

REVOLUTIONS



ISSUE 23 October 1992

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Chairman's Report

How time rolls on. Just two more issues of REVOLUTIONS and we shall be at about the A.G.M. time. You will recall at the last A.G.M. the AWGB year was changed to the end of the calendar year. This means that our accounts end on December 31 st. The A.G.M. therefore will probably be held around late March.

With this in mind, you might care to think about standing for the committee. Each year there are always some members of the committee who must stand for re-election or who are standing down. The procedure for standing is sent out with the notice for the A.G.M., but it will do no harm to give you advanced notice in order that you may wish to consider whether you wish to be involved.

One step aside from the committee, if you feel that you have a skill that would be useful to your Association, by way of being a co-opted member then please let me know.

Your Association Hon. Sec. and I recently attended the Woodturners Training International (WTI) training based conference in Dublin. It has taken a bit of time to assimilate all that we heard, but it might be that there is a basis for a workable woodturning teachers assessment system. All in all the principles which the WTI are setting up seem to form the basis for a series of planned woodturning courses.

A few words now on Branches. I am well aware that 'out there' there are a number of woodturning groups of which the AWGB has no knowledge. I feel that it would be in all our interests if we knew of one another's existence. This has nothing to do with getting you to be part of the AWGB, but is really just so that we might pool ideas for the benefit of woodturners as a whole. Putting aside formalities and grandiose thoughts, it will be helpful to woodturning if we were all to pull the same rope in the same direction. So if you think that the AWGB may not know of your group's existence then please drop me a line telling me who you are.

It has been some time since the last committee meeting and the next one is due shortly after this newsletter hits the stands. Therefore if you have a matter that you wish brought to the attention of the committee then just let me know.

Write to Tony direct at the address on this page.

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Editorial etc.....

Hello

Welcome to the October issue of *Revolutions*. There has been such a lot happening in the world of turning, and within *Revolutions* pages you will find articles by members, reporting on it all.

Members will by now have realized how much the interest in turning has grown; with everyone from the keen part time turner to the professional, eager to share their knowledge and love of turning. *Revolutions* is keen to mirror what is going on out there, so keep sending in your reports, articles, tips, news and views.

Tony Waddilove would also be interested to hear from anyone who wants any matter to be discussed by the committee, so drop him a line if there is anything you would like to clarify or share with the committee.

I hope you like the new look of *Revolutions* - write and tell me. I have now moved to Wales (not quite on Norman Tebitt's bicycle but for the same reasons he suggested), so make sure you make a note of my new address and telephone number.

Call for Articles

This issue of *Revolutions* contains about a quarter more words than previous issues. The editor requires articles on a wide range of subject matter to continue to improve this service to our members. She would also like to hear about your local events, branch programmes and anything of general interest to members, on the subjects of timber, turning, and related matters. You do not need to have a computer or typewriter, and we can help you write if need be.

Helpline

From Vincenzo Cavaliere

33 Eynsham Road Botley

Oxford OX2 9BS

Tel 0865 863895

I am seventeen years of age and have a strong interest in woodturning. For the past eighteen months I have been looking for an individual or company to take me on as an apprentice or for training, as I hope to have a career as a turner. I keep myself busy doing as much woodturning as possible despite receiving negative responses so far; I do want to undergo training, preferably in my own area but am prepared to move.

Ed. If anyone can assist Vincenzo please contact him direct.

Revolutions

Revolutions now uses a laser printer to produce a greater clarity of print. I have not had the time, yet, to try transferring my clip art (the little pictures) to the new Desk Top publishing programme I am also using, so the style and layout also takes on a new appearance.

There has been keen interest in the production of *Revolutions* recently, so for those of you who do not know: *Revolutions* is, from this issue, produced on a Personal Computer, laser printed, then reproduced by a photographic method at the printers. The editor's time is given freely. The major costs involved are printing, stuffing envelopes, cost of envelopes and postage.

There have been, by a few voices, calls for a newsletter similar to that of the of the American Woodturner. This costs an estimated six times as much per issue to

produce as *Revolutions*; it is produced by paid staff using a different method of production. In fact four issues per year would probably cost in excess of the A.W.G.B.'s annual income.

Revolutions will continue to develop to meet members interests and wishes - so write in and say what you like, and don't like; what you would like to see etc. We would be interested in hearing from the ordinary members - especially the ones who don't usually put pen to paper, or make their voice heard.

Issue Dates

Revolutions has been published in October, January, April, and July for the last year. This will change from 1993 to February, May, August and November. For the curious amongst us this is to fit in with the editor's academic year!

