

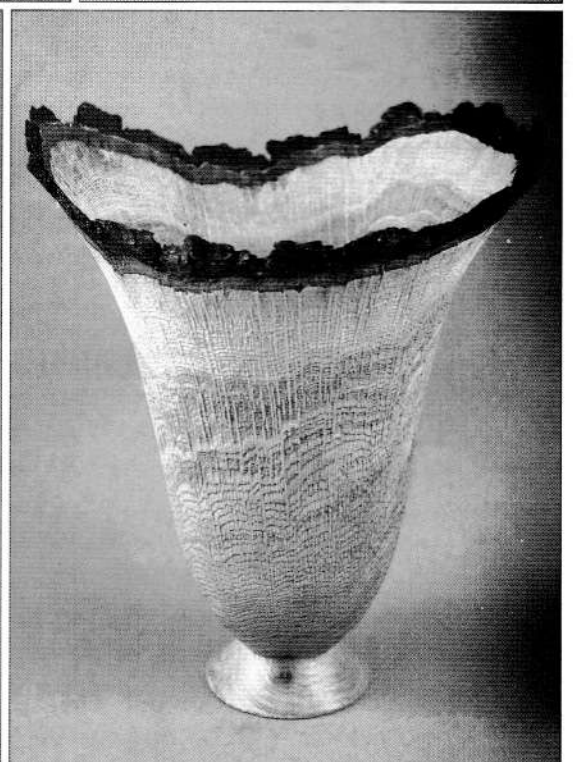
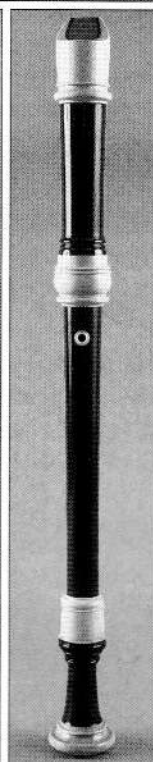
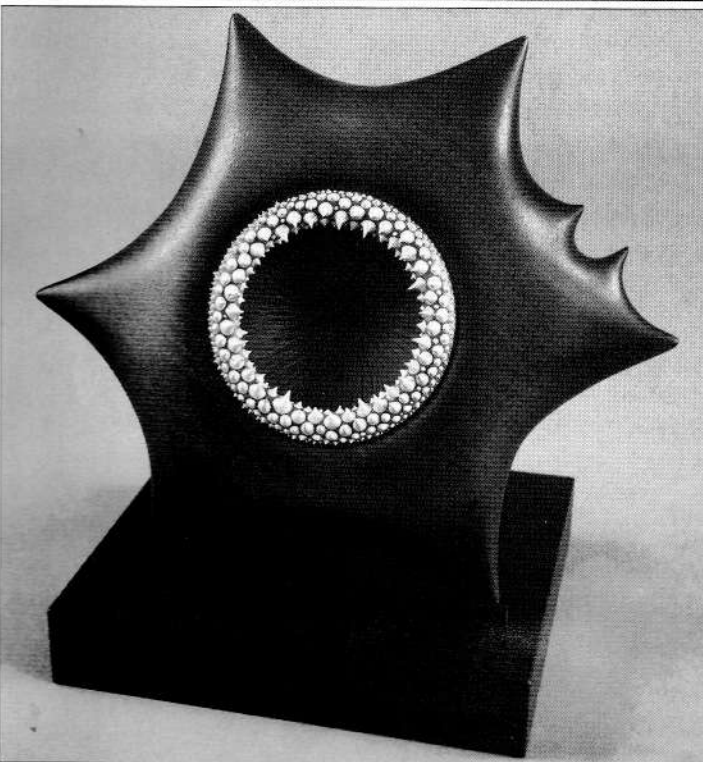
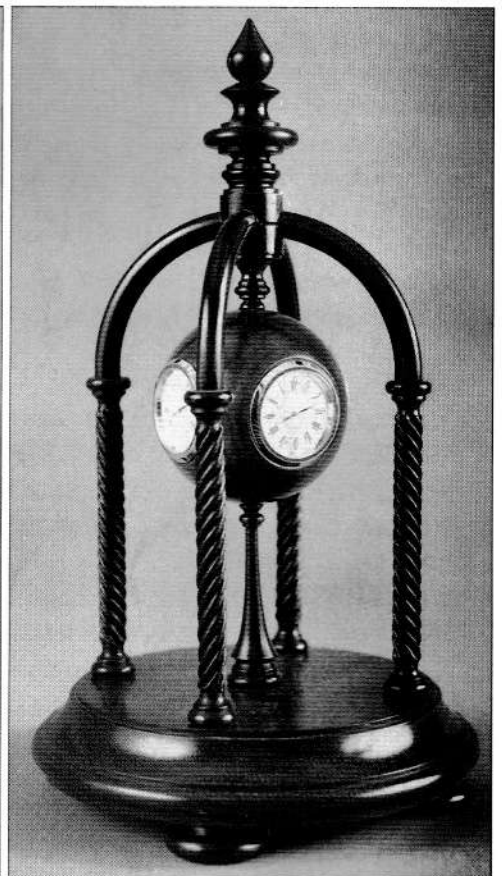
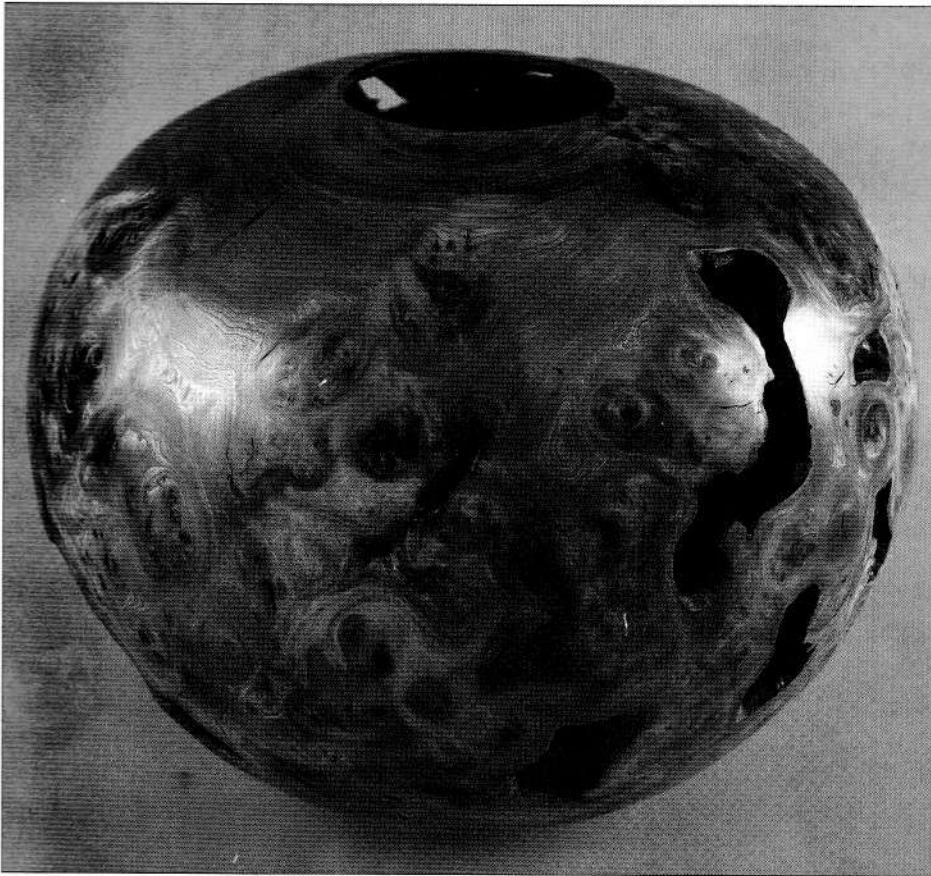
Revolutions

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 47

£1.95 Free to members

November 1998



NEC Winners - Full story on page 10

Chairmans Page

International Seminar 1999

Work goes apace towards preparing for the seminar next summer at the University of Warwick. The dates have already been published and details of presenters are now finalised and available. Booking forms are enclosed with this newsletter so that members can book early. The arrangements for paying include the opportunity to pay in stages for those who wish to take advantage of doing so.

