

Revolutions

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 44

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'WONDERS IN WOOD'
The AWGB success of 1997





A belated Happy New Year to you all.

I open what are to be my last notes to you as your Honorary Chairman with a bit of a gripe, unfortunately this not unusual for me at this time of year.

Committee

The gripe concerns nominations for your Committee, as usual they are sadly lacking. I guess this can be interpreted in one of two ways, apathy or contentment, perhaps you feel those now serving you are doing such a wonderful job you are just letting them get on with it.

Despite my gripe we do have nominations for the posts of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. But there are no nominations for the non-officer Committee post, co-option will be the name of the game. Despite these comments there will be quite a new look to your Committee I shall be gone from the Chair, and Len Grantham will be gone as Treasurer. Len has been ever present in this job since the AWGB's formation in August 1987, I will say more about Len's contributions in my Chairman's report for the AGM.

Chairmans Page(s)

Reminder

Subscriptions are now overdue, I urge you to renew, this will be your last copy of 'Revolutions' unless your subscription is with us very soon. (See reminder notice elsewhere in 'Revolutions')

Insurance clarification

It seems that some members are under an illusion, thinking if they are a member of an AWGB Branch they have personal insurance cover, **not so**. I will do my best to set the record straight.

Branch Member cover

The AWGB provided Branch cover is for Public/Product Liability for Members taking part in Branch organised or participating events.

Public Liability:

The type of things covered are Demonstrations to the Branch, (i.e. a Branch evening or day seminar) Demonstrations by Branch members in public, if they are representing the Branch (i.e. at a Show or an Exhibition etc.)

Product liability:

Work sold through a Show or Exhibition that the Branch participates in or has organised etc.

Members demonstrating and selling their work, instructing others etc. In a non Branch organised event are not covered, unless they have taken out their own independent cover for such activities.

Our Brokers Colin Ryan offer a super scheme for all

AWGB Members, at a modest price, this is the best deal anywhere we know of. Each AWGB Branch has a Handbook giving details of the **Branch** scheme Pages **14-15** and for **Individual** cover page **16**. If you need more clarification or information please contact the AWGB Secretary Peter Einig who deals with all our insurance matters.

One last point

If the AWGB National Committee sanctions our involvement in events (i.e. Wembley, NEC, Axminster, our Bi-Annual Seminar etc.). Those demonstrating on the AWGB's behalf are covered by our Public /Product Liability Policy. As is all AWGB members work that is on display or sold at such events.

Internet

Things are moving on this front, at our Committee meeting of Dec 7th we set up a Sub-Committee to deal with this. Chris Lindup, Peter Hemsley and Mike Dennis are heavily involved. I will leave Mike to tell you a lot more about this elsewhere in "Revolutions".

Wonders in Wood

Despite a few set backs on this front we are hopeful a publication will still result. We have set up a Sub-Committee of Peter Einig, Mike Dennis, a person from the publishing world, plus myself, we have also consulted with Bert Marsh.

Wonders in Wood at Axminster

Those 8000 plus visitors who saw this exhibit gave it a massive thumbs up, our stewards said it was a pleasure to receive the plaudits on behalf of those who had contributed. Due to the stand lay out, the display was even more impressive than when seen at the NEC, as it could all be viewed as a whole. A big thanks goes to Mike Dennis who was in charge with his able assistants Len Grantham and Frank Clarke, plus the stewards from our Avon Branch who did a sterling job, thanks fellows. Also a thanks goes to those who collected your work and that of others at the end of the show, it meant a lot less packing for us.

It has all gone back to the makers now, it was a big job, the packing of some very delicate objects takes time. My thanks goes to Peter Einig, Graham Lovett and Phil Irons who spent the best part of a day with me sorting and packing things until we ran out of loose fill (*I underestimated*). It took me another day to pack and send off all the parcels, the village post office had never been so busy. Now if we can just get that publication together. It will be a fitting climax and tribute to the efforts of so many. The objects have all been wonderfully photographed by Tony Boase.

Continued on Page 4

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Executive Committee

Chairman

Ray Key, The Firs, 53 Weston Road, Bretforton,
Nr Evesham. WR11 5HW
Tel: 01386 830142

Vice Chairman

Chris Lindup, 38 Barry Road, Oldland Common,
Bristol, Avon. BS15 6QY Tel: 01179 325477
E-Mail: chris.lindup@btinternet.com

Treasurer

Len Grantham, Spindles, Cooper Close,
Poplar Farm, Nettleham, Lincolnshire LN2 2XX
Tel: 01522 595660

Secretary

Peter Einig, Keepers Cottage, Lee, Ellesmere,
Shropshire SY12 9AE Tel: 01691 622715
E-Mail: petereinig@mcm.com

Trade & Business Liaison

Frank Clarke, 81 Knightwood Crescent, New
Malden, Surrey. KT3 5JP Tel: 0181 942 5463

Membership Secretary

Derek Phillips, 15 Greens Road,
Cambridge. CB4 3EF
Tel: 01223 312134

Newsletter Editor

Mike Dennis, 72 Hawes Close, Northwood,
Middlesex, HA6 1EW Tel: 01923 829844
E-Mail: mike@dennis.magnolia.co.uk

Branch Committee Members

Branch Co-ordinator-Scotswood

George Hunter, 3 Dundas Avenue. North
Berwick, East Lothian. EH39 4PS
Tel: 01620 892293

Suffolk, Essex & Cambridge Borders

Tony Witham, 39 Horsey Road, Kirkby-le-Soken,
Frinton-on-Sea, Essex. CO13 0DZ
Tel: 01255 671697

West Midlands

Graham Lovett, 66 Beachcroft Road, Wall Heath,
Kingswinford, West Midlands DY6 0HX
Tel: 01384 277398

Worcestershire

Richard Barnes, 67 Teme Crescent, Droitwich,
Worcestershire. WR9 8UB
Tel: 01527 570128

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Articles, letters, tips, adverts etc featured in this Newsletter do not necessarily carry the endorsement of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain.

DATA PROTECTION ACT

If you object to your name, address and telephone number being held on a computer belonging to the AWGB, then please write to the Secretary. (Address Opposite)

The following woodturning videos are available for hire to members..

Turning Wood	Richard Raffan	2 Hrs
Turning Projects	Richard Raffan	1 1/2 Hrs
Bowl Turning	Del Stubbs	1 1/2 Hrs
Hollow Turning	John Jordan	2 Hrs
Bowl Turning	John Jordan	2 Hrs
Cutting & Sharpening	Chris Stott	1/2 Hrs
Turning Bowls	Chris Stott	1 1/4 Hrs
Turning Boxes	Chris Stott	1 1/4 Hrs
Decorative Effects & Colouring	Chris Stott	1 1/4 Hrs
The Basic Box	Ray Key	3/4 Hrs
The Capsule Box	Ray Key	3/4 Hrs
The Finial Box	Ray Key	3/4 Hrs
A Course on Spindle Turning	Ray Jones	3 Hrs
Elliptical Turning	David Springett	1 Hr
Woodturning Wizardry	David Springett	2 Hrs
Colouring Wood	Jan Sanders	1 1/4 Hrs
The Woodturning Workshop	Slack & Sutton	1 1/2 Hrs
Techniques from AAW Symposium 1995		2 Hrs
Instant Gallery from AW Symposium 1995		1 Hr

Slide Packs of the 1989, 1991, 1993 Loughborough International Seminars. - Slide Pack of the Hay-on-Wye exhibition 1996, Warwick International Seminar 1995, 1997 To hire any one video or one slide pack, Please send 2 cheques one for £5 for one week's hire and one for £30 as a deposit which will be returned on the safe return of the video or slide pack.

Please make both cheques payable to AWGB.

Application for hire should be made to: George Hunter (Address Opposite)

AWGB LAPEL BADGES

(Brass & Enamel)

COST £2.50 inclusive of post and packing

Send Cheque etc, to Frank Clarke (Address Opposite)

MAKE ALL PAYMENTS TO AWGB

CLOTH BADGES

For sowing on Smocks etc

£4.00 inc Post & Packing

Copy deadline for the next edition of

Revolutions

15 April 1998

NVQ

This still seems a best kept secret although one of our members tells us the college where he teaches is setting its self up to take it on board.