The present printer requires about four weeks to print *Revolutions* and stuff the envelopes. Therefore the editor needs advertisements to be in at least five weeks prior to publication, and articles, branch news at least seven weeks. A space is always saved for last minute pieces though. It helps to get pieces to her well in advance of publication date - a) to ensure it is published and b) to try to get *Revolutions* out on time.

New Book Release

Ray Key's New book is now out

'The Woodturners Workbook'

in full colour

Signed copies direct from the author

£17.99 plus £1 towards P&P

Please make cheques payable to Ray Key

53 Weston Road Brettforton

Nr Evesham Worcs WR11 5HW

Great Yorkshire Show

Keith Rowley and I were asked to judge the competition, an invitation accepted with some pleasure as it is always good to know how things are being organized for woodturners

My subsequent reaction are a mixture of delight and disappointment. Delight that the Yorkshire Show Committee put up prize money, and provide a good display area within the main permanent building in the Forestry Area; that John Boddy's Finewood and Timber Store gave gift vouchers, and Ashley Iles, Henry Taylor, Robert Sorby, and Mifer donated prizes. In all the prizes on offer had a value of more than £500, not to be sneezed at. I was delighted that the West Yorkshire Woodturners (a branch of the AWGB) mounted a fine display of their members work, with a number of them demonstrating their skills, and answering questions from the public throughout the duration of the show. The man at the back of this activity was Bill Newton, he put a great effort into the whole thing, and this is where my disappointment comes, as I don't feel he, or

the show received the support deserved from the woodturners of this country. Bill sent out 300 invitations to branches of the AWGB alone, beside notification in the woodworking press. Yet only forty three exhibits were forthcoming, I trust next year it will at least be doubled.

As someone who has been a judge at the National Woodturning competitions for more than twelve years, I am always looking to find objects that show a combination of some new innovation, coupled with fine craftsmanship. Unfortunately it would seem that the more innovative pieces are usually let down by craftsmanship, whereas the more traditional score highly in this area. This competition proved to be no exception, the more innovative and technically difficult finished up as near misses, whereas the more traditional proven designs were well crafted.

There were a number of pieces to admire and certainly the prize winners were worthy of their awards. The first prize for a very finely turned quarter sawn Oak platter went to K J Allen, second prize for a large Walnut time glass

went to J Emerson, third prize for a Sycamore plate, Laburnum, Apple and Ebony knife went to PJ Tallon (I suspect this would have been the peoples choice, as it was very appealing). We had a double winner taking 4th & 5th prizes, this was D Rushworth with a large Ash bowl and a Burr Elm bowl. In the near miss category came D Rawson with a double off centre dish, S Keens's Walnut weed pot with Oak plugs, M Bentley 's winged sapwood and bark bowl, T Tallon's hollow vessel, and R Storey's Burr Elm dish. The ten pieces singled out for mention here were at least the pick of the exhibits on show.

Next year I trust it will be a bumper show with the judges task made much more difficult, with some pieces exhibiting that seemingly elusive element, innovation and fine craftsmanship combined. Remember there are some very worthwhile prizes on offer.

Ray Key
President of the
AWGB

Craft Supplies Seminar

On the August 28 - 30, at Sheffield Polytechnic, over a hundred delegates enjoyed a stimulating display of design and technique by a very varied group of star performers. David Ellsworth, in good form, analysed shapes and machining methods for difficult small entry hole vessels, whilst Bert Marsh showed humour and artistry with both wet and dry bowls and boxes and put us right on the finer points of sanding. Keith Rowley, using turned components, imparted his methods for the production jiggling of windsor chairs. Chris Stott and

Jamie Wallwin, old favourite at these gatherings, demonstrated their latest party tricks, with their usual flair.

Rare appearances: Willy Stedman, a super production turner from Ireland, took us through his spindle turning methods, particularly giving us a chance to get the bugs out of our handling of the skew. From France, Jean Francois Escoulen, put on on a dazzling display, showing how he used the "bedpan", a traditional tool of France, for spindle turning, going on to produce boxes with delicate spire-like lids, demonstrating a fine

control of his tools.

Craft Supplies showed off some new products which confirmed that they continue to innovate strongly, in support of turners. Catering and accommodation were very adequate; ambience and comradeship pleasing, but then these woodturning get-togethers usually are.

It was a good do! Well done Craft Supplies! Here's to the next Seminar!