Those who have been to previous seminars will tell you that it is an outstanding few days - a woodturner's dream! It is very interesting,, extremely informative and inspiring into the bargain. My experience of the seminars I have attended has left me with much to remember on each occasion. Some AWGB members have attended ALL the seminars that have taken place. I think that gives an indication of the quality of what is on offer. In addition not only is the woodturning content good but the accommodation, food and facilities are excellent.

I look forward to meeting members at the seminar.

Membership Survey

Each member has received a survey questionnaire and has been requested to complete and return it. Frank Clarke has kindly taken responsibility for this and is

pleased with the response from members who are providing us with very useful information.

Frank has published a report summarising your replies and he will present it to the national executive committee to consider and he has also written about it in this *Revolutions*.

Thanks to members who have replied and thanks to Frank for the time he has spent on it. We await the findings with interest.

AWGB - future plans

As I mentioned in my last Chairman's notes the executive committee is in the progress of reconsidering its objectives and targets to take us into the millennium. The members' survey will help us in this process.

Progress so far has led us to a consensus to focus on the following as the main thrust of our work during the coming 3-5 years;

1. Continue to raise awareness of woodturning.
2. Work on more benefits for members.
3. Fundraising in addition to membership subscriptions to fund activities like "Wonders in Wood" and AWGB sponsored woodturning compositions. We have now to put flesh on these bones. We will be incorporating ideas from the members survey into our

thinking. When we look back at the targets that we set ourselves 3/4 years ago we find that we have achieved much of what we set out to do and a lot more. We shall continually review our progress.

AWGB membership and branches.

It is pleasing to report that there is a steady rise in the number of members and in the number of branches now functioning.

If you are an individual member without a branch in your area and you would like there to be one then there is a 'Start up' pack to help you make the first move. If you are interested please contact Peter Einig for more details.

National Executive Committee 1998/99

Time is fast approaching to consider the membership of next year's executive committee. We are very aware that most woodturners join the AWGB for the obvious reason of wanting to improve their woodturning and the idea of taking on responsibility for running the organisation is far from most peoples thoughts.

However we do need to ensure that the AWGB continues and flourishes. Please think about supporting the AWGB at national level. We need members to give their time and energy to keep our organisation going well.



Each year the officers of the AWGB are open for nomination yet we rarely receive many if any! Last year most of us took office unopposed. Some competition for the posts would be very healthy for our organisation. Peter Einig has indicated that he wishes to stand down from the role of honorary secretary as from the end of this year so it is vital that we have nominations for this critical job. Serving on the national executive requires attendance at approximately 6 meetings a year. These are usually held on Sundays and last from 11am to 5pm.

Most years we receive few nominations. We would like to receive more. Please consider being prepared to be nominated or to nominate someone else (with their agreement!) for the posts that will be published in *Revolutions*.

Wonders in Wood

Now is your chance to acquire a copy of this book. It will be available at exhibitions, at some branch meetings when members of the executive attend branch meetings and by post from Peter Einig. Enjoy the interest and inspiration that the book provides.

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

www.woodturners.co.uk

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Contents

Chairmans Page	2
The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain	3
Editorial/Subscription renewal form	4
International Seminar 1999	5
AGM Notice	6
'Wonders in Wood' Book	9
'Take your Turn' at the NEC	10
Letter to the Editor	13
Questionnaire results	16
Woodturning or Model Making	18
News from the Branches	21
Turn East '98	24
Thoughts of 'Chuck Turner'	25
From Cherry Trees to Cherry Bowls	25

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**

10 January 1999

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION 1999

It is that time again to ask all members if you will continue to support the AWGB by renewing your membership for 1999.

1998 has been a year of steady growth for the Association. We now have over 2000 members and 29 affiliated branches.

The committee are now looking forward to 1999 and planning new initiatives and benefits for members.

Payment of subscriptions can be made either direct to the Membership Secretary
Derek Phillips, 15 Greens Road, Cambridge. CB4 3EF
Tel: 01223 312134 E-Mail: derek.phillips@virgin.com
or through your Branch.

Membership fees for 1999 are unchanged at:

Standard membership	£12.50 per annum
Family membership	£20.00 per annum
Junior membership	£6.25 per annum
EC countries	£12.50 per annum
Overseas membership	£20.00 per annum (by Sterling Bank Draft)

Please make cheques payable to AWGB

It is hoped that you will continue to support the Association and we look forward to receiving your subscription.

To Derek Phillips, 15 Greens Road, Cambridge. CB4 3EF

Please find enclosed the sum of £..... in payment of membership fees of AWGB

Name..... Membership No.....

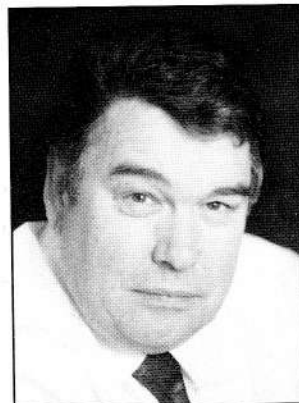
Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Telephone No.....E-Mail.....
(if applicable)

SignedDate.....

Editorial



The first thing I must do is to apologise for the delays in getting the August edition of *Revolutions* to you. This was caused by the printers being on holiday at the time we were ready to print and the delays in using the mailsort company to mail it out.

The delivery of *Revolutions* does take about a week to ten days to process through the mail sort company and the Post Office but considerable savings are achieved by using the service. It has been calculated that we saved £250 in postage on the last edition alone. In addition to the savings we can insert additional leaflets and forms very cheaply. In the last issue you had a leaflet informing you of the Axminster exhibition. In this issue is a leaflet from a commercial company. The Association makes a charge for this service which helps to reduce the postage costs still further.

This issue is the biggest that I have produced since I became editor. It is due to a combination of additional articles from members, for which I heartily thank those who have sent them in, and the information regarding the seminar which is earlier than in previous years.

Several members have expressed a desire to write an article(s) for *Revolutions* when they returned their questionnaires. I would like to thank you all and look forward to your contributions.

Mike Dennis



AWGB 7TH INTERNATIONAL WOODTURNING SEMINAR

August 13th, 14th & 15th 1999

*University of Warwick
Nr. Coventry, Warwickshire*

With this issue of *Revolutions* is the application form for those who would like to attend the seminar next year. I would urge that you book early to avoid disappointment - early indications show that interest in next years seminar is high. You will note that the form is to be returned to Len Grantham. We are grateful to Len for volunteering to take on the role of administrator for next years seminar. His experience in dealing with past seminars will be greatly appreciated. The committee has tried to keep the increased cost of this seminar as low as possible but due to higher costs from the University and fees in general during the last two years we have unavoidably had to increase the cost of a standard room by £30. All other options have similar increases.

