest of softwood while the rest of the community feed the best of hardwoods to the ever hungry fire. My local log seller is having a hard time as more and more of his old customers turn to oil or gas. So he is trying to diversify.

The range of trees that pass through his hands is amazing. In this last month he has offered me the choice of Walnut, Holly, Cherry, Laburnum, Yew and



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### *From our correspondent in Scotland*

the most lovely burr Elm. For a little more money he is willing to render the tree of your choice into sawn planks from his sawmill. I am trying hard to persuade him to invest in a kiln and provide the full service.

If you are ever near Cuper in Fife, you too could overload your poor old car's back axle by dropping in on Tim Davies. Give him a call on 0334 55926 first.

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### **Cheshire Timber**

For those who can't get to Scotland, Fred Corney has fresh, home kiln dried, timber for sale. Fred, a member of the High Peak branch, has invested in a kiln - he is now selling a variety of British timber, felled in local parks and gardens. I found his prices to be very reasonable. Contact him at 155 Stanley Road Cheadle Hulme Cheshire tel 061 437 3887



# What is Good Design?

Geoff Heath

## Part Two - FUNCTION

Why do we turn wood? Is it just a way of wasting time, like whittling away at a stick until there's nothing left? Surely not! Many turners turn solely for pleasure, but they have an object in view; they want to make a bowl, or a rolling-pin or a vase. Whatever it may be, it will have a function - even if that only involves being an attractive ornament which will spend its days on a shelf. Those who turn for profit are even more concerned with the functional aspect, for they have probably received a commission to make a specific item for a specific purpose.

So before we start turning, we must be sure we know how the finished article is expected to perform. "What is it supposed to do?" is the question we should ask ourselves, even if the answer seems obvious - there are often unsuspected corollaries which may come to mind as we think

about function. Then, hopefully, our nearest and dearest won't ask that disturbing question "What is it supposed to be?"

A table lamp? Well, it's just a block of wood - a round block, if you're a turner - with a bulb-



Vessel by John Hunnex  
Exhibiting at Yandels see page 5

holder on the top and a flex coming out at the bottom, isn't it? That may describe what you are about to make, but it doesn't describe its *function*. Its job is to shed light on to its immediate surroundings. It must be easily

portable, so it must have a long enough flex to reach the nearest socket; it must be stable, but its shape must not be such that it casts unwanted shadows.

A bowl? Well, let's see what can be got out of this blank; it has a rather attractive grain, don't you think? Again, this is a description of what you're about to make - but why are you making it? Is it to hold fruit on the sideboard? If so, is it big enough? Is it deep enough to prevent the oranges from rolling out? Is it for salads? Will it stand up to the oil and vinegar? Is it for nuts? Will they scratch the surface?

These two simple examples show how function affects form, fit and finish. Until we are clear in our mind why we are making something, we cannot be sure what form it should take, what surroundings it is to fit into, or what finish should be applied.

## Loan-a-Lathe

The association has a Tyme Cub, plus chuck and set of tools. This can be hired for one year to any young person or student. Apply to Dave Reeks who also has details of other equipment the association has for loan or hire. Dave Reeks Rogues Roost Heath Road Weybridge Surrey KT13 8TL

\* There is also a reduced membership charge for students and young people. Contact Len Grantham our treasurer. \*

## Teachers Directory

The AWGB is setting up a data bank of those members who teach turning. This will not be an approved list of turners, enquirers will be put directly in touch with the person offering tuition. We need details of your lathe and the type of tuition offered.

Send full details to Len Grantham, 1 Duncan Court Lord President Road North Berwick East Lothian EH39 4RJ

## Turners Tales

Wife to woodturner husband who has just obtained a 24" diam. oak burr: "What's that pile of horse manure droppings doing outside your workshop?"

Sent in by Cecil Colyer

# Members Lead The Way



I attended management lectures recently, the lecturer made an interesting point about organizations which set me thinking about the AWGB. His point was that organizations don't exist - people do. By this he meant that how good (or bad) the organization is depends on its members. So how does this fit in with the AWGB. I won't list all the tangible benefits of AWGB membership but look at the intangibles. Would turners in West Sussex be exhibiting their wares at six venues this year, or Yandies hosting Woodturning meetings and a gallery, if it was not because members of the AWGB act collectively as the organization. Our pages also give continued evidence of activity which individuals bring to the organization in promoting a high standard of turnery. Lets now look in detail at the activities of two local branches :

## CUMBRIA BRANCH

Launched only two years ago, the CWA has now mounted its first exhibition (April 11 to May 6) in cooperation with the Coach House Gallery at Brantwood, Coniston, once the home of John Ruskin.

The show included work from 23 of the 60 odd members of the CWA, of whom 7 are full-time professional turners. The work of Tony Caplin and Maurice Mullins featured at the Loughborough Seminar last Autumn. Tony's metallic finished pieces were good examples of intelligent exploitation of modern technology. Maurice's love goblets, a range of bowls, and

one particularly pleasing hollow vessel in burr elm would attract those looking for classic forms and top drawer technique. Terry Harvey's Jarrah burr platter filled with brass dust in an epoxy base aroused much interest. Walter Gundry's splendid deep burr elm bowl exemplified his command of technique and design, and a superb collection of exuberantly decorated lace bobbins from Malcolm Fielding made an exhibit worth going miles to see.