Bill Kinsman
Mid Staffs Branch

Branch News

Forthcoming Events

West Yorkshire

Oct Members Workshop
Nov 7 Visit to Ashley Iles
Nov 26 Chainsaw maintenance
(Childs' toy competition)
Dec Social evening
Bi-monthly meetings at Fountain
pub Heaton Road Bradford 7.30
Details from Nick Harty
tel 0484 429 422

Wessex

Oct 30 A.G.M.
Dave Register Demo - contact
Ken Tettmar Tel 0935 881 874

Hampshire

Oct 21 Neil Jarvis - demo
Oct 24 Bert Marsh - demo
Nov 16 Chris Stott - demo
Nov 17 Chris Stott - Master class
(contact Dawn Ayers 0580
291555)
Large bowl competition)
Dec 7 Social evening
(Competition Christmas theme
-candle powered mobile)

Surrey

Nov 10 Bob Weir demo
(Item - off centre turned piece)
Dec Christmas party
(Item - A Christmas theme)
Contact (correction)
Mike Morley 0276 23424

West Midlands

Oct 10 Reg Sherwin demo
Dec 12 Members day / hands on

Devon

Dec 9 A.G.M.

West Sussex

Nov 28 Exhibition
Billingshurst Village Hall

Kent

Nov 7 Nick Butler demo
Dec 10 Ian Sandford demo
(T.B.C. contact Diane Cheney
0303 249005)

New Branches

Hants Area

John Webb would be interested to hear from members living in his area with a view to starting a branch. John will be in a position to organize a meeting of interested people in October. If you live within striking distance of John get in touch. John can be contacted at 43 Arundel Drive Farnham Hants PO16 7NZ

Test Valley

The Test Valley Turners are now an active branch with Ron Caddy reporting a strong twenty AWGB membership. John says that it is a small, friendly group of turners who have been together for five months now. Anyone interested in joining John and his fellow turners can contact him at Wisley White 23 Wisley Road Millway Gardens Andover Hants SP10 3UQ Tel 0264 350323

Avon & Bristol

This branch is now over a year old and is very active - contact

Bob Barrett for more details
tel 0272 560925

Wealden Branch

Trevor Booth's hard work has been rewarded with the Wealden woodturners now having a membership of twenty. They have recently had demo's by Rob Griffin and Dennis White. The branch meet on the third Sunday of the month at the George Hotel Battle East Sussex. Contact Trevor for more details tel 0435 882533

BRANCH PUBLICITY

Both the Cumbria and the West Sussex Branches have produced professional leaflets, setting out what their branches offer. The Cumbria branch also have plastic membership cards similar of those of the AWGB. Obviously costs are involved; the Cumbria branch (as I think I have mentioned before) get financial support from North West Arts. It is well worth applying for a grant from your local art or craft body if you want a professional touch to your publicity or special event.

MINI LATHE RALLY

The Kent branch recently held a mini lathe rally with four Carba-Tecs, a Little Gem and a Wizard lined up, with their owners who were happy to talk, demonstrate and allow hands on. Geoff Yeomans was also there with his own four mini lathes, including one he had built himself.

For further details of this branch contact Diane Cheney
0303 249005

Held an interesting or unusual event? Send details to the editor - Deadline December 1

Branch News

Norfolk Seminar

The Norfolk Woodturners Society must be congratulated on the very successful Seminar held at Fakenham High School on Saturday 15th August 1992 and attended by 120 delegates. This I believe was the first major event to be organised by a branch of the A.W.G.B. and what a high standard was set! The organisation was superb and Fakenham High School proved to be an ideal venue.

The impressive array of demonstrators comprised Ray Key, John Ambrose, Chris Stott, Reg Sherwin and Tobias Kaye, and on form and excellent they were. A wide range of techniques was covered; platters, dishes and bowls by Ray; bowl turning between centres and more than one bowl from a blank by John; boxes, weed pots and hollow vessels by Chris; basic principles, grinding, sharpening and repetition turning by Reg; and last but not least advanced spindle turning by Tobias who during his session required a seventeen stone delegate to sit on the lathe to keep it on the ground!

In the main hall was a display of work by the Norfolk Woodturners Society. Two very different pieces caught my eye, a very fine spinning wheel by Colin Huist and unusually, a set of patterns by a maker unknown to me.

A good array of trade stalls enticed more money from my pocket than I had intended, mostly on conventional tools and materials, but I am well pleased with the new Reg Sherwin design 1/2" roughing gouge I purchased from Ashley Iles (Edge Tools). The new Airlite Powered Anti-dust Respirator from Racal, shortly to be marketed, was on display and should prove to be a winner.

To sum up, an excellent day at the very affordable price of £20.00 including refreshments morning and afternoon and at the end of the day a "goody" bag packed with useful catalogues for woodturners.