There are no other costs, your fee covers all accommodation, meals, morning coffee and afternoon teas at the seminar. It covers everything including use of the swimming pool and other sports facilities. The one thing it does not cover is your bar bills.

Main Presenters

Ciaran Forbes – Ireland

Elegant functional bowls and platters are Ciaran's forte, expertly presented with warm gentle Irish humour.

Michael Hosaluk – Canada

Renowned as one of the worlds most creative turners. Contemporary, elegant, humorous, provocative are all words that can be used to describe Mike's work.

Betty Scarpino – USA

Excellent presenter of sculptural turning. She creates strong forms using assemblage, colour and texture

Mark Sfirri – USA

Creative multi-axis spindle turning is Mark's forte. Candle sticks, large human figures created on six centres are a speciality

Stuart Batty – UK

Talented young turner who needs no introduction. Square edge bowls and long stem goblets a speciality

Phil Irons – UK

A big man making quite a name for himself through his pure hollow forms and colouring.

Gary Rance - UK

One of a rare breed of trade apprenticed turners. Will present stair case components, and turnings for a Smokey Bow chair.

Phil Reardon – UK

Our own multi talented jester. There is always fun where Phil is, he will entertain and inform with his toy presentations 'Fun with figures.'

Dave Regester – UK Author of four books

Dave will present spindle work including a baby's rattle and his famous trunnion box, plus functional and natural topped bowls

Chris Stott – UK Maker of fine video's

Chris will present a series of small skill building projects, plus a couple of his well known box forms

These are the main presenters, other will be added.

Subjects like safe chain saw use, photographing your work, panel discussions and many other things will make this a very full and varied programme.

For more information contact Mike Dennis 01923 829844 or Len Grantham 01522 595660
or visit our web site www.woodturners.co.uk



7TH INTERNATIONAL WOODTURNING SEMINAR

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
13TH - 15TH AUGUST 1999

GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of Warwick Conference Park, Gibbet Hill Road, Coventry, Warwickshire, CV4 7AL, England, is situated 3 miles South West of Coventry City Centre and on the South side of the A45 road.
(Map will be sent with final details).

ACCESS BY RAIL/AIR

The London Euston/Coventry Intercity service is approximately half-hourly throughout the day, with a journey time of 70 minutes. Taxis are available at Coventry station.

Birmingham International Airport is 12 miles North West of the University and there is a direct train service from the airport to Coventry.

A direct and regular coach service links Heathrow and Gatwick Airports with Coventry.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Friday August 13th

10.00 - 1400 hrs.	Arrival, registration, lunch.
14.30 - 22.00 hrs.	Demonstrations, slide presentations and lectures.

Saturday August 14th

08.00 hrs.	Breakfast
09.00 - 22.00 hrs.	Demonstrations, slide presentations and lectures.

Sunday August 15th

08.00 hrs.	Breakfast
09.00 - 17.00 hrs.	Demonstrations, slide presentations and lectures.

ACCOMMODATION

The standard accommodation for this seminar will be single room with washbasin.
There will be some standard double rooms, and some single and double rooms with en-suite facilities available.

FEES

The seminar fees inclusive of all meals, refreshments during seminar breaks and accommodation are as follows:

Standard single room	£225.00 per person
Standard double room	£225.00 per person
En-suite single room	£265.00 per person
En-suite double room	£265.00 per person

We are happy to be able to offer accommodation on a bed, breakfast and evening meal basis to non-participating spouses and friends wishing to accompany seminar delegates. We can offer full board which includes all meals **or** half board which does not include lunch on the Saturday and Sunday

Non participating delegates standard room (Full board)	£135.00 per person
Non participating delegates en-suite room (Full board)	£175.00 per person
Non participating delegates standard room (Half board)	£115.00 per person
Non participating delegates en-suite room (Half board)	£155.00 per person

The non-residential fee for seminar delegates inclusive of all meals except breakfast is £190.00 per person.

A non-returnable deposit of £50.00 per person is required with the balance to be paid in full by 30th June 1999. After this date places not fully paid will be made available to the waiting list.

Cheques should be made payable to AWGB.

Refunds can only be made to those who cancel before 30th June 1999.

Refunds will be subject to an administration charge of £10.00.

Only in exceptional circumstances will refunds be made after the above date.

Applications will be acknowledged by return of post.

Tickets, detailed programme, etc. will be provided on registration at University of Warwick on Friday 13th August 1999.

PAY BY INSTALMENTS

For the first time you have the opportunity to pay for your fee by instalments as follows

First payment of £50 per ticket by 31st December 1998.

The second payment of £50 per ticket by February 28th.

The third payment of £50 per ticket by April 31st.

The final payment per ticket by June 30th

MEALS

Meals included in the full fees are lunch and dinner on Friday; breakfast, lunch and evening banquet(silver service) on Saturday; breakfast, lunch and tea on Sunday.

Bar facilities will be available.

Please advise of any dietary requirements.

PLEASE NOTE

AWGB members have priority booking until 31st March 1999, after this date any unsold places will be made available to the general public at £295.00 each.

PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISSAPOINTMENT

Booking form enclosed with this edition of Revolutions

'Take Your Turn' at the NEC

by Nick Hunton - Editor of Woodturner magazine

After beating the drum in The Woodturner recently about the importance of competitions, especially at national level, it was very rewarding to see so many entries submitted to the two categories of the competition featured at the International Woodworking and Turning Exhibition at the NEC.

In recent years there has been a gradual decline in the number of entries sent in for judging, but this was certainly reversed when it came to the 'Take Your Turn' event as there were more than 80 items on display and standards were good, and in some cases very high. There is nothing like making the judges do a little head scratching which isn't just to remove the dust and shavings after their demonstration. My thanks in this respect go to Ray Key, Stuart Mortimer, Ciaran Forbes and Jamie Wallwin for their efforts. They do not have an easy job, and they have to take the flack afterwards from those who don't agree. Whilst there is a sense of safety in numbers, the other reason for involving several judges is that they each bring a different appreciation of the type of work being viewed according to their own style of work, whether this is of the bowl and faceplate type or spindle turning and furniture work where a

number of pieces have to be united or copied across. But of course what should be remembered by those with a difference of opinion when seeing the work from the aisles of the show is that the judges have the opportunity to handle and closely inspect each item close up, inside and underneath. Very often it is this inspection which reveals those factors which may let a piece down, ranging from poor final tooling to careless finishing or lack of form and the loss of a flowing shape. There are also other areas where more thought or more work such as in reverse chucking to properly finish off the base or to turn out the chuck holding recess or at least make a decorative feature of it would improve the quality of the piece.

Differences of opinion is however the reason why some years ago in conjunction with the AWGB we introduced the Visitors' Choice trophy. In this way if the judges became too involved in detail, there would be some redress for those whose items really displayed qualities of originality and great overall appeal. And, as Ray Key pointed out in the presentation of awards to winners, he would actually begin to be worried if the public did agree with judges.

This year two items received equal high scores from the public, and these were the coloured and carved radiolarian vessel in the faceplate section from Louise Hibbert and the kaleidoscope from Roger Foden who had spent more than a year in the researching and making of the project. Roger in fact told me afterwards that winning this award was to him far more important than coming in the prizes section. In fact the fine turning of the spindle work details in his mahogany standard lamp also in the spindle section category was considered superior by the judges, and it was this that won him a prize.