On the other hand the representative at the Axminster Show of a West Country training agency with eleven centres training those for industry knew nothing of it. He told me many people asked him about it. He was going to follow up on it all and let us know what he was able to find out. Sadly nothing yet.

Branches

Continued growth here I am pleased to say, Chelmer Valley, Burcot, Waveney, and Kings Lynn are all groups who have recently joined us and we know others are in formation. A warm welcome goes to you all.

AWGB 1999 Seminar

The Sub-Committee will be putting its recommendations forward to the main committee on Feb 15th, initially the emphasis will be on the overseas Demonstrator/presenters. (You need to book these early).

Other ideas will also be put forward aimed at adding an extra spark here and there.

WICS

This is the Woodturners International Communication Service this is an Internet service hosted by the American Association of Woodturners (AAW) David Ellsworth is the Project Director. In essence

its about clubs, venues, and those wanting demonstrators, those wanting to demonstrate and those wishing to recommend demonstrators. If you have an interest in any the above contact Peter Einig who has the relevant forms.

Youth

We have recently been made aware of a very young lad who is very keen on woodturning but with no facility for turning at home. Contact was made with Robert Craig of our North London Branch and a positive outcome has been enacted. They have (adopted) him into their group and arranged a certain amount of tuition.

Wembley:

Please support us in our efforts to raise funds for the R.N.L.I. at the Wembley International Woodworking Exhibition Feb 19th-22nd. Send your work to Frank Clarke between Feb 2nd-13th. Full details in Nov 1997 No 43 "Revolutions"

WCT

Lets really get behind the Worshipful Company of Turners competition this year. Goblets seem something that turners like to make, so this years competition should appeal to more than usual. The event is open to all AWGB members. Those in Branches may have an added incentive if an in house club night competition was arranged. If each club sent between

fifteen to thirty goblets to the WCT and say a third of our non branch members contributed there could be around 1000 goblets on display. Its not beyond the bounds of possibility, if there is the will. If we take that further and each AWGB member contributed a set of three, there would be 6000, the mind boggles.

A.G.M.

I hope more of you make the effort to attend this years AGM, remember it is at Burcot Village Hall, Nr Bromsgrove, Worcs. April 5th at 2.00pm

Finally

I hope to see a lot you at the Wembley International Woodworking Exhibition, I shall be involved doing my thing in the 'New' Master Class sector at the show this year.

I sign off after three and half years in the Chair this time round, (it was four the first time) feeling at least we have accomplished a lot, but knowing there is still much to do. I shall hand over in April with a feeling that the AWGB is stronger than at any time in its history, with a team in place to take things forward.

I have worked with a great Committee without whose commitment and support I could not and would not have served for so long.

Ray Key
(Hon AWGB Chairman)

Editorial

A Happy New Year to you all

This year is going to see some changes in the AWGB, not least of which is the changes to the members of the Committee. Ray and Len have been a major driving force behind the success of the Association since its inception and it is hard to imagine how we are going to get along without them. However the show must go on and I am sure that the new incumbants will be just as enthusiastic once they have settled in.

The other change, well its not really a change, more like an improvement to the service offered to its members, is the launch of our own Internet web site. Now I know that this has been talked about for some time but it is now a reality. There is an article explaining more about this from Peter Hemsley on page 6. We are grateful to Peter for taking on the role of Webmaster (this is the name of the person who manages web sites) on behalf of the Association. Please let me know if you have any information you want published as only information passed to Peter from me will be published. If you have an E-Mail address we would like to know for the Associations records. All Branches are being asked what information they want published. You will find E-Mail addresses are given throughout Revolutions where it is appropriate.

In the last edition I forgot to say what the photographs on the front cover were about.

They were the winners from the various woodturning competitions that were held at the NEC last October. The winners were

Top left	R. Foden
Top right	G. J. Hughes
Bottom left	S. Pickett
Bottom right	T. Owen

The front cover of this edition shows the 'Wonders in Wood' display at Warwick University and the bottom photo shows the display at the Axminster Tool and Machinery Exhibition.

Inserted in this issue are the application forms for entering the Worshipful Company of Turners competitions and the AGM agenda

Mike Dennis

**This will be the last
copy of Revolutions
you will receive
unless you have
sent off your
subscription**

**IF YOU
HAVE NOT
DONE IT**

**DO IT
NOW**



Twenty-One years ago when I was Twenty-Eight I was resident in Norway where I had lived for Seven years. I have been wanting to return on holiday ever since I left. This coming August I am spending a month in Scandinavia and visiting Copenhagen and Aarhus in Denmark and then on to Oslo, Hamar, Bergen, Tromso, Kirkenes and North Cape in Norway. What I would like to do if at all possible is to visit some exhibitions and workshops of fellow turners. Obviously not having many contacts "over there" are there any members who are willing to help in this regard, I.E. addresses, telephone numbers etc.

Peter Charles Fagg, "Glenlea",
Guyers Road, Freshwater, Isle of Wight,
PO40 9PZ Telephone 01983 753687

In May 1997 I gave a demonstration to the Coombe Abbey branch and during this session I expressed my disgust at the fact that crafts are no longer taught in our schools. I stated that if I could find people under the age of fifteen who wanted to learn to turn, I would teach them without charge. At the end of the session I was approached by a tall young man who asked me if I meant what I had said. I said that I did and asked him how old he was to which he replied fourteen. He was about four inches taller than me and you will see from his photograph in Revolutions that he is taller than Ray Key and Peter Einig. Unfortunately Andrew Colemans age is published as being 16.

He has a problem with transport in that to get to me he has to journey thirty three miles but the lessons that I have given him so far have proved to be very rewarding for both of us. It has been one very great pleasure to pass on my knowledge to this very keen and enthusiastic young man. On his second lesson he produced a bowl that many experienced turners would have been very pleased to have made and he has

had several offers from people who wanted to buy it.

Although the loan of the lathe from the association is for one year, I estimate that in this time he should be able to sell enough of his work to be able to buy a lathe of his own. Having said that, if there are any members out there who would like to help Andrew with a lathe at a bargain price I am sure that he would be very pleased.

Clive Mutch

In November 1997, I and a number of colleagues visited the Axminster Tool and Machinery Exhibition at Shepton Mallet. And what a show it turned out to be.

All the arrangements were first class - including a free car park, lots of attendants and good uncrowded refreshment facilities. But above all, what a plethora of top class woodturning demonstrations. At least 12 well known professional turners were on hand to demonstrate their many and varied skills, more than enough for the most avid and ardent visitor.

Now I know the following may be controversial, but this show comes top of the list for many who visited it. In recent years, the quality of certain other National shows has left much to be desired. Many of us have left these shows greatly disappointed and the proud competition entrants horrified to be so poorly treated with their best work shoddily displayed - ON THE FLOOR!

In comparison, the AMTE exhibition of furniture was the best I have ever seen, not to mention the delights of the AWGB "Wonders in Wood" display.

CONGRATULATIONS and well done AMTE and Come on Nexus - PULL YOUR SOCKS UP, RAISE YOUR STANDARDS - we do count you know!

Tyro Turner



AWGB & The Internet

by Peter Hemsley

In this article Peter Hemsley, the AWGB WebMaster, sets out to explain why the Association has its own website, why this is being developed further and explains the benefits of this activity to the membership and the wider world of woodturning.

Many members already know that the AWGB has had a website of its own for several months, 'hosted' as a sub-site of a larger website. After much careful deliberation, as indicated by Ray Key in his comments in the previous issue, the committee have now decided to go ahead with the development of a website dedicated solely to the AWGB. For those who have little or no experience of this new technology, questions may be forming in the mind in which the word "why?" features largely..