I was delighted to hear that the Norfolk Woodturners Society intends to organise another event in two years time. I would like to make two suggestions:

Delegates be invited to bring one or two items to add to the display; and time allowed for constructive criticism, with time allowed for selection of best pieces.

Workshop times allowing for demonstrators to give repeats, so that delegates can get to see more of them.

Trevor Dawes - Kent Branch

John Hollyoak also writes:

Fakenham school was an hive of activity the Thursday and Friday before the seminar, with our committee member John Tuck, the school technician and his school caretaker beavering away to ensure that the correct lathe and its supporting equipment were in the correct workshop. The rest of the committee turned up on Friday to prepare the canteen and assembly hall for the influx of traders. The secretary and his 'staff' were in place by 8 a.m. on the great day helping traders, setting up reception (manned by June Hollyoak and Anne Sherwin), and looking after St Johns ambulance men, who kindly gave their time to the day. Margaret Rose charmed the money out of delegates with her popular raffle. Alex Harness, branch chairman, opened the proceedings and the seminar ended with around 7 p.m. with verbal tributes to the men and floral bouquets to the ladies.

Dorset Branch

The Dorset Branch, now just eight monthly meetings old, had the experience of witnessing an expert and comprehensive demonstration of the Techlink Precision Fluting and Indexing System by Mike Cripps of the Middlesex Woodturning Centre. This is an all British product available only through the M.W.C

This small, new, but growing branch is looking for more members throughout Dorset. Both women and men turners at all levels of experience would be welcome. For further details contact Derrick Hilton, Secretary on 0202 823212

Ed. I am sure members would be interested to read a fuller account of the Fluting and Index System

Devon Members

For sale

Coronet Major Lathe complete with Bandsaw, Planer, and Circular Saw. PLUS other accessories. Details from Clive Robinson at Teignmouth evenings 0626 777489

Range of timbers including exotics in short planks and square sections. Details from Bill Green 0626 51491

What is Good Design

Fit - Part 3 - Geoff Heath

'Fit' can cover a variety of situations. The object we are turning may be just one component (the leg of a stool, for example) which eventually has to be assembled with one or more other parts to make the complete piece. Clearly, we want to make the fit of the leg into the seat - or the stretchers into the leg - as good as possible.

Or we may be thinking of the fit of the lid on a box. It was Ray Key, I think, who wrote that the test for a box lid was to hold the box upside-down. If the lid stayed on, that was a good fit.

Can we skim just enough off a spigot to ensure that it will go into its corresponding hole without it being a drive fit? Worse still, is the joint too sloppy? What tricks do we



Piece by John Hunnux

know to cure the latter? (Like wrapping masking tape round the spigot, or using gap-filling glue!)

If the box lid is too tight it can be eased with a little gentle rubbing with abrasive paper, but if it's too loose, we shall have to kid ourselves that some customers like a lid which they can lift off with one hand without holding the box in the other!

These are examples of cases where our skill, rather than our ability as designers, is the predominant factor. But there is another aspect of 'fit' which is a function of our aesthetic judgement, since we must also be concerned about the fit of our completed item into its surroundings. It's no use turning a zebrawood bowl for a room in which all the furnishings are mahogany. Nor is it acceptable to produce a standard lamp with severe modern lines for a sitting-room with a 'Victorian' look. 'Fit' may also affect the choice of finish; a vase with a matt finish may look out of place on a lacquered table.

So 'fit' can also affect both form and finish; we'll look at form in the next instalment.

Major Woodturning Competition

The Worshipful Company of Woodturners

is sponsoring a major woodturning competition in 1993. Working with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain, the Worshipful Company hopes that this will be the first of what is intended to become a regular prestige award in the field of turning.

There will be two classes: Open - for members of the Association; with Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals of the Worshipful Company; and Junior for Members of the Association who are 18 or younger. Here the awards will be Silver and Bronze medals and a Certificate.

The main organization of the competition will be handled by the

Association and will operate through local Branches where preliminary heats are to be held. Each Branch will select three items for the Open, and one for the Junior competition.

The final will be held at the Apothecaries Hall, Blackfriars, London on the 18 June 1993 when awards will be made. Members of the Company are expected to be in attendance in full livery.

The title for the competition is "PLAIN TURNING COMPETITION" and all entries must be pieces of work that "contain both face plate and between centre elements visible in the submitted article".