Impressive as these pieces were, the overall standard, which frankly exceeded my expectations, showed that the professionals did not have it all their own way by any means. A

series of small lidded boxes in African Blackwood by Arthur Houghton caught my eye, as did some spectacular miniature turnings from Ron Green, while Colin Dickinson threw in an unbelievable Mexican hat! Amongst the more traditional forms, Fred Singleton's lovely ash platter stood out, as did Alf Garner's exotic natural edge burrs, admirably finished, with small central bowls. There were some interesting products of experiments with mechanical turning aids, both for cutting concentric discs and for fluting the outside of bowls, from Greg Mott and James Walker.

These are, however, merely the highlights of a lengthy catalogue. The salient fact is that every exhibitor achieved work which merited its place in the show, and all demonstrated a shared striving after excellence.

*Report from Geoff Campbell hon. sec. Cumbria is a 100% membership branch the A.W.G.B. I was shown round the exhibition by chairman Alf Garner. 'impressive' is an under-statement.*

**NORFOLK** is also reaching high and setting the pace in organizing a mini seminar. This is open to everyone, and John Holyoak, AWGB member branch treasurer, and Revolutions staff writer, looks forward to meeting as many of you as possible. I am hoping to get there myself!

## Norfolk Woodturners Society WOODTURNING SEMINAR

FAKENHAM \_ NORFOLK

Saturday 15 August 1992

Demonstrators will include:

Ray Key Chris Stott Tobias Kaye Reg Sherwin John Ambrose

Exhibitions \* Trade Stands \* Slide & Video Shows

FEE £20 including coffee and afternoon tea LUNCH £5 extra

Contact B Rose Norwich 36990

Contact J Holyoak Cley 740826

## Readers Letters *points of view*

### From Reg Sherwin Bromsgrove

Re Readers Tips from Jonathan Dingley-Linton. I am unsure of Jonathan's reason for 'feeding the air above each machine..'. If the vacuum cleaner hose is connected to the blow side of the machine, then the air above each machine is merely going to be re-distributed about the workshop, rather than collected and extracted. If it is connected to the suck side, connecting himself to either side, via the Racal, could result in something quite spectacular.

*Ed. Any comments Jonathan?*

A second point on the same piece is the fact that 'Perspex' is a tradename, and as a material it is quite expensive. I know, 'cos I bought some after a similar response from Jonathan some issues ago. I now have the sheet in stock, waiting to become a plastic guard when

my present one is eventually rendered useless by the wax which is eroding it on demonstration days. I suspect that Jonathan uses the word 'Perspex', as we nowadays say 'Biro' or 'Fridge'. I also suspect that he actually means the type of clear plastic which can be bought in large sheet form from the bigger Texas or B&Q type supermarkets. I would suggest that great consideration is given to the impact resisting qualities of these materials before they are used as face shields.

*Ed. Anyone any experience of these materials?*

### From Ian Mitchel Norfolk

Revolutions is now progressing, long may it continue to do so, I have every issue from number 1. One request, please keep it to woodturning and not about computers, PCW's, computer

printers etc. I'm not interested. We are woodturners - if I want to know about the subject I will purchase an expert magazine on the subject and who knows it might have some woodturning in it! Moan now over. Keep up the good work and keep giving Norfolk a mention.

*Ed. Ian also mentioned, as did many of you, that the last issue had number 20 on it - again! I get many letters from turners who also use computers, all very helpful in their comments. Needless to say the visual appearance of Revolutions does depend on a computer and printer. It also speeds up my time spent producing it - this means I can turn wood as well! Your letters help me to put each issue together. Let me know what you want to read and keep those tips and articles coming in.*

## Readers Tips *over to you*

### From Colin Wilson Rochdale

I had a problem with finding tools (too many says my wife). I have now hung them up on my workshop wall using 22 m plumbers pipe clips for for turning tools and 15 m ones for screwdrivers etc. They cost about 10 pence each when bought in bulk.

### From John Holyoak Norfolk

When using dowels, if you pop them into the top oven for about 2 minutes before use they will lose some of their water content and shrink to a neat push in fit. They will absorb moisture from the glue or surrounding timber and hold fast. It just makes life easier!

### From Dick Dowsett Nth Suffolk

Use a vacuum cleaner in the workshop - don't sweep up unless all the doors and windows are wide open and you can leave immediately afterwards.

*Ed. Dick has written 5 pages of useful workshop safety tips - good to give to new turners, and those of us with bad habits!*

### One from the Editor

Melt beeswax and turps in a bowl in a pan of hot water, apply to timbers such as laburnum with a brush sparingly, whilst still liquid. Allow to dry thoroughly. Polish up using 0000 grade wire wool whilst item is spinning on the lathe.

### From Jim Wilson Otago N.Z.

To prevent your specs or face mask misting up, put a drop of neat washing up liquid all over the inside surface and wipe clean when needed with a soft cloth. A more lasting method is to soak a duster in neat washing up liquid then let it dry. You will then have a cheap demister, even for car windows.  
*Re-printed with thanks to Faceplate. New Zealand Woodturners*

**This is your space - send your favourite tip or money saving ideas to the editor.**

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