The AWGB obeys the laws of classical mathematics 'The whole is no greater than the sum of its parts' – the Association is its membership. It would be a foolish man who did not recognise that continuity in any aspect of human endeavour is largely dependent upon the encouragement of successor generations – indeed as woodworkers we would all be well advised to look at the natural world to see the benefits of succession and the perils of not maintaining it. A quick look at the Aims of the Association will confirm that two of our principal aims are to disseminate information and to encourage participation in, and education about, woodturning. Which brings us neatly to the reason why we are embarking on our Internet journey.

The Internet is primarily a means of information dissemination and of communication. The UK is at the zenith of Internet growth which, at 75% p/a, is well ahead of the rest of Europe and possibly the world. There are already six million UK users of the system and it is projected that more than 95% of UK businesses will have a website within five years.

The UK woodworking site which hosts

the current AWGB website reports that one of the commonest questions received is "Where can I find a turning club or group near me".

The Committee appreciate that many members do not have Internet access today – but many more will have as we go forward towards the millennium and our successor generation – our 'seed-corn' most definitely will. You may be surprised to find how many already do have access! We want to harness the power of the Internet to bring benefits to our members.

The first thing we need is a calendar, covering not just the dates of AWGB events, but also those of similar bodies operating world-wide (yes, many of them already have websites). It is our policy that this should not contain commercial information available elsewhere but it will cover events where the AWGB has an interest. However, we are eager to include information about what is happening in our branches. We would like to tell the world what great people our affiliated branches are by including branch profiles with details of contacts and providing links to branches who already have their own websites, as well as offering free pages for those who do not.

Potential members, would benefit from being able to read and understand our aims, structure and activities and in doing so may well decide to join the Association. It is much easier for these members to join – and pay – on-line. The Association's goods for sale will be made more readily available to members through the website, giving us a means of generating revenue, and subsidising subscriptions. Similarly, we plan to

make a contribution to funds by providing links from our site to commercial websites.

Our professional members will benefit from a listing on our web-pages so that students can locate suitable instructors, buyers find or commission special pieces and events organisers contact suitable demonstrators. The delights of the 'Wonders in Wood' exhibition can now be brought to the world, encouraging new turners and inspiring 'old hands' as well as promoting the Association.

Members not familiar with the technology may be afraid that their not having Internet access will mean that their branch cannot benefit from this development. Not so! There is no need for the branch to have Internet access to benefit: we will forward all correspondence received by whatever means are available at, or convenient to, the branch, be that e-mail; fax; phone or mail.

No additional work is required on your part as we will use the information held by the Association to publish the website. We will advise you of additional opportunities as they become available and seek updated information if that is necessary. **Only if you have something you do not want published do you need to write to Mike Dennis and let him know that you, or your branch, do not want to take advantage of this membership benefit.** Otherwise, let us embrace the future and welcome the advantages it offers.

If any Branch or member requires further information on topics related to the Internet in general, or to the AWGB's activity, then you are invited to contact the Author on 01235-810658.

Alphabetical Glossary of Terms

Browser: May be used to describe either a person who 'browses' the information on the Internet or the software which permits him to do so. (e.g. Internet Explorer; Netscape Navigator)

Domain Name: The 'handle' by which a website, or 'domain' is accessed. For the AWGB, this is "woodturners.co.uk".

E-commerce: Conducting business over the Internet – primarily on-line shopping. And yes, there are woodturning shops on line.

E-mail: A means of sending plain English messages (and images too) quickly and economically over the Internet, between persons having a computer and Internet access.

Internet: A world-wide network (think of it as a mesh) of interlinked computers which can 'talk' to each other. Originally developed by academics and researchers, adopted by the US military and only released for public and commercial use in 1995. In precise terms it is a concept rather than a specific physical entity.

Link: A quick route by which one can gain access to some other 'site' or piece of information, from wherever the link appears – a shortcut, perhaps.

URL: The address by which one locates a particular website. Normally includes the domain name: e.g. for the AWGB site this is <http://www.woodturners.co.uk>
Website: A collection of 'pages' of information on the Internet, grouped together and accessed through the site URL.

WWW (World Wide Web): The commercial system on the Internet which allows us to participate in the thousands of services available on the Internet.



Woodturners International Communication Service (WICS)

This is a web site hosted and updated by the American Association of Woodturners (AAW). It's Project Director is David Ellsworth as he suggested the idea to them and stems from his visits all round the world to demonstrate and teach woodturning. Thereby enriching his life by meeting so many friendly people.

The site, of course, will be on the Internet and will create a mechanism that will provide a link between individual turners who wish to demonstrate their skills and the organisations, clubs and individual sponsors of events where demonstrators are needed.

It will be free to those who use it but relies upon participation and use. Below is a quote from the AAW;

'The WICS program will depend on participation and usage. We need

turners and demonstrators to register on the WICS database so they can be located by the turning groups who are seeking new presenters for their seminars, conferences and club meetings. Likewise, we need turning groups to register their events so that demonstrators can discover venues in new locations around the world where they might be wanted. And we need to continue to nurture our highly skilled 'new talents' so that they will be encouraged to become demonstrators. Ultimately, we need to increase the current pool of demonstrators to meet opportunities of our growing field. This too is what WICS is all about.'

In order to facilitate all this information, there are three forms - WICS BROCHURE, REQUEST A DEMONSTRATOR FORM and RECOMMEND A DEMONSTRATOR FORM. The information made available will be updated at regular intervals by the AAW.

These forms are available direct from WICS-AAW
3200 Lexington Ave.
Shoreview, MN55126 USA
E-Mail: aaw@compuserve.com
Web Site:
<http://www.RTPnet.org/~aaw>
Fax: 612-484-1724

or from Peter Einig

Other sites of interest

'Out of Focus' is an exhibition of woodturning on the Internet. This virtual, interactive woodturning exhibition is available for viewing at www.woodartist.com. The site offers colour photos, specifications, artists' statements and an exciting innovation: the opportunity for viewers to comment instantly on the show. Visit your local library and visit the site if you do not have Internet access at home.

There is an Internet Newsgroup dedicated to woodturning, where you can ask fellow woodturners for advice or information. This group was first reported on in issue 40 of *Revolutions*. Several members have asked how they can access this site. You have to have access to news groups through your Internet Service Supplier (ISP) as you do for E-Mail before you can access any newsgroup. Once you have done this the group can be reached via rec.crafts.woodturning

The Axminster Tool and Machinery Exhibition - November 1997

by Mike Dennis

When the offer of having a stand at the Axminster Tool and Machinery Exhibition was first brought to the attention of the Committee I volunteered to organise the stand on behalf of the AWGB. Little did I realise the amount of work that has been attended to before the exhibition date. Negotiating with the organisers the right size stand that would show off to its best advantage the 'Wonders in Wood' display, bearing in mind that the organisers are providing the stand, free of charge, to the Association. Having sorted out the stand what electrical supply and lighting do we require, what furniture is needed, what sort of layout do we want etc, etc. Eventually we were offered a stand 15 metres long by 3 metres deep. The 'Wonders in Wood' display would occupy 11 metres and an advice clinic would take up 3 metres at the end of the stand.

After many phone calls and faxes the day arrives to get the stand set up. We, that is, Len Grantham, Frank Clarke and myself arrived at the exhibition site at 10.00am in the knowledge that Ray Key would be bringing all of the 'Wonders in Wood' exhibits from his home that morning and would not arrive until midday. Even though you may have sent layout plans of exactly what you wanted experience has shown that the contractors rarely get it right. That was certainly true in this case. When we arrived the Help Clinic was a closed room with a door and only 2 metres square and there were no shelves on which to place the exhibits. It is then a question of getting hold of the contractors to change it all round and set it out as agreed with the plan. Of course they are all very busy and you have to wait for them to get around to your stand.