All Members of the Association are invited to contact their nearest AWGB Branch for details of the

local heats. If you wish to enter, but are not yet Members of the Association, details of membership and the address of your nearest Branch may be obtained by writing to the Honorary Secretary: Hugh O'Neill 5 Kent gardens Eastcote Ruislip Middlesex HA4 8RX

Loan-a-Lathe

The last issue of *Revolutions* stated that the organization's lathe could be loaned by a junior. The AWGB would now like to extend its criteria on loaning the lathe to include anyone taking up turning, or anyone with a special need to turn (such as an art student) who can't afford a lathe. Send your request to Hugh O'Neill at the address above.

Photography

Basic Rules of Lighting

There are four basic ways of diffusing or reflecting light to make it more even and soften shadows.

1. Reflect the light off a white wall or ceiling by setting the head of the flash unit at an angle. If the head of the flash unit cannot be moved independently of the sensor you will need to increase the exposure by about 2 stops in a room with normal height of ceiling.

2. Wrap a piece of white cloth around the flash head, taking care not to cover the sensor. With a manual unit you will need an exposure increase of about one stop.

3. In the studio set up a studio

umbrella on a light stand; measure the exposure with a flash meter.

4. Use a white card reflector on a stand to bounce light onto the subject; unless the sensor of an automatic unit can be directed independently towards the subject, use a flash meter to measure the exposure.

REFLECTORS: Any white card or material can be used.

USEFUL BOOK: Michael Langfords 35mm Hand Book.

KODAK FILMS: Professional Negative film EKTAR 25. Good for fine detail. Extremely high sharpness.

Professional Reversal Film

EKTACHROME 64 Fine grain. Excellent sharpness.

Non Professional Film to give excellent sharpness and very good results - EKTAR 25 and EKTAR 125.

FLASH UNIT: Metz 45 ct4.

COLOUR LABS:

Colab Ltd. Heralds Way Coventry CV3 1BB tel 0203 44040

Alan Cooper Unit 14 Swift Industrial Estate Kingsteignton Newton Abbott tel 0626 62216

Dave Edwards

Notes from a talk given at the Devon Branch

A Hazard to Health - Fine Dust

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (1988)

The regulations define dust from hardwoods as hazardous and dust from softwoods as non hazardous to health. The smallest particle sizes (less than 5 microns) are the most dangerous to health and are barely visible. They can remain in suspension in the air for long periods and are carried into suspension by the very slightest of air movement. (One micron = 0.001 of a millimetre)

To reduce the degree of exposures to very fine hardwood dusts, produced by sanding, it is essential to use a proper Respirator made to an approved standard. The commonly available 'nuisance dust mask' for which there is no relevant standard, is not suitable and may only filter out dust particles down to perhaps 10 microns.

A mask / respirator left lying on a bench or, as is only too often the case, hung on a nail, and more particularly is it incorporates a charcoal filter to protect against 'aqueous fumes', is in fact 'working' and its effectiveness is diminishing.

For the ultimate in protection in the workshop a respirator is essential; there are several on the market including:

Clearflow Turbovisor - 8 hour re-chargeable battery, raisable visor. Combined dust and odour filter available. Charger costs extra.

Racal Airstream Helmet - 8 hour re-chargeable battery system; charger not included in price. Hard head protection, flip-up visor, clip-on ear muffs extra.

Dustmaster 4 - Powered Respirator. 8 hour re-chargeable battery operated power pack. Charger costs extra. Hard head protection. Combined dust and odour filters available.

Proteous - range of systems. 8 hour re-chargeable battery operated turbo unit. Battery charger included. P200 Flip-up Visor suitable for woodworking. Combined dust, fumes, mist and spray filters.

3M have a FREE Respiratory Protection Helpline - 0800 525385

Ken Tettmar

From a talk given to the Wessex Branch

Timber

Elm

Elm is found growing in Britain in medium to large size trees. The English, Dutch and Wych Elm are of particular importance. It has a characteristic appearance with a prominent growth ring figure, often of irregular grain and a coarse texture. The wood is pale brown in colour, and sometimes has a reddish tint, and is moderately light in weight; but wych elm is more

green and tends to be denser.

It dries readily, though irregular grain tends to distort. It is not reckoned to be a strong wood but it works well and responds to steam bending.

It is used for structural purposes and responds to a wet environment, eg fishing boats, dockwork

piles, etc. Low grade timber is used for estate work and mining.

It responds well to the turner and although it was traditionally used for wheelbarrows, coffins and chair seats, it is now used for furniture and, because it resists splitting, butchers' chopping blocks.

The Woodcutter

Alder

At the end of the article on alder in the latest issue of *Revolutions*, you ask if anyone has tried turning it. I have no first-hand knowledge, but there is little doubt that it was successfully and extensively turned 200 years ago!