Not having the wisdom of Solomon, I for one was very grateful to Ray Key when he said that the AWGB would

recognise both Louise's and Roger's work as being of merit, and that he would seek the agreement of the AWGB to present two awards this year. This seemed very appropriate as the two categories had really seemed and been viewed by many as separate competitions, and judging across the two was a difficult enough task when it came to finding the overall winner for the first prize of the Hegner lathe. So my thanks to the AWGB for your support in this.

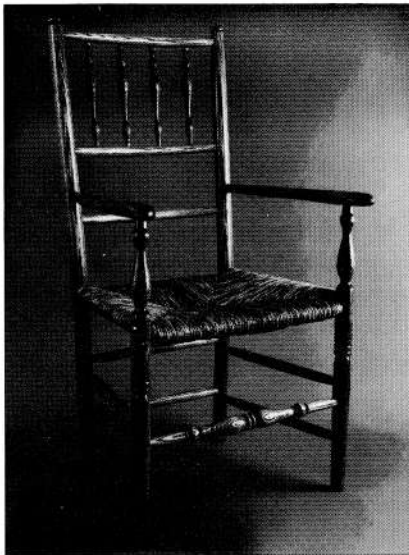
And, most importantly, I would like to offer a big thank you to all who entered the competition and helped to make a wonderful display of turned work. I do believe that competitions are important, and we will go on running them as long as we have your support. Competitions are a chance (or an excuse) for you to have a go at producing your best work yet, and for you to take pride in what you have done by seeing your own work displayed as part of a national showcase of work. The displays at the NEC, Wembley or wherever are inspirational to other turners. And this is not just because of good quality work by names that are becoming better known, but also because there are so many of you exploring new ideas and having a go at your own level of ability, and so many



Roger Foden with his kaleidoscope



Louise Hibbert with her radiolarian vessel

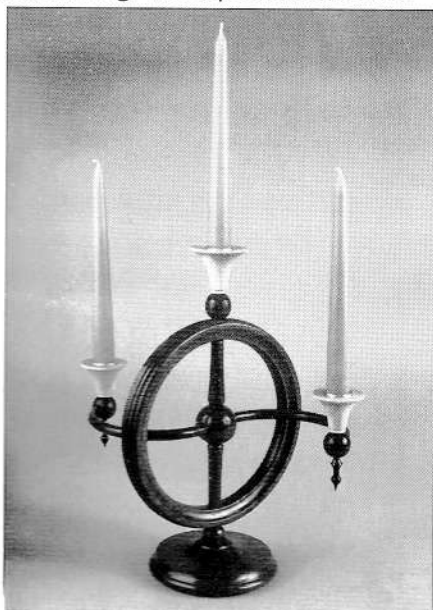


A. Hayes

Country style spindle back chair - Ash

of these items are worthy of further development. Keep up the good work.

Nexus is currently planning the next set of competitions for the Wembley show in February, and this will include one for turners. Watch the magazines for further details. Your support through entering the competitions means that it is possible to persuade companies to continue with generous sponsorship and good value prizes, these are surely a good incentive to enter (apart from your own personal motivation). This year I would certainly like to express my gratitude to Hegner, Craft Supplies and Draper Tools who undertook this role, and I hope that the winners of the awards will make use of them to further their turning. We hope that these and



Graham Hughes -

Table decoration with swivel candles

other companies will continue to sponsor such events, especially woodturning as this is such a thriving area of the woodworking crafts.



Eddy Morgan

Sunset candles stand

- Padauk/Ebony/Osage Orange

Comments from the judges

Ray Key on the overall competition:

"The spindle turning in this competition is the best we have seen for many years; there is some really excellent work here. Also in the faceplate section there is a lot of good stuff, but it is the spindle turners who have come up trumps this year."

Stuart Mortimer on the spindle turning section. "The spindle turning work in general is excellent, but especially that exemplified by the top pieces. A point that comes over when looking at multiple matching spindles is the need to take care when copying over. The eye is drawn to small details such as beads and quickly picks up on differences. It is a good idea to use a vernier calliper more often. Sharpness and definition of features is also important, and some of this can be lost in poor use of the tools and through careless sanding over."

Front page

Top left	Phil Irons
	Burr Elm Vessel
Top right	Tony Witham Clock
Bottom left	Louise Hibbert - Radiolarian vessel
Bottom middle	Gary Cook Voice flute recorder
Bottom Right	Tracy Owen Oak vase

Take Your Turn Woodturning Competition NEC 98 - Results WINNERS

Overall winner from both categories

1st prize Hegner HDB 200 Lathe

Phil Irons Hollow Vessel - Burr elm

Category A winners

(sponsored by Craft Supplies)

2nd prize to the value of £350

Louise Hibbert Radiolarian vessel - dyed sycamore

3rd prize to the value of £250

Tracy Owen Sandblasted vase - Oak

4th prize to the value of £150

Graham Hughes Table decoration with swivel candles

Runners up

Tony Witham	Pyrography and coloured bowl - Sycamore
Eddy Morgan	Sunset candles stand - Padauk Ebony Osage Orange
Nick Arnall	Coloured vessel - Sycamore
Gerry Collett	Large bowl - Burr oak
Patrick Blake	Large vase with handles - Beech

Category B winners

(sponsored by Draper Tools)

2nd prize to the value of £350

Tony Witham Suspended clock - Purpleheart/Ebony

3rd prize to the value of £250

Gary Cook Voice flute recorder - African Blackwood Lemonwood

4th prize to the value of £150

A. Hayes Country style spindle back chair - Ash

Runners up:

J.C. Greer	Half scale smokers bow chair - African Cherry
Roger Foden	Standard lamp - Mahogany
Dave Roberts	Magazine rack - African Blackwood Maple
Jim Coakes	Clock - Cocobolo
P.W. Blake	Folding table - Yew

AWGB Visitor' Choice Trophy

Joint winners

Louise Hibbert	Radiolarian vessel (Category A)
Roger Foden	Kaleidoscope (Category B)

A VERY FRIENDLY SHOW

A report on NEC '98

by Graham Lovett.

Another year and the end of another NEC. This year saw the seventh woodworking and woodturning show at the ever popular Midlands venue, and the seventh time the Association has had a presence at the exhibition. It seems incredible that in spite of many doubters in the early years, the NEC show is still eagerly anticipated, and is an important date on the "show" calendar.

The show is an important shop window for the A.W.G.B. and there can be no doubt that the quality of work on display, both on the Association stand and the competition display areas, indicates that woodturning continues to enjoy a deserved place in the field of creative art.

Our stand this year was a more modest affair, following last years prime display area surrounding the Nexus Stand, but nevertheless was well sited halfway down the hall allowing the visitors to filter through without being caught in the "first stand crush". Once again our members did us proud and presented the Thursday set-up team with a headache of where to display what, so that all exhibits would be seen to their best advantage. It was nice to see this year, purely from a stewards selfish point of view, how well the items had been packed, with little or no loose polystyrene filling. It does make a heck of a difference when unpacking over seventy pieces, as we had this year, that we didn't have to go chasing mounds of loose fill. It reminds me of the comedian who on trying to pick up his bowler hat from the floor somehow time and time again managed to kick it away from his outstretched hand; this is similar to attempting to retrieve light as a feather loose fill from several surrounding stands!!!