With goodwill between ourselves and the contractors all was set up to our satisfaction by the time Ray arrived with the exhibits. You then have to jockey with all of the other vans and lorries to get your stuff through the door nearest to your stand. The venue for this exhibition was a ground floor area with a gallery around the perimeter at first floor level. This was where we were and meant that all of the boxes had to be walked up a flight of stairs. Eventually, exhausted and with aching legs the last box was carried upstairs. There were 101 exhibits to unpack and display on the shelves that were provided and the whole process took about 4 hours. The empty boxes were then carried back downstairs to be stored in the van until the end of the show. It took another 2 hours to fine tune the display and make sure that all of the labels matched up with the items on display.

For the next three days 8,000 people admired and asked questions about the 'Wonders in Wood' display. We answered many questions about the Association to interested people and answered many, many more questions that were asked in the Advice Clinic.

At the end of the exhibition all of the items had to be re-packed, trundled down the stairs and packed into the van for Ray to take back home. He then had the unenviable task of arranging to get them all back to their makers.

I would like to thank the following members from the Avon & Bristol Branch who stewarded the 'Wonders in Wood' display without whom we would not have managed. They were John Rex, Colin Percy, John Endicott, Dave Llewellyn, Simon

Keen, John Keily, Ken Crittle, Ian Full, Colin Hazall, Alan George, Mervyn Monks, Peter Howard and Ian Guy. I would also like to thank Ray Key, Len Grantham and Frank Clarke for their support and help in organising this my first exhibition. I congratulate Axminster Power Tools for a wonderful exhibition and the facilities that were offered the Association. I thoroughly enjoyed the four days, it was hard work but I met a lot of interesting people and members of the AWGB.

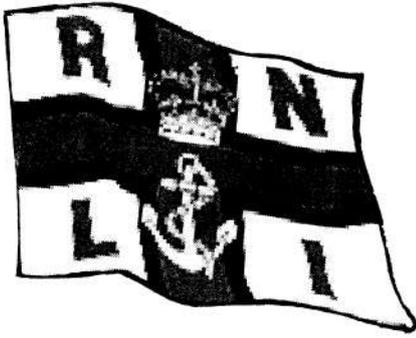
See photograph at the bottom of the front cover.

Commissions Tuition and Demonstrator Lists

If you are a demonstrator, give tuition or accept commissions and would like some free publicity, then get your details published by the AWGB.

In issue 42 of *Revolutions* you were invited to send your details to Graham Lovatt who was compiling the lists ready for publication. The lists will be sent to all branches and published on the Internet. If you have not yet sent Graham your details get the forms from him and do it now.

If anybody who has sent in their forms already and does not want details published on the Internet they must let Mike Dennis know immediately



*Have you turned your
piece(s) for charity yet?*

As reported in the last issue of *Revolutions* the AWGB is to support the Royal National Lifeboat Institution with a charity turn to be held at the International Woodworking Exhibition at Wembley on February 19th - February 22nd

Please help to support this event

**Send your work to Frank Clarke,
address on page 3,
between 2nd to 13th February**

The International Woodworking Exhibition

The world's Premier Woodworking Showcase

Wembley Exhibition Centre is home to the ultimate consumer woodworking show. More high quality trade stands, demonstrations, lectures, free workshops, displays and competition entries than any other show, this is THE exhibition for all woodworkers.

Woodturning Competition

The theme for this competition will be

Items for the Kitchen

The competition is sponsored by Craft Supplies and the Prizes total £2000 of goods from their catalogue

Model Making Competition

If you want to try something different to woodturning why not have a go at making a model lifeboat. The show organisers have followed the AWGB's theme of supporting the RNLi by making the theme of the model making competition 'Make a Lifeboat'.

Prizes for this competition are £600 worth of Bosch tools and £400 of Dremel tools.

**For full details of both competitions can be found in Wood Working or
Practical Woodworker magazines**

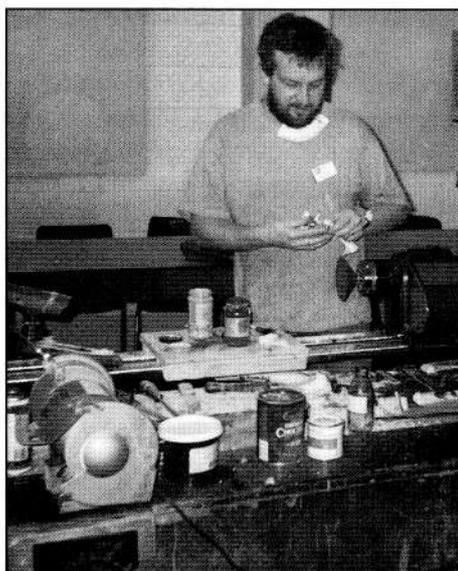
Report on the Irish Guild of Woodturners' Seminar - October 1997

By Frank Clarke

The drive from Dublin airport up to Monaghan was not, as some would think, blighted by rain, but in brilliant sunshine. A warm Irish welcome awaited - no, it was more like a home-coming. Who were all these people? Tea in the excellent hotel accommodation, on the Friday night, was a very informal getting to know you session, with a slide show from the presenters.

Saturday dawned, so off we went to the local Furniture College, about four hundred yards up the road. There was so much to see in what seemed like two short days. With an impressive line up of well-known turners, I was spoilt for choice - Phil Irons, Gary Rance, Maurice Mullins, Bob Chapman and Dave Kelly from the U.K. As I felt that I could see these lads any time, I opted to see as many of the Irish turners as possible. Boy, I was not disappointed! I have visited Ireland many times and seen the wealth of talent that exists there. The line up was excellent and included Tony Rea from Northern Ireland, Joe O'Neill from Dublin, Peter Mulvaney (the Irish Guild's newsletter editor) and Roger Bennett with his wonderfully coloured work.

The jewel in the crown was a Mexican



Roger Bennett



Gary Rance demonstrating his skills

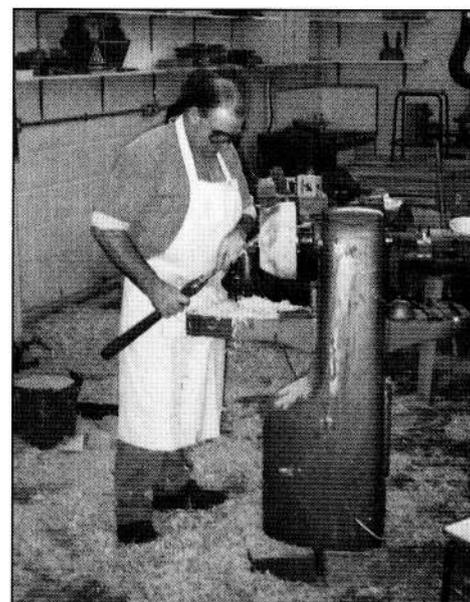
bow lathe turner named Guadalupe Campos Ceron. Taught to turn by his father nearly seventy years ago, to carry on the family trade, he and a diminishing band of bow lathe turners now make small items for the tourist trade. An article about him is on page 12.

First on my list was Tony Rea, a professional turner from County Down. He started his demo showing us the different ways he has of mounting and roughing out bowl blanks. In a later session he went on to show his speciality, turning natural edged burr bowls. During his demonstration he spent quite a lot of time removing the piece to look at the shape and form of the bowl. He was a joy to watch, and a knowledgeable turner. During one demo Tony had a hands on session, in which some of the wealth of younger turners had a go under his watchful gaze.

Next on my list was Joe O'Neill on turning pens. Joe, although a little nervous, carried through an informative and well prepared demo with his natural Irish humour, producing a good show enjoyed by all who watched him. Roger Bennett was another joy to watch. A former teacher, turned professional in 1994, he is greatly influenced by the work of Bert Marsh

(who isn't) and Paul Clare. He specialises in small coloured bowls between four and eight inches. His own signature feature is a small eye left in the base of the bowl, which he highlights using a different colour. Mainly working in Holly or Sycamore, and using a microwave, he can go from rough blank to finished piece in about a week. Roger's pieces are thin walled and with the variation of colours used, he produces fine and delicate work.