In 1790, one Samuel Oldknow built Mellor Mill in our village about 6 miles outside Stockport. Here he used water power to spin cotton. Alongside his reservoir and mill

race, he planted alder trees, not just to enhance the environment, but also as a source of dye and timber, for the bark yields a red dye.

The timber was used for bobbins - not those little reels for sewing-cotton, but much bigger ones for the mill. (Living in Rochdale, you'll know what I mean, Editor!). Since it would be important that the thread should not 'snag' on the

bobbin, the wood must have been capable of accepting a fine finish.

The bobbins were made in the 'bobbin shop' - a water-powered workshop containing primitive lathes. Members might like to visit Helmshore Mill Museum near Haslingden, Lancashire, where there is a splendid example of an early wood-turning lathe in a restored workshop.

Geoff Heath High Peak Branch

New Timber Service

Fyne Wood Products has recently opened in Scotland, to provide a native hardwood timber specialist service for professional cabinet makers, turners, carvers and hobbyists.

Paul Waldman from St Andrews, an experienced veneer buyer for

many years, has formed this new venture with Richard Steele from Newburgh, who has been a professional woodturner for a number of years, with a view to providing Scottish craftsmen with a well-stocked, well cared for supply of home grown timbers, together with a kilning, cutting and

dimensioning service.

Richard also provides a mail order service, bargain offcuts, a huge selection of burr elm - his prices will suit most pockets. Bodgers can obtain seat blanks in any quantity. All this, plus free, friendly advice to those who require it. See advert

High Peak Timber Service

Fred Corney reports that he has a much larger selection of local timber now, kiln dried and selling at about half the price you might expect to pay. Fred has Elm, London Plane, Cherry, Ash, Laburnum, Hawthorn, Pear, Apple, in fact most British timbers can be bought in various sizes and quantities. You will get a friendly

service and prevent trees which have to be felled, or have blown down, from being burned. The quality of the timber reflects the time and money Fred has invested in his kiln. Fred, a member of the High Peak Branch, can be contacted at 155 Stanley Road Cheadle Hulme Cheshire tel 061 437 3887

Local services

Any stories to tell about timber or trees? or.....If you know of anyone selling timber, providing an environmentally friendly service, and maybe offering a cutting service, write to the editor and share your knowledge with other turners in your locality.

News

New Accessories Business

Bob Chapman has recently set up his own business. He specialises in producing tools and accessories to suit the individual needs of turners. Bob's catalogue includes items such as: 6" wooden jaw plates suitable for heavier applications which are compatible with the Axminster chuck. The jaws cost £29.95 plus p&p. A 1 1/4" pin jaws, with dovetails, which is ideal for mounting natural edge work - there is no need for accurate hole drilling and it will grip soft wood equally as well as hard - costs £49.95 plus £1.95 p&p. There is a prong driver with hardened teeth - the first two teeth engage in hardwoods, on softer woods the first set of teeth sink in further giving four prong drive when required. The driver costs £19.95 (No 1 & 2 MT) or £18.95 for a 1" parallel shank plus £1.95 p&p. Contact Bob at Woodturning Accessories 93 Parkway Coxheath Maidstone Kent ME17 4EX tel 0622 747325. In a future edition of *Revolutions* Chris Stott will be reporting on his testing of various items produced by Bob.

Craft Studios

Member Alan Gillings is planning to open The Shrubbery Craft Studios in the Spalding area. There will be five workshops all housed under one roof in a barn which Alan and his wife have been converting for the past eighteen months. Further details of the venture will appear in a future edition of *Revolutions*.

Tobias Kaye

Tobias Kaye has recently made a big investment at his workshop, to cater for the numerous requests he has for tuition. Tobias can offer tuition to three students at a time, at affordable rates in the heart of beautiful Devon. There are four separate courses into which he has squeezed nearly everything he knows about turning. Students will learn the techniques and projects, devised by Tobias, published in various magazines around the world. Course 1 covers Foundation Skills; on course 2 students learn to make 'big and beautiful bowls'; course 3 covers spindle turning which includes involuted turning; course 4 is a master class in which students make a musical bowl. Each student will have their own Harrison Graduate lathe to work on, course notes provided for use at home later, all materials are supplied and you take home what you make. The dates for workshops are already fixed up until December 1993. Contact Tobias, at Whitecross 10 Lower Dean Buckfastleigh Devon TQ11 0LS tel 0364 42837, for dates and costs

John Boddy's

John Boddy's, Fine Wood and Tool store, are celebrating their 10th Anniversary, by publishing a new bumper edition of their catalogue. It is available in September.