One of the main aims of our presence at the show is to promote the Association, its aims and objectives, and I can say without any doubt that, on your behalf, the volunteer stewards did a fine job. The cheerful way in which they all dealt with the many questions is a credit to them. The ever popular "Advice Clinic" staffed by Derek Phillips and Alan Hewitt, drew a lot of attention from visitors, and although questions had to be "prised" from them, the facility still forms an important aspect of our presence at these shows. What chuck and what lathe to buy were probably the two most asked questions. During the period of the show fifteen new members were signed up, and many enquiries for information regarding setting up new branches, in areas where there well may be many turners but as yet they are not known to each other. Quite surprising was the interest shown in the Association, or the idea of an association of woodturners, from people visiting from Europe, particularly Germany, where, as I understand it, woodturning is for the professional only, and never the twain shall meet.

NEC '98 was selected as the launch for the A.W.G.B. produced book, "WONDERS IN WOOD". This is the publication of the 101 selected exhibits from the tenth anniversary seminar at Warwick in 1997. It is excellently produced, not a "how to" book, but a source of inspiration and ideas, and a credit not only to those makers featured, but to the several people involved in putting it together. Although sales did not go through the roof, steady sales were made, which will no doubt be built on at the other shows which follow later this year and early next. (Copies can be purchased by post from Association Sec. Peter Einig.)

All in all NEC '98 was a good show, and from several sources, (including one of the organisers) this year was considered to be a very friendly occasion.

My thanks to all the stewards:- Geoff Newman, Isaac Foden, Ray Lawrence, Gerald Griffiths, James Barker, Ralph Pinder, Ftil Stevenson, Neil Baldwyn, Mary King, Les Stott, Emma Brennan, Dave Wood, Alix Hood, Ron Barnsley, Ron Dixon, Bernard Collins and Ray Tunstall. Thanks too to Peter Einig for his efforts in sorting out the considerable amount of admin required for such a venture.

See you there next year!!!!????.....

PERFECT FINGERNAILS

Produce perfect grinds every time with the fingernail grinding Jig as featured in Vol 2 Issue 2 of the Woodturner magazine.

Available at a total cost of £6.00 from Alan Hedley, 31 Malvern Road, Seaton Sluice, Whitley Bay, NE26 4BZ.



The publication of the first AWGB book 'Wonders in Wood' is an event worthy of celebration and should not - **must not** - pass without receiving the acclaim that it deserves. Along with this acclaim must go our congratulations to all the AWGB committee members who have devoted so much time, effort and energy, through many troubles and disappointments to the publication's final emergence.

With its superb photographs by Tony Boase I the publication must surely be seen as a milestone for woodturning, as a celebration and commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the AWGB and as a fitting climatic tribute to all those involved.

I trust that these comments are shared by all fellow AWGB members as we express our thanks, once again, to you Mike and all your committee colleagues

Sincerely,
Gordon Fradley

Last winter I reviewed the state of my turning, just taking stock. There were a couple of boxes of turned wood in various stages of completion, under the bench. When they were exposed to daylight revealed themselves to be little more than a waste of good wood. I began to wonder if I was wasting my time and money carrying on.

To give myself a greater sense of purpose I decided to enter a few competitions. To this end I trawled through my magazines noting what had gone before in terms of winning entries. There were some photographs which were not given much space. There were no

comments from the judges, except the usual platitudes and there was a lack of information about the winners or their techniques. The photographs were in the main too small to see close detail and there was no indication of the standard of the rest of the entries

Later I went to a major show to see the results of a competition staged there. I couldn't understand why the winners had been chosen. I was at the exhibition to find what standard to aim at and the level of design, I still don't know. What are organisers of competitions aiming at? To commit time, energy and materials to producing quality work without consideration for the aims and criteria is a pointless exercise.

At this point I have the latest Revolutions No 46 in front of me and in the centre pages there is information about the October exhibition at the NEC and a competition there. The pages include a decent paragraph headed 'Criteria for judging'. Full marks to Revolutions.

After all that my circumstances were such that I barely touched my lathe for months. So I am going to have another go over winter and see what happens. In the meantime what about critiques from judges, constructive comment to accompany the photographs and an article on how the judges set about their task

Yours sincerely
B. Chamberlain

As a female woodturner I read with interest the letter in Revolutions from a lady who felt she had been treated badly by a male instructor. I have never had formal instruction so am unable to comment on that particular aspect. Except for one isolated instance I can only say that I have been treated with the utmost respect by fellow turners and dealers alike. The exception was when I asked various questions

regarding the wood I was buying, the male dealer persistently looked over my head and answered my husband (who incidentally kept referring him back to me). Needless to say we have never visited that particular establishment again. Perhaps it was partly my fault as I was an almost complete novice and was asking, what must have seemed to him, rather stupid questions. But then how else can we learn?

My husband Dennis started turning in February 1997 and I followed in the April. By this time we had discovered the Kent branch of the A.W.G.B. We have had so much help and understanding from this very enthusiastic group of people that we now like to count them as friends. Most of all though we have had a lot of FUN. We were very proud in April this year when the club as a whole won ten awards in the British Gates Turning Point Competition including our two first's, one second and two highly commended's.

Perhaps a very few men feel threatened by a woman taking part in what, after all, is a largely male dominated hobby or occupation, but I feel enormously privileged to have a very supportive husband who offers nothing but encouragement. We enjoy our new hobby immensely and hope we can, in future, pass on to other club members what we have learnt and are still learning.

Yours sincerely
Pat Gleadell



*The Committee would
like to wish
all members a
Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year*

Crafts Council

National Register of Makers

What is the National Register?

The Crafts Council National Register of Makers is the most comprehensive listing of contemporary craftspeople in Great Britain who design and make their own work.

The Register enables the Crafts Council to give detailed information, in response to enquiries about craftspeople.

Information is held on a database which is supplemented by Picture Cards. The Picture Cards are available to view at the Crafts Council.

Who uses the Register?

The National Register of Makers is used by the public to contact individual makers.

The Register is also a valuable resource for shops, galleries, trade

buyers, architects, designers and businesses looking for new work to exhibit, commission, buy or sell.

Information about craftspeople included on the Register is made available to the Regional Arts Boards and other arts organisations offering increased exposure at regional as well as national level.

Who is eligible?

Entry onto the Register is free and open to any craftsperson living and working in Great Britain who designs and makes their own work. There is no selection process for work which is included on the Register.

Makers should have a professional approach to their work, although it is not essential to work full time as a craftsperson.

Makers work should consistently show appropriate craft skills and originality of design. The maker should have a personal involvement with both the design and making process of the finished object.

Those working in illustration, fine art, painting, conservation, restoration and sculpture are not eligible for inclusion.

Applicants must have finished their studies.

For further information and to obtain a copy of the relevant forms contact the The Crafts Council reference desk on 0171 806 2501



Web Site News

You may have noticed how many of the executive committee now have E-Mail facilities. This has certainly helped us communicate more effectively over the last month or so. Many Branches also now have E-Mail facilities.

The AWGB website is being visited just over 500 times per month. The next stage in its development to organise links with other woodturning organisations around the world.

Closer to home, links will be provided to members own sites and it is hoped that members with their own web pages will provide a reciprocal link to the Association's site. If you have your own web pages please E-Mail Mike Dennis with the URL of your site and he will arrange for the link.

Links with commercial companies are growing and these links provide the resources to finance the web site.