Ireland is fortunate to have some very promising young turners, Mark Hanvey being the most notable. I was not



Tony Rea

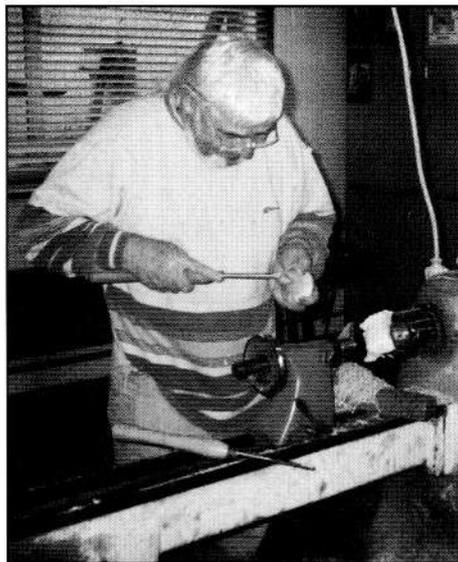


Phil Irons making a few shavings

surprised to see that he won the prize for overall Best in Show in the seminar gallery after seeing his piece picked for the AWGB's 'Wonders in Wood' Exhibition. There was a wealth of talent on display in the gallery, with an excellent entry from the junior section. Any piece on show was worthy of a wider audience. I did find time to see the British turners, including Phil Irons, who gave their usual excellent presentations. Seeing Phil turning a large Sycamore hollow vessel, sending large ribbons of wood flying across the workshop was a treat indeed.

This was my first visit to an Irish Guild of Woodturners' seminar. It will not be my last.

This one comes highly recommended and I send my congratulations to the Committee and the organisers, for it was an excellent weekend that I will remember for a long time.



Dave Kelly

WOODTURNING & WOODCARVING COMPETITIONS GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 1998 HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

We are pleased to announce that these annual competitions will be held on 14th, 15th & 16th July 1998 in the Forestry Pavilion.

Over £1000 in cash and gift vouchers have been kindly donated by The Yorkshire Agricultural Society, John Boddy's Fine Wood & Tool Store, Ashley Iles, Henry Taylor and Robert Sorby.

Each competition has five prizes.

Entry forms are available from 1st March 1998 and must be returned by mid May 1998.

Available from:

The Yorkshire Agricultural Society,
Great Yorkshire Showground,
Hookstone Oval,
North Yorkshire.
HGE 2PW.

or
John Boddy's Fine Wood & Tool Store
Ltd.,
Riverside Sawmills.
Harrogate,
Boroughbridge.
North Yorkshire.
YO5 9LJ.

In addition to the two competitions, both the Woodcarvers and Woodturners Associations will be represented. with members demonstrating their skills.

**So start carving and turning now,
in a Temperate Hardwood or
Softwood and make a date in your
diary to visit the show.**

Obituary

Cecil C Arthur Knight

On November 20th 1997 Cecil Knight, the Honorary Secretary of Martock and District Association of Woodturners, passed suddenly but peacefully away aged 71 years.

Cecil had been the Honorary Secretary since 1990, shortly after the Club was formed and it was largely due to his efforts, together with Alf Sims, the Chairman and Alan Goodland, the Treasurer that the fledgling club expanded and developed over the last eight years to the success it now enjoys.

Cecil was an inspiration to us all and will be sadly missed by all his friends and acquaintances in the woodturning fraternity. He was well known in woodturning for his enthusiasm in encouraging demonstrators.

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Craft Supplies Ltd, are delighted to support the AWGB by offering all members a £25 Voucher to be used against any one of the many Craft Supplies Woodturning Woodworking Courses available at "The Mill". For your voucher send your name, address and your AWGB Membership number to Craft Supplies.

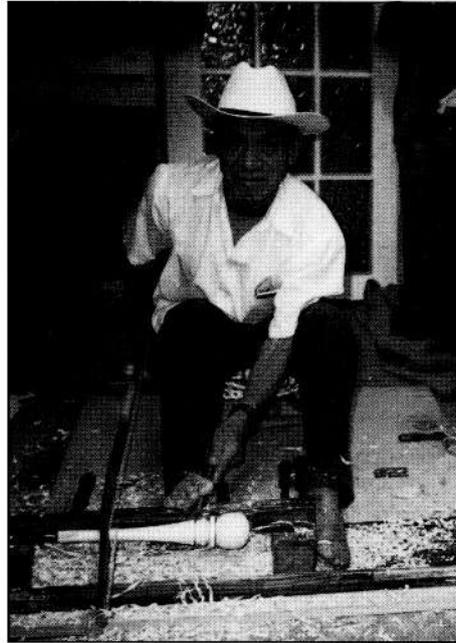
N.B. This offer does not imply endorsement of any course by the AWGB. It is the policy of the AWGB not to endorse products or services of any company

Bow Lathe Turning at MONAGHAN 97

The Irish Guild of Woodturners' Seminar

by Frank Clarke

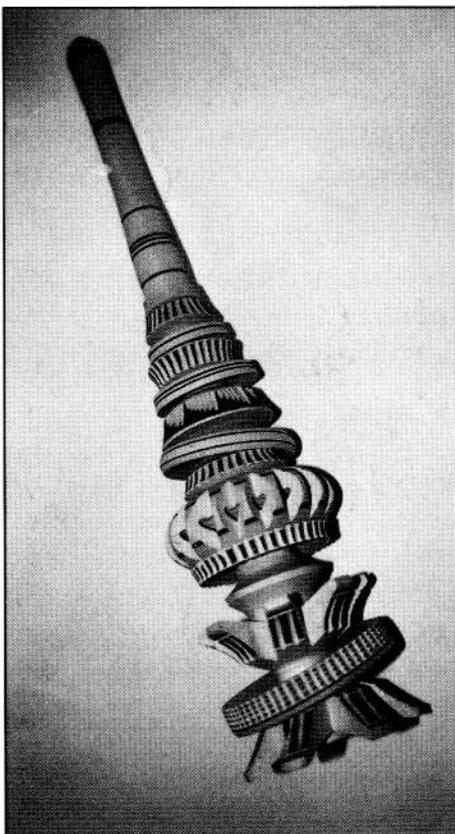
Many turners, like myself, have big lathes, fancy chucks and a multitude of tools, but to be able to watch Guadalupe Campos Ceron from Mexico turn with the most basic home made tools and a bow driven lathe was for me a humbling experience. A man of no English (all conversation was through an interpreter) with little education, Guadalupe is in his seventies and lives in a small village about 20 miles from Mexico city. He is one of a small band of bow lathe turners who make items for the tourist trade. His own speciality is the Molinillo, which was the subject for his demonstrations. It is an eighteen inch long device with captive rings and burnt on decoration, which is used for whisking drinking chocolate to



Guadalupe at work on his Bow Lathe producing a Molinillo

We have often heard about eye/hand co-ordination, but feet as well? Sitting on a small chair only inches from the floor, using both hands and feet to turn looked very uncomfortable, but it was made to look so easy. I haven't seen my feet for years, let alone bend down that low!

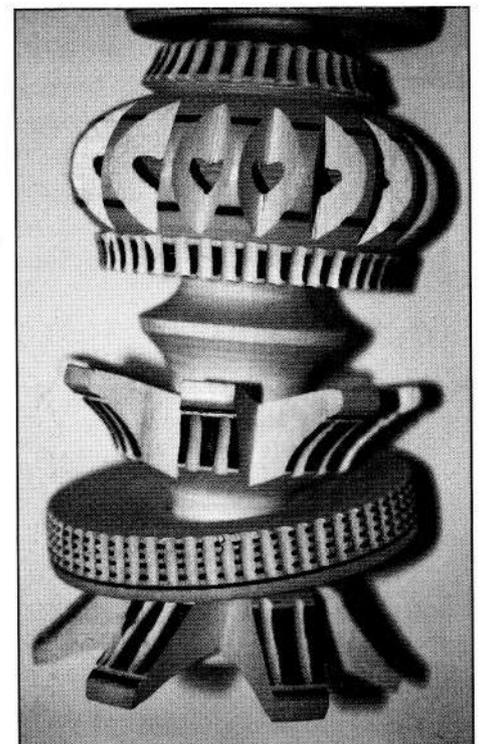
The burnt on ornamentation was made with a wedge of harder wood pressed against the turning piece. Once the item had been turned, he set about carving the decoration into the wood, which took a further twenty minutes. The whole process took around 40 minutes, resulting in a highly decorative and functional piece of work, for which, at home, he would only have got about one pound - a truly underrated and underpaid man.