Larger than ever, with 288 full colour pages illustrating their staggering 9,500 products, plus over 200 types/species timber, £9.00 discount vouchers, full course and free demonstrations listings, and articles on sharpness finishing and safety in the workshop. It is an absolute bargain at only £2.00

Their retail shop is open 7 days a week, why not make a weekend of it in the beautiful North Yorkshire countryside, or 'phone their friendly mail order staff. Throughout this 10th year of trading, John Boddy's have told us, that there will be many special offers and bargains every month to share with their customers

New Video

Chris Stott has recently released a video demonstrating his box-turning techniques for which he is well-known.

On this video Chris demonstrates the cutting action of the tools. The detailed close-ups will help you to understand why and how the perfect shaving is removed to leave a good finish straight from the tool. Chris gives precise instructions on the making of three boxes, and he teaches techniques that will help you develop finesse with your tools. Chris also shows how to sand and complete your pieces, helping you to decide which finish is best for your project.

The video costs £19.50 inc. p&p. Order your copy from Chris Stott Croft House Buringham Scunthorpe South Humberside DN17 3NA

John Boddy's
Fine Wood & Tool Store Ltd

MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE **FREE Demonstrations**

SELF SELECTION STORE
Woodworking Courses

● Timber	● Tools
● Adhesives	● Requisites
● Abrasives	● Machinery
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GMEX

GMex, formerly a fine example of a Victorian railway station, provided an excellent venue for the Northern Woodworkers Exhibition. This is the first major exhibition for woodworkers organized by a northern company for northerners, who came from as far as the Scottish borders.

Dennis Brown of DEMS, kindly offered two free stands, one to the AWGB (and one to the BWA) via Nick Harty, chair of the West Yorkshire Branch. This was a golden opportunity not to be missed and Nick found members Paul Lodge, Darryl Rushworth, Derrick Rawson, Ian Clarkson and Gwilym Walker keen to work with him put on a splendid display. Darryl and Derrick visited the West Pennine Branch and recruited Trevor Law, Trevor Holt, Jack Longbottom, Isabel Winstanley and myself to assist them in manning the stall. The AWGB stand was

busy for the entire three days, so much so we hardly got a look in on Chris Stott demonstrating the new Poolwood lathe, and showing his impressive new video.

There was a joint display of woodcarving and woodturning. In fact there were a few pieces that combined elements of both turning and carving and it difficult to decide where to place them. Peter Bury and Harry Middleton judged the carving whilst Harry and Isabel judged the turning. Derrick Rawson took first prize, Darryl Rushworth second, Peter Thornier third, with Peter Schofield highly commended. What caught a lot of visitors eyes was Frank Ashworth's involuted turning of two candle sticks and a lectern. It was a pity that no spindle turning took a prize especially in view of Frank's fine work. Links have now been forged between local carvers and turners and this may inspire us to put on

turning demonstrations during exhibitions as Kevin Shipley and Terry Kelly did on carving.

Many firms were represented such as Craft Supplies, Harbru polishes and finishes, and Poolwood. It was disappointing that not more of the big names supported the venture as the north needs a regular exhibition for woodworkers. The event will run again next year, Dennis is clear on that point. It does need more publicity and cheaper car parking though, with a space to just sit (and eat your own food).

Next year we would like more preparation time, with better AWGB publicity and literature. Never-the-less the stand was busy throughout with lively discussion and a keen interest in turning, and the display, in evidence.

Colin Wilson
West Pennine Branch

Profile on John Tuck - Norfolk

John has a great enthusiasm for life, a great ability to teach a love of wood and everything that can be made from it, and is a splendid chap to have to help steer the Norfolk Woodturners Society.

At the age of 17 he went to Loughborough Technical College and trained as a Craft Teacher, specialising in wood, which stood him in good stead during his National Service in the Navy when he helped to run a Handicraft store at Rosyth and a woodwork shop on a submarine depot ship. After this he went back to Loughborough and qualified in 1951. He then taught at various Norfolk schools, until 1957 when he became the Head of Craft at Fakenham Grammar School, taking over from his old craft master. He stayed there until he took early retirement in 1985.

Having lost the use of the school workshops (which are very good, Ed) he bought a 32 ft portacabin and fitted it out, and a dehumidifying kiln. John favours an Apollo Woodpecker lathe supported by a Multico 500 band-saw, a Startrite 400S table saw, a Multico mortiser, routers, chainsaw and numerous other tools, including an Airstream helmet. He is very happy that he now does what he always wanted to do - make things.