Another service we want to offer is a diary of woodturning related events. If Branch Secretaries let Mike have their forthcoming programmes these can be published. We get a number of enquiries from overseas visitors coming to this country and would like to attend woodturning events.

6th Great Year NORTH OF ENGLAND WOODWORKING SHOW '98

for the AMATEUR – the PROFESSIONAL
and the COMPLETE BEGINNER

The Flower Hall * Great Yorkshire Showground * Harrogate
27th - 28th Nov 1998 10am - 5pm
29th Nov 1998 10am - 4pm

A Change of Direction

by John Theobald

Having been on the employment 'treadmill' for over thirty years, my wife and I have decided to 'jump off' and to set up our own business. We sold our house in mid Cornwall and bought a suitable property in North Cornwall where Sue offers Bed and Breakfast to visitors with the added bonus of being animal friendly. We love dogs and know how difficult it can be to have "Man's best friend" with you on holiday. Hot cars, closed beaches etc. We have a purpose built kennel and run where pets can be left during the day to be reunited with their owners in the evening. We aim to provide a 'home from home' atmosphere with lots of good food and a warm welcome.

Whilst at work, I have also been running a Woodturning business on a part-time basis and have now branched out into tuition and fulltime production whereby I supply galleries and shops with turned items.

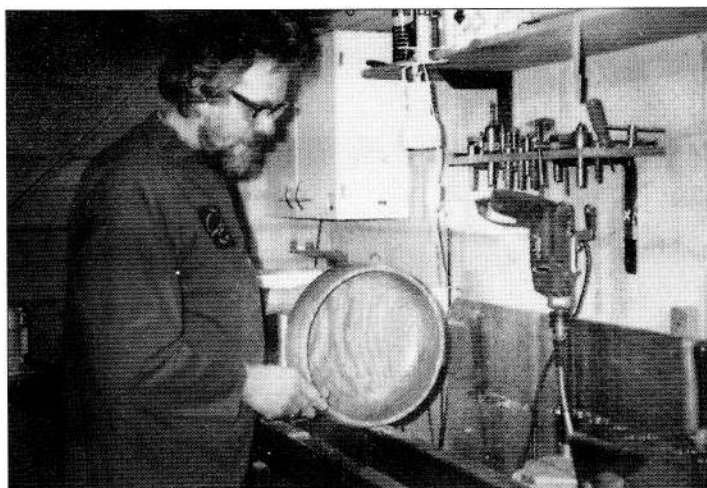
Put the two together and what have you got? Activity holidays. Come to Cornwall, bring the family and the dog or dogs and learn to turn as well as enjoying the beautiful scenery of our County. After a hearty breakfast a student can start work in the workshop on one of three lathes with one-to-one tuition until one-o'clock, with a break for coffee. Lunch is served from 1 to 2 giving the student time to go for a walk or just sit and relax in the garden. At the end of the day, about 5pm, videos can be watched or



books read or the student can rejoin the family for an evening of wine and dining, walking the dog or just watching television in the lounge.

We love our new lease of life. A happy turner is a fulfilled turner and the ideas flow with vigor. Sue, too, is happy and relaxed. She has her garden and time to enjoy it, her animals, and time to care for them, her dream house and time to run it to her liking as she has always loved housework and cooking.

Before this, we were always rushing about, to get to work, to get home, to catch a meal before starting work again and life was passing us by. Now we enjoy every moment and like to pass on this enjoyment to others. We have not dropped out, we have started again and we would recommend a change of direction to anyone with a good idea and the determination to succeed.



OBITUARY

It is with the greatest sadness that we have learnt of the death of George Reade. George was a long serving and popular member of the Mid-Staffs Woodturners' Association and following his term as Chairman was unanimously elected as President at the club's last AGM. This honour reflected the members' gratitude for his tireless work, but sadly this was not to last.

George was a warm and friendly man who gave heart and soul to the Mid-Staffs Association. He will always be remembered for his unstinting efforts to ensure that everything that had to be done was done in the best interests of the club in particular, and the woodturning fraternity in general.

He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

New catalogue from APTC

The new 1998/99 Axminster Tool & Machinery Catalogue contains over 448 pages of machinery, tools and workshop consumables and supports a friendly, efficient, world-wide mail order business. Many new and innovative products are included; Harris hand tools for the cabinetmaker, and Jesada router cutters, and the Elektra Beckum machinery range has been reintroduced together with many new items from well established suppliers Scheppach, Delta and SCM. For the model maker there is the Minitool series of miniature power tools. With the opening of the new Woodturning & Craft Centre, Axminster is offering exciting project kits and accessories for the woodturner. **The catalogue is available free upon request by calling 01297 34836**

So you want to become writer!

by Frank Clarke

From the membership survey, nearly a hundred of you expressed a desire to write an article for *Revolutions*. Like myself many of you may never written more than the odd postcard. Although being on the AWGB committee I am now getting plenty of practice.

With this in mind I have put a few thoughts down that may be of help to all those budding Tom Clancys and John Grishams amongst you. Even if you did not say in the survey that you would write an article, it's not too late. You can still contribute, details of something you use or do in your turning, the odd tip or hint, are all welcome. Don't forget that *Revolutions* is your newsletter, so all contributions will be greatly received.

As *Revolutions* is a newsletter for and by the membership, we do not pay for articles. Copy comes from its members,

most of them amateur writers who are happy to supply articles for the enjoyment and information of their fellow members. As *Revolutions* is published four times a year, and we try to produce a balanced edition each time, it may take a while for your article to appear, so don't get despondent.

What *Revolutions* is trying to achieve, is an insight into woodturning through the eyes of its members. Articles can be submitted typed, longhand, on a floppy disc or even E-mailed. Mike would prefer disc or E-mail as it saves having to retype everything. If you send a typed copy *Times* and *Courier* are the typefaces to use as Mike's scanner reads them easier. The deadlines for copy are printed in *Revolutions*.

Writing is a skill or craft, just like Woodturning. You think of an idea, knock off the corners and then refine it.

Anything you think is useful to you could well be of interest to others or could even be the basis for a series of articles. Once you have put pen to paper, get someone to read your masterpiece, preferably another turner.

Photos should be of finished items of work or to illustrate techniques, topics or ideas, drawings are also very welcome. A picture as they say is worth a thousand words. Colour prints, slides or black and white photos are all ok, but in many cases colour will bring out the best in a subject. Please be conscious of safety, don't show any bad habits. Many articles show turners without eye protection, this is done mainly for recognition purposes.

So have a go, even a few short paragraphs or the odd hint or tip can be of interest to other turners. Your ideas are more valuable than you think.

Questionnaire Results

By Frank Clarke

Many thanks to all of you who filled in and returned the Association's recent survey form. The information gathered is rather bulky, and to analyse it minutely would fill this copy of *Revolutions*, so Mike Dennis has decided to reproduce it over two issues. I was especially glad that seven of our lady members completed their forms, three of whom have said they would be prepared to write articles for *Revolutions*. With one agreeing to take a more active role in the AWGB's activities. I was saddened that none of the junior members returned their forms. Can't win em' all.

As you can see from the published results, our membership core is based in the more senior or retired age group. This said we still need more younger members. Diverse and exciting distractions, coupled with the fact that hand crafts are no longer taught in our schools, have gone a long way in increasing the average age of your

average Woodturner. We Woodturners tend to be a secular lot. We shut ourselves away in our workshops and lose ourselves in the oblivion of a revolving piece of wood, with only the odd cup of tea or the wife calling out that dinner is getting cold, to distract us from our own little world.