A completed Molinillo

produce a creamy froth. Legend has it that these devices date back over 800 years to Mayan times.

The lathe was simply constructed, it consisted of a wooden base 2 1/2 inches square and about three feet long, the top and sides reinforced with steel plate. The tailstock was fixed, but the headstock was sliding and was held in place by the turners left foot. The wood was held on the lathe by steel spikes fitted to the head and tailstocks, and was rotated by means of a bow (with the string wound round the piece) held in his right hand. The tools he used were very basic, many made from off-cuts of reinforcing rod, fashioned as skew chisels by the local blacksmith. Scrap iron it may have been, but it was very sharp indeed. Guadalupe held the tool with his left hand and used his right foot to steady it on the tool rest.



Close up detail of a Molinillo

Affiliated Branches

Due to the number of Branches that are now affiliated to the AWGB it is not possible to get all the details on one page. In future the only information that will be printed will be the Branch name and the name address and telephone number of the Secretary and where necessary an E-Mail address. It would be appreciated if Branch Secretaries could continue sending the other information to me for our records

BURCOYE

AVON & BRISTOL

Secretary: Alan George, 276 Filton Avenue, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 0BA

Telephone: 01179 697338

CHELMER VALLEY WOODTURNERS

Secretary: J Stock, Latneys, Witham, Essex. CM8 1EB

Telephone: 01376 520093

COLCHESTER WOODTURNERS

Secretary: Wendy Thompson, 28 Barker Close, Lawford Dale, Manningtree, Essex. CO11 2JW

Telephone: 01206 393746

COOMBE ABBEY WOODTURNERS

Secretary: Sheila Bromfield, 28 Maderia Croft, Coventry CV5 8NY

Telephone: 01203 711925

CUMBRIA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Fred Singleton, I Piel View, Gleason, Nr Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 0QQ

Telephone: 01229 869550

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE

Secretary: Nick Bright, 9 Yews Lane, Sawbridgeworth, Herts

Telephone: 01279 724038

EAST SURREY WOODTURNERS

Secretary: David G Granger, 290 Addington Road, Selsdon, Surrey, CR2 8LF

Telephone: 0181 657 1895

HEART OF ENGLAND

Secretary: Reg Reed, 1 Churchfield, Welford on Avon, Warwickshire. CV37 8ES

Telephone: 01789 750221

E-Mail: rttechservices@btinternet.com

HERTS & BEDS

Secretary: Mike Sheaf, 51 Hart Hill Road, Luton, Bedfordshire. LU2 0BA

Telephone: 01582 36382

KENT BRANCH

Secretary: Don Row, 45 West Hill Drive, Dartford, Kent. DA1 3DU

Telephone: 01322 270807

MIDDLESEX WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary: David Harrop, 68 Burgess Road South, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. HP9 1EJ

Telephone: 01494 678201

E-Mail: david@harrop.co.uk

MID MARCHES WOODTURNERS

Secretary: Paul Balcomb, Bodgers, 5 Caefelyn, Norton, Presteigne, Powys. LD8 2UB

Telephone: 01544 267010

MID - STAFFS WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Gordon Fradley, Burtonmeades, Orchard Lane, Hyde Lea, Stafford. ST18 9BB

Telephone: 01785 247336

NORFOLK WOODTURNERS SOCIETY

Secretary: Bernard Rose, 63 Belmore Road, Thorpe-St-Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk. NR7 0PR.

Telephone: 01603 36990

NORTH LONDON WOODTURNERS GROUP

Secretary: Robert Craig, 55 Woodside Park Rd, Finchley, London. N12 8RX

Telephone: 0181-446 0679

E-Mail: craigr@argonet.co.uk

SCOTSWOOD

Secretary: George W Hunter, 3 Dundas Avenue, North Berwick, East Lothian, EH39 4PS

Telephone: 01620 892293

STAFFORDSHIRE & SOUTH CHESHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Peter Sandbach, 'Langholm', Checkley Lane, Wrinehill, Nr Crewe, Cheshire. CW3 9DA

Telephone: 01270 820477

SUFFOLK ESSEX CAMBRIDGE BORDERS

Secretary: Patrick White, 62 Chapel Hill, Halstead, Essex CO9 1JP

Telephone:

SUFFOLK MID-COASTAL

Secretary: Geoff Moss, 29 Barton Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 1JQ

Telephone: 01394 383569

THAMESIDE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

Secretary: Alfred Hammond, 44 Casleton Road, Wickford, Essex. SS12 0EL

Telephone: 10268 734881

THE VILLAGE TURNERS

Secretary: John P. Cranna, 5 Stoke Hill, Oundle, Peterborough. PE8 4BH

Telephone: 01832 273377

WEST CUMBRIA

Secretary: Geoff Robinson 2 Countess Road, Bransty, Whitehaven, Cumbria. CA28 6BS

Telephone: 01946 691803

WEST MIDLANDS

Secretary: Graham Lovett, 66 Beachcroft Road, Wall Heath, Kings Winford, West Midlands. DY6 OHX

Telephone: 0138477398

WEST NORTHANTS WOODTURNERS

Secretary: Malc Hill, 2 Kings Green, Priorys Park, Daventry, Northamptonshire. NN11 4UB

Telephone: 01327 872982

WAVENEY & DISTRICT WOODTURNERS

Secretary: Colin Barbour, 9 Newson Avenue, Mutford, Beccles, Suffolk. NR34 7UN

Telephone: 01502 476458

WORCESTERSHIRE WOODTURNERS

Secretary: Kate Price, 169 Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire. DY10 2SJ

Telephone: 01562 741484

News from the Branches



Doesn't time just fly when you are having fun! It seems no time at all since I sat in front of the computer penning our last report and looking forward to the exhibition of members work at the County Library. This event has to be the highlight of the year both in terms of interest in our work and the number of turners we spoke to during the week. The shop was manned from 10am. until 4.30pm each day and most of the time we had the general public looking round and expressing surprise at the variety and quality of the work on display. It is also surprising how many turners there are out there looking for a home. We had ten potential new members turn up at our December meeting four of whom have definitely joined and the others expressing an interest in the Club. Unfortunately there appears to be an even greater number of turners who have no interest at all in the Club or the A.W.G.B. and two retired time served production turners who we could not persuade to pass on their skills to us at the occasional meeting. On the final day of the exhibition the Library staff asked us if we would take the space for a second week in December as they had received a cancellation and were delighted to invite us back. We agreed to return and although interest was dulled by returning so soon, sales of members work more than made up for that. Our A.G.M. fell in between the two weeks at the library and the meeting returned all the present committee which was a satisfying vote of confidence in our giving the members the sort of Club and activities that they want. Our monthly meetings will now have two lathes available; one for demonstrating on and one for hands on tuition which members are keen

to have. Both activities are difficult to fit in on one machine as the tuition has to be done during coffee time which has not proved popular. I wonder why? Our programme for 1998 is taking shape and alongside the professional demonstrations which are a regular feature of the programme we have been invited to a weekend exhibition and workshop to be held at Nene Park in April. This along with a planned visit to a polish and finishing German company nearby should keep us busy throughout the year. While I am sitting writing this we are in the middle of the worst storm this year and ones thoughts go to trees blown down in the locality. We have been fortunate in contacting a woodman who deals in this type of work not only locally but nationwide and he has a reasonable amount of dry Yew and Elm Burrs that we can have at a fair price. This reduces dramatically the cost of turning. Our final innovation for the New Year is the production of a bi-monthly newsletter for Club members. As I am sure everyone knows, get the communications right and it leads to a quiet and stress free life with plenty of time left for turning.