His days are now spent drying wood, preparing turning timber and billets, doing turned work and making such things as church doors. Some time ago he started to turn mushrooms and found the demand was such that he is now known as "the mushroom man". These are now featured in the advertising literature of a well known supplier of wood finishes.

His work is not to be found in galleries as demand outstrips output. John demonstrates for Apollo lathes of Dereham and various others and is a familiar figure at woodworker and woodworking exhibitions. He stocks a good selection of kiln dried native timbers, mostly gale blown, and spalted beech is his speciality. He is always delighted to see anyone with a problem and to endeavour to help in solving it.

It is great to have him on hand as a committee member of the N.W.S. - he knows everyone and is always available with help and advice. He is anxious to see more sound tuition in technique and design offered by branches to members and newcomers.

John Holyoak
Norfolk Branch

Tips

From Colin Sterling Glenrothes

I have found a source of semi flexible 4" ducting for John Jaggors dust extractor. It is now appearing all over the place. It is light purple in colour and is used by most road repairers for burying cables. They always seem to have odd lengths left over from most jobs, and a friendly word to your local navy can be well worth while.

From Colin Hazell Bristol

The ducting system John Jaggor uses (PVC soil-pipe) should be metal, this would allow the system to be earthed and therefore guard against static build up which could ignite the dust system.

From Terry Porter Cambridge

When building a screen for my lathe for demonstrating purposes I used 4mm polycarbonate. This was recommended in preference to genuine Perspex as it is not prone to cracking and does not scratch easily. It is not cheap at about £30 for half a square metre, but should last a long time as it is apparently the stuff that riot shields are made of, so its impact resistance is clearly very high.

I must say I agree with Reg Sherwin when he says that checking on the impact resistance qualities of such materials is something to be considered very carefully. A good engineering plastics supplier should be able to advise on this.

From John Colwill Oxon

I note the correspondence regarding the use of Perspex as a shield. I would certainly advise against the use of some of the products from DIY stores. They are fine for general work but not

shields - some of them shatter on impact. We sometimes use a product called "Lexan". If anyone is interested they can 'phone me at the office. Tel 084421 6988

From John Holyoak Norfolk

If you have to turn rubber or cork try deep freezing it first to prevent it moving away from the tool

Spindle Turning

For those who spindle turn, the question is whether to prepare the timber as octagonal from the square. There is a lot to be said for doing so if the timber to be turned is a exotic or rare; the offcuts may be useful. Other wise it is a time consuming exercise. On the other hand it may help a beginner; but maybe people should begin how they mean to go on and use a roughing gouge! There is an easy way to convert square to octagonal: tilt the blade to 45 degrees, bring it up to the saw blade to max depth of cut, make a drop insert if necessary so the edge of the square stock sits firmly on the table, place on side of the square block on the table, bring up the fence so that it just touches the corner edge which is nearest to it, and tighten the fence. Now reduce the height of the blade to cut the corner from the square. Place the square stock flat on the table against the fence and remove the corners. Keep fences in position - follow your usual safety procedures and you will obtain an octagonal.

First Aid

The average workshop is quite a few steps away from the house, so it is recommended that some simple first aid kit is kept in the workshop. However, it must be easy to get at - when you have blood coming out of one hand, and the other trying to staunch the

flow, its difficult to get the drawer open. I have a transparent topped tin fixed to the wall above my bench. Getting it open is easy - tearing the paper off the dressing is harder. May I recommend some dressings that my wife found for me, called HEMOSTOP, which are excellent for staunching blood flow - the voice of experience.

From the notes 'Safety Pays' by Dick Dowsett

Information Sheets

A number of people have shown interest in the Information Sheets, these have now been sent out to all those who requested them. If anyone else would like a copy of either the Involved Turning or Dust Extractor please send a large S.A.E.

Thanks are owing to member Colin Sterling's sons Ian and Allan, who spent in excess of thirty hours doing an excellent job on John Jagger's dust extractor diagrams and arranging them into an information sheet.

Members Graeme Moss and John Colwill have both volunteered future services for producing the information sheets, having access to CAD and the like. Graeme has already done a trial piece, so any members who have tips, with diagrams, of interest to other members please write in.

From Colin Bexhill on Sea

The Irish Woodturners Guild produced notes on a Dust Extractor Nov/Dec 1986. A kit seemed possible then.

Ed. Sorry Colin, I can't make out your surname. Anyone know of a kit? Drop me a line if so.

This section depends on members sending in tips, however small. Everyone can benefit from a tip, so keep sending them in.