One or two points were raised, firstly discounts for members. I have canvassed over thirty companies to get them to join our Members' discount scheme, to little avail. The few that are listed in *Revolutions* are the only ones who would agree. Most feel that in today's market, their prices are as keen as they can be, while still staying afloat and making a profit. Some firms will offer a discount for cash to personal shoppers depending on what you buy or spend. It doesn't hurt to ask. However if any of you out there know of any firm that is prepared to join the scheme please let me know and I will contact them. Another point raised was that we

should print names of timber suppliers and machinery manufacturers. This has been done recently by *Woodturner* magazine, (March 98, issue 5) so it would not be prudent for us to copy what they have done already.

To those of you that sent letters with your forms, they have all been read and have been passed onto the relevant Committee member. Your Committee now has a better insight as to your views and opinions, which will allow us to move forward in everyone's best interest, so once again many thanks to those who bothered. By the way, to those of you who used recycled envelopes, well done. All the scrap paper and envelopes generated by this survey have been recycled and the stamps passed onto a charity. Nothing goes to waste in our house.

Congratulations to Dr Martin Vaughan from Ashby-de-la-Zouch on winning himself a place at next year's seminar.

Section 1 General Information
21 % returns so far (423 Forms)

1. Age group

Under 20	0
20-29	4
30-39	17
40-49	35
50-59	106
60-69	181
70-79	73
Over 80	8
No comment	2

2. Perception of Skills

Beginner	68
Intermediate	281
Advanced	71
No comment	3

3. No Years Turning

Less than 2	48
Two - Ten	233
Eleven - Twenty	95
More than 20	47

4. Classification

Hobbyist	263
Beginner	38
Semi Professional	69
Professional	52
Don't know	1

5. Membership in Years

Under 2	63
Two - Three	116
Four - Five	101
Six - Seven	39
Eight - Nine	40
Ten +	43
Don't know	21

6. Membership other than AWGB

American Assn	6
Irish Guild	1
Northern Federation	6
S/West Woodturners	0
Professional Register	18
Non-Affiliated Club	49

7. Affiliated Branch

8. First Knowledge of AWGB

Friend	78
At an Exhibition	105
Leaflet from elsewhere	76
Visiting a Branch	94
Magazine	39
Founder Member	1
From 1st seminar	16
Can't remember	14

Section 2 Instruction/Courses

9. Have you Attended a Course

Yes	236
No	187
Two or more	30

Questions 10 & 11

Lists available on request

12. Duration of Course

1 Day	40
2 Day	147
3 Day	36
4 Day	7
! Week	16
Longer	9
Evening Classes	25

13. Approximate Cost

Free	6
Under £100	67
£100-£150	79
£151-£200	15
£200 +	22
No Comment	49

14. Satisfied with content

Yes	213
No	20
No Comment	3

15. Were Written Notes Supplied

Yes	123
No	113

16. Have you Trained as an

a. Instructor	13
b. Demonstrator	3
c. Both	15

17. Do you give

a. Instruction	46
b. Demonstrations	59
c. Both	69

18. Level of Instruction given

Beginner	117
Intermediate	56
Advanced	20

19. Where

Own Workshop	93
School	29
Woodturning School	12
Local Club	48

20. Was Written Material Supplied

Yes	44
No	58
No Comment	42

Section 3 AWGB Activities

21. Do you Attend Branch Meetings

Yes	247
No	31

22. Attend 1 Day Seminars

Yes	195
No	193

23. If no, Reason

No Time	51
Too Expensive	17
To Far	69
No Comment	46
Not interested	10

24. If Yes, was it value for money

Yes	182
No	8
No comment	5

25. Do you attend Biennial Seminars

Yes	103
No	320

If no, Reason

No time	86
Too far	61
Expense/Cost	28
New Member	25
Family commitments	40
Not interested	13
No comment	67

26. How do you rate

Demonstrations/Demonstrators

Poor	0
Average	0
Good	13
Very Good	47
Excellent	39
No comment	4

27. List available on request

28. Are Biennial Seminars good

value	
Yes	90
No	0
No comment	13

Section 4 Insurance Scheme

29. Taken up AWGB scheme

Yes	55
No	319
No comment	49

30. If No, Reason

Too expensive	16
Not required	159
Own Cover	97
Register scheme	4
No knowledge	14
No comment	29

final finishing was being done. The two equipment pockets on the side of the bag presented an interesting problem, as the radius of the face which was glued to the outside of the bag had to be exactly the same as the radius of the outside of the bag itself. Cutting these from a large piece of tulipwood would have been exorbitantly expensive. The solution was to glue up a composite block of scrapwood, with a piece of tulipwood positioned off-centre so that a hole could be cut through the centre of the block, with a diameter exactly equal to that of the outside of the bag. The external shaping of these pockets was done by hand, and the slots to take the inlay representing the zips were cut by hand with a very fine saw, and a great deal of care. Drifting off-line was not an option.

For the umbrella I made a core with two tapers, but to a smaller size than

the finished article. I then cut a number of slivers of veneer in six different woods, glueing them in a spiral form around the core. The overlap was then sanded off to give a smooth surface, and the tip was made of aluminium, turned on the lathe at lowest speed, using an old Rawlplug bit, suitably ground, as a cutting tool. The carrying strap and the bands for holding the bag onto the trolley are all made of Velcro.

And lastly, the trolley. This was by far the most difficult part of the whole operation, the reason being that all the joints had to be glued at different angles, but the end-product obviously had to be perfectly symmetrical. The members were turned from ebony, the wheels were of ash, with real rubber rims. Turning the latter was something of a problem, as rubber does not make shavings, but just came away in seemingly endless streams of

ribbon, which became entangled with the chisel and anything else it could find.

After several abortive starts at glueing the various pieces together, I remembered a technique which I had seen used for the restoration of damaged ceramics. This involved the use of Plasticene, which could be moulded into appropriate supports for each member while the glue was hardening. All quite easy, in the end, once the supports had been moulded to give the correct angles to the various joins, some of which were pinned for added strength.

And so my "ten-minute project" for the Christmas tree, took almost the entire winter, but the end product made it well worthwhile. The golf ball in the photograph is a real one, and gives some idea of the size of the various items.

The Jim Gall Trophy - A Model Lathe

by Chris Wilson

Three years ago, the Committee of the Kent Branch decided to establish a trophy, to be awarded annually to the member who, in their opinion, had done the most for the branch in the preceding year. It was not necessarily intended for the best turner, and was initiated in memory of a well-known local professional demonstrator and teacher who had helped many branch members through the learning curve of wood-turning and who had died following a long illness.