East Surrey Woodturners

At the last meeting of the committee of East Surrey Woodturners it was announced that Dave Grainger would not be seeking re-election as Secretary during 1998 this was because of a proposed house move into another area during the new year. Since our last report we have had just four club activities. Two of them being our regular monthly Thursday evening meets, In October Gary Rance was our visiting

demonstrator. Gary managed to cram a great deal practical know-how from a copy spindle, to an inlaid box lid into just two and a half hours. The demo and talk were appreciated by everyone who attended on that evening. Gary finished up with a few minutes to spare so he let us into the secret of the well known "idiot stick" Gary can make it work quite well even without the rubber band although the effect isn't the same. At some stage, Gary's young assistant fell asleep. Perhaps she knew a thing or two. In November, our evening was fully occupied with a demonstration on pen making, by Mike Evans from our own branch. Again the evening was a most enjoyable one. Many of us who had never made pens are now equipped with the little bit more practical knowledge and have another use for those little bits of wood too good to throw away. Both evenings were most fulfilling and we thank both Mike and Gary for their efforts on our behalf.

We were involved in two other activities during November. One of them being a display and sale at the local Girl Guides craft fair. On Sat. November 15th we had our second Annual Open Day in Selsdon. This time we took special care to ensure that our event didn't clash with another like the Good Woodworking Show. Specialist displays of the various aspects of our craft were conducted by, Stuart Mortimer (all that he does) George White, (crowns and other things) Alan Hazell (lace bobbins) Ron Davie (miniatures) Chris Richards (CHAT) There were displays of carving by Brian Pattison (Welsh Lovespoons) and Dick Bough of the Kent branch of the Association of Woodcarvers. A rocking horse was being carved by Paul Blowers of Selsdon and there was a display of Lacemaking. Trade stands were conducted by Poolewood and Gordon Angier from Orpington. There was also a display of

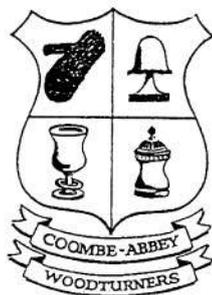
woodsmans tools by David Stevens, and Philip Wolsoncroft was on hand with a ready supply of timber blanks for those ready to try a new challenge.

Craft refreshments were an important feature, these were faithfully provided by that noble body, our wives. A video showing the branch's activities during the year, prepared by Brian Stone and Peter Miles was continuously being shown when the Mayor of Croydon, Councillor Toni Letts arrived at 10.00am it looked as though we had been going for hours and not just five minutes. Suddenly at 9.55am the halls became filled with action (and shavings were beginning to fly), the Mayor's comments were more than favourable. Her visit which was expected to have lasted about twenty minutes, lasted more than an hour. Before she and her escort left the exhibition, Stuart Mortimer presented her with one of his elegant twisted hollow forms. Her comment was that she would not forget her visit to ESW/AWGB event and that she would treasure her gift which would occupy pride of place in her home. Before departing she and her escort were offered refreshments. Three hundred visitors turned up at our event, many objects were sold. Our three lathes were kept "busy" all day, members taking turns at hourly intervals to demonstrate and the tables displaying items for sale were manned by members trying to ensure that our visitors did not go home empty handed.

On the whole our second Open Day proved to be another outstanding success thanks to all members and their wives, Our visiting demonstrators and of course our visitors. If we have another open day in 1998 lets hope that it will be even better.

East Surrey branch take this opportunity to wish readers of *Revolutions* a Happy New Year for 1998.

Dave Grainger - Secretary



It is now 12 months since Coombe Abbey Woodturners club was formed; and what a busy year it has been. The year started with a talk on the AWGB by Graham Lovett and a talk on lathes and bandsaws by Pyatt Woodworking. Our next demonstration was by Robert Sorby Tools, this was a very informative day. Around this time it was suggested that we go back to basics and build a Pole Lathe. A local sawmill was approached and enough green ash was donated by Verdon Sawmills and the metalwork was donated by Stretton of Coventry to build two Pole Lathes. The task of building these lathes was undertaken by some very keen club members. Great fun was had trying to overcome the problems we encountered.

This project was well underway when we were invited to stage a 3 day demonstration on woodturning at the Town & Country Festival. For this a lathe was loaned to us by Derek Pyatt, which was operated by three club members. Another lathe was supplied and operated our club President Roger Warren-Finding. Derek Pyatt also supplied and demonstrated various Bandsaws. Alongside this we had another of our members demonstrating the making of earrings and lace-bobbins on a small metalwork lathe that her husband had converted for her. A very impressive display of work done by club members was also set up. The festival was attended by over 150,000 people so when it rained (and it did several times) great interest was shown in our work and demonstrations. Having got that under our belts there was not much time for relaxing as we decided we would do a charity event at the Autumn Craft Fair being staged at Coombe Abbey Country Park. For

this two day event we set up three lathes in the visitors centre and set to work turning mushrooms from pieces of green wood purchased from us for 50p. This time we decided it would be the ideal opportunity for the first public demonstration of one of our pole lathes. It was the first time some of us had used it so that created even more interest and an even bigger challenge. Also we had a display of members' work. From the proceeds of this event £217 was donated to the Princess Diana's Baby Life Line Appeal.

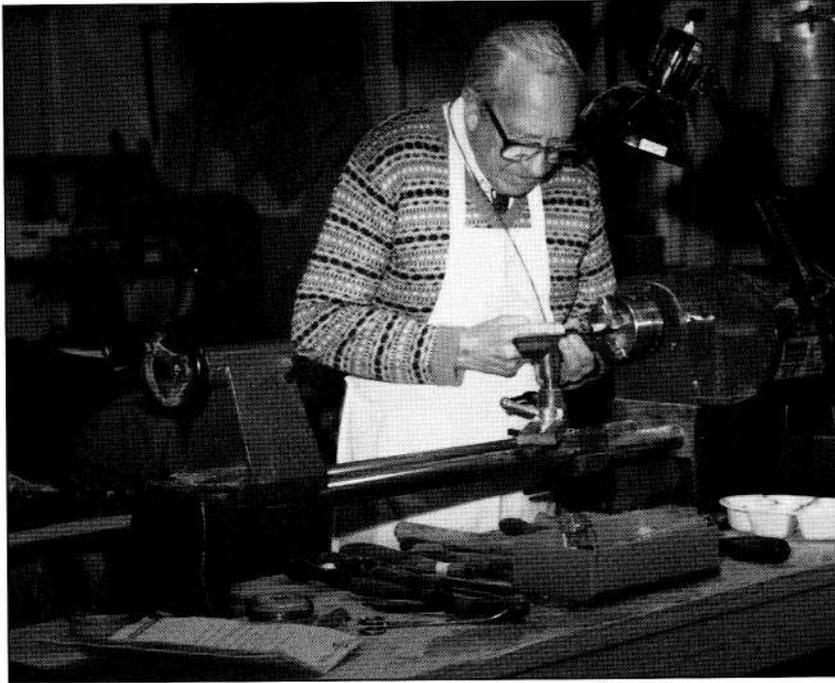
Time then for a more relaxed club meeting by having a hands-on with 3 lathes etc. being set up. This I think was found to be very informative and interesting. Well, on to our last meeting of the year which fell just before Christmas. This we decided we would make into social event. Wine and snacks were provided, partners were invited and a very enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

I think you will agree from this brief article a busy first year was had by us all. This could not have been achieved without the support of dedicated members and especially Joe Taylor, head ranger, and all of his staff at Coombe Abbey Country Park.

Colchester Woodturning Branch

A highlight of the coming to a close of our first year was the visit of that well respected and gifted turner Bill Jones. Many turners have heard of him, read his articles or indeed have had the pleasure of watching him turn in his unique fashion often using his arm rest as a third arm and showing what an advantage it is to keep good support close to the cutting edge.

He started his demonstrations showing the correct use of the light armrest which is now being marketed by Crown Hand Tools Ltd and he



Bill Jones

certainly did not go home with as many as he brought. I only hope that I and the others who bought the tool put in the effort to attempt to emulate his style and try to achieve the result that we know usually only comes from practice.

Apart from his arm rest Bill is well known for his hand chasing of threads, which he makes look so easy that we wonder why all of our attempts do not meet with his high success rate, perhaps it is something to do with his tools, it can't be anything else can it?

All of his morning demonstration was towards making a decorated screw lid box in boxwood, which is one of the woods he uses frequently in demonstrations. Needless to say the

end product was a very attractive piece of work and finished on time, how do they do that?

The afternoon was for the making of a baby's rattle and in addition to more screw joints that certainly made me resolve to go away and practice, Bill showed the making of a hollow ball which was the body of the rattle and also a little spindle turning for the handle. For this he used boxwood for the main parts and blackwood for contrast with a teething ring in ivory, a material he has traditionally used in his turning over many years.

Although we could have accommodated more delegates those who came had a super day which will be long remembered.



We commenced our year with our AGM in January.

At the end of the month we saw the planting of our first donated tree - a Copper Beech - in Woodbridge on some public land chosen by the local authority. Arrangements are in hand for the donation of our second tree.

Branch membership commenced at 42 and by August had reached 60. Reluctantly the committee decided to limit membership to this figure - due to the size and suitability of our premises. At last we have a junior member. A waiting list of 4 (to date) has been introduced.

Branch meetings have been well attended with lots of 'hands on' practical evenings which have included lamp making, routing, turning and making joints for furniture, steam bending, lamirating etc.

Our TURNABOUT programme has once again been popular with 12 members acting as presenters with topics such as - routing on a lathe, furniture making, chucking methods, barley twist's etc. We are to continue with this TURNABOUT again next year.

Several members attended a visit to Sotterly Saw Mills, Beccles. We were given a splendid tour of some of the forest areas by the proprietor Miles Barnes who went to some lengths to explain tree disease and control, thinning and planting procedures. It was staggering to learn that some trees are 120 years old when felled. We were taken into the mill area, shown the machines cutting and drying areas. Since our visit the mill has been presented with an award - the Duke of Cornwall award for forestry and conservation by the Royal Forestry Society.

Congratulations to them.

Several members attended Warwick bringing back tales of wonder and amazement. About a dozen members attended Sible Hedingham, Essex, the seminar organised by the Suffolk, Essex and Cambridge Borders Branch. This was a very good day and we congratulate those involved.

We had two day demonstrations.

Stuart Mortimer came to see us in May. He provided us with an excellent day with lots of practical advice. Bill Care was our second demonstrator in November. Bill showed us some basic skills, natural edge bowls, hollow form and his own fruit making methods. Both events were attended by some 35 members.

We have one particular member by the name of Peter Taylor, a spritely OAP. Peter gives the branch tremendous support at committee level on practical evening's along with being a presenter on our TURNABOUT programme. He is a splendid woodturner producing a wonderful £1 mushroom up to a £25 bowl and variations in between these items and prices. He gives up his time attending Craft Fayres. At one event in September - a two day fayre he sold items to the value of £669. His sales this year have amounted to over £1000 and he donates all of this to our local Hospice in Ipswich. Well done Peter.

So our year is ending, but we have much in store for 1998. Our programme has been completed. We look forward to some busy meetings. We are to have visits from Bill Jones and Chris Stott. Yes they have been to see us before but due to popular demand back they come!!

Geoff Moss - Secretary.

Chairman's postscript

I enjoy much satisfaction from being part of such a strong team effort. All

seem equal in dedication and the effort put in. It's good to see so much interchange amount members between official meetings. My thanks to a AWGB in being fundamental in our beginnings.

Albert Lain - Chairman



As intimated in the last Newsletter, our December meeting ended the year with a wonderful skittles evening and supper. The men were no mean bowlers with skittles falling at a fast and furious pace. But the ladies, they were deadly!! Not only did the skittles fly, but on more than one occasion, the skittle retrievers had to duck and dodge as bowls flew through the air, narrowly missing heads and other vital parts.

Our AGM, held on 9 January 1998 was well attended with 32 members present. This number included two new members with a third potential member coming along as a first time visitor.

Ron Barnsley was elected Chairman, taking over the hot seat from George Reade who has done so much for the club, including standing in as Chairman for most of 1997. George was proposed, seconded, and unanimously voted as President in recognition of his service to the club. The club's finances are in good shape in the capable hands of treasurer Barry Mancell, and yours truly has agreed to act as "scribe" for another year.

Plans for next year are well in hand and only two summer months remain to be filled. I wonder if there is something really novel we could try? Any ideas?

In March, we shall be holding our third show at Brownhills Community Centre. Hopefully, this will again be in

collaboration with the West Midlands and South Cheshire and Staffs Branches. Three demonstrators have agreed to participate and there will be an exhibition of all clubs members' work along with a charity stall; the new season's charity being "Talking Newspapers for the Blind". The event will be held on Saturday 21 March 1998 from 2pm to 6pm so we are looking for a good response.

Two members are to attend the AWGB Branch Representatives' Annual meeting on Sunday 5th April at Burcot. We shall await their report eagerly.

Gordon Fradley - Secretary



With another successful year behind us we look forward to 1998. During the year we had demonstrations from ten professional woodturners, we demonstrated at the County Show and had a very successful display in the local library. Ten of our members produced work good enough to be selected for the 101 pieces from the 'Wonders in Wood' display at Warwick University. We also sponsored a youth during the year with the aid a loan lathe from the AWGB.

Our AGM is in February and we are finding it difficult to fill the vacancies on the Committee. I am sure that we are not the only branch suffering from this problem.

Our programme for 1998 is completed with demonstrations from Mike Cripps, Phil Irons, Len Grantham, Bill Jones, Mac Kemp, Mike Morley and Chris Lindup. As well as the demonstrations mentioned there will also be talks and 'hands on' evening.

Mike Dennis - Chairman

The following companies are offering a discount to AWGB members on production of their membership card

L. H. Turtle 10%
10 Park Street
Croydon
Surrey CR0 1YE
Telephone 0181 688 5513

B. H. P. Woodcrafts 10% - 15%
Rainbows End
Mayes Lane
Sandon
Chelmsford
Essex CM2 7RW
Telephone 01245 227229

Peter Childs 5%
The Old Hyde
Little Yeldham
Halstead
Essex CO9 4QT
Telephone 01787 237291

Dure-Edge 10%
21 Station Road
Woodley
Stockport
SK6 1HN
off FlexbackPLUS
Bandsaw Blades
(Does not apply to
any special promotions)

Northern Craft & 15% on Trend, Sorby,
Power Tool Co Ltd, Rexion, Craft Supplies
214 Waterloo Road Accessories, Timber,
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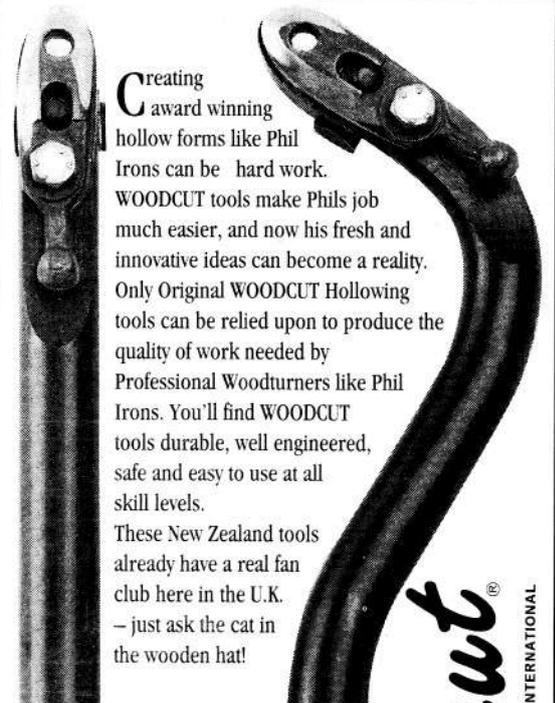
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