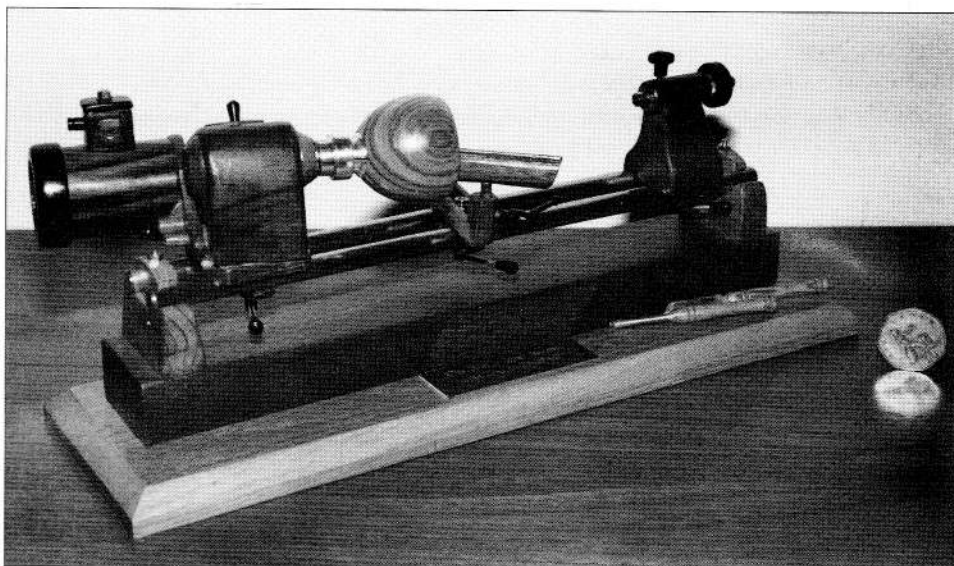
A scale model lathe seemed an appropriate subject for this trophy, but there was very little turning in this project and it was really a model-making exercise. It was made to onequarter scale and no drawings were needed; I merely turned round and measured off my own lathe.

The only items made on the lathe were the motor, the bowl in the

chuck, the two chisels lying on the plinth, and the Multistar chuck which was turned from solid aluminium, using a Rawlplug bit, suitably ground for the purpose. A glass case was made in order to keep the unit free of dust. It has now been awarded twice, and the winners name is inscribed on a small

plate which is then affixed to the plinth on which the lathe stands.

We felt that this was a nice way to remember someone who was liked by all who knew him, and the first presentation was made by Jim's widow at the Branch AGM in 1996.



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

	Telephone	E-Mail
AVON & BRISTOL Secretary: Alan George, 276 Filton Avenue, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 0BA	01179 697338	george276@aol.com
BURCOT WOODTURNERS Secretary: Brian Leake, 36 Oversley Mill Park, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6LL	01789 762650	
CHELMER VALLEY WOODTURNERS Secretary: J Stock, Latneys, Witham, Essex. CM8 1EB	01376 520093	
COLCHESTER WOODTURNERS Secretary: Wendy Thompson, 28 Barker Close, Lawford Dale, Manningtree, Essex. CO11 2JW	01206 393746	
COOMBE ABBEY WOODTURNERS Secretary: Gerald Griffiths, 78 Despard Road, Eastern Green, Coventry CV5 7DF	01203 467765	
CUMBRIA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION Secretary: Fred Singleton, 1 Piel View, Gleason, Nr Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 0QQ	01229 869550	
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE Secretary: Nick Bright, 4 Yews Lane, Sawbridgeworth, Herts	01279 724038	
EAST SURREY WOODTURNERS Secretary: Bryn Taylor, 99 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7JH URL Address: www.surreyweb.org.uk/east_surrey_woodturners/	0181 657 7869	bryngt@aol.com
HEART OF ENGLAND Secretary: Reg Reed, 1 Churchfield, Welford on Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8ES	01789 750221	rttechservices@btinternet.com
HERTS & BEDS Secretary: Mike Sheaf, 51 Hart Hill Road, Luton, Bedfordshire. LU2 0BA	01582 36382	
KENT BRANCH Secretary: Don Row, 45 West Hill Drive, Dartford, Kent. DA1 3DU	01322 270807	
KINGS LYNN WOODTURNERS Secretary: Nigel Hellon, 53 Park Avenue, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE30 5NL	01553 691215	nigel.hellon@bt.com
MIDDLESEX WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION Secretary: David Harrop, 68 Burgess Road South, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. HP9 1EJ URL Address: www.harrop.co.uk	01494 678201	david@harrop.co.uk
MID MARCHES WOODTURNERS Secretary: Paul Balcomb, Bodgers, 5 Caefelyn, Norton, Presteigne, Powys. LD8 2UB	01544 267010	
MID STAFFS WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION Secretary: Gordon Fradley, Burtonmeades, Orchard Lane, Hyde Lea, Stafford. ST18 9BB	01785 247336	
NORFOLK WOODTURNERS SOCIETY Secretary: Bernard Rose, 63 Belmore Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk. NR7 0PR.	01603 36990	
NORTH LONDON WOODTURNERS GROUP Secretary: Robert Craig, 55 Woodside Park Rd, Finchley, London. N12 8RX	0181446 0679	criagr@argonet.co.uk
SCOTSWOOD Secretary: TBA	TBA	
STAFFORDSHIRE & SOUTH CHESHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION Secretary: Peter Sandbach, 'Langholm', Checkley Lane, Wrinehill, Nr Crewe, Cheshire. CW3 9DA	01270 820477	sandbachpd@clara.net
SUFFOLK ESSEX CAMBRIDGE BORDERS Secretary: Brian Partridge, Homeside, Lady Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk. IP7 6AF	01473 828489	brianpart@aol.com
SUFFOLK MIDCOASTAL Secretary: Geoff Moss, 29 Barton Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 1JQ	01394 383569	(via) andrew.galant@breathe.co.uk
TAYWOOD WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION Secretary: William Roger, 17 Garten Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee. DD5 3HH	01382 776682	(via) dwmurray@abel.co.uk
THAMESIDE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION Secretary: Wally Hammond, 44 Casleton Road, Wickford, Essex. SS12 0EL	01268 734881	aham287771.com
THE VILLAGE TURNERS Secretary: John P. Cranna, 5 Stoke Hill, Oundle, Peterborough. PE8 4BH	01832 273377	
WAVENEY & DISTRICT WOODTURNERS Secretary: Colin Barber, 9 Newson Avenue, Mutford, Beccles, Suffolk. NR34 7UN	01502 476458	
WEST CUMBRIA Secretary: Enid Winterbottom, 23 Hycemoore Way, Bootle Station, Cumbria. LA19 5XE	01229 718622	
WEST MIDLANDS Secretary: Graham Lovett, 66 Beachcroft Road, Wall Heath, Kings Winford, West Midlands. DY6 OHX	01384 277398	
WEST NORTHANTS WOODTURNERS Secretary: Malc Hill, 2 Kings Green, Priorys Park, Daventry, Northamptonshire. NN11 4UB	01327 872982	
WORCESTERSHIRE WOODTURNERS Secretary: Kate Price, 169 Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire. DY10 2SJ	01562 741484	

News from the Branches

Kings Lynn Branch

In April last year two turning nuts in BT got together and decided it would be a good idea to start a woodturners club in Kings Lynn. We spread the word, found somewhere to meet, and held our first meeting.

Six people turned up (sorry about that) and "Kings Lynn Woodturners" was born. Our "fame" grew and within six months we had 15 or so members on the books and were beginning to think about AWGB membership.

Correspondence and information from the committee was distributed and the decision was held over until the club was visited by Derek Phillips.

That was the clincher.

The decision was unanimous and people were signing forms and paying dues like there was no tomorrow.

What's happened since then, I hear you ask, well maybe not.

As of March this year(98) we acquired a club lathe, used at almost every meeting, a chuck system and now are working towards a set of tools. (It's bring your own at the moment) Derek Phillips revisited the club a couple of months ago to demonstrate his skills for us; this made for an enjoyable evening.

The Kings Lynn Art Centre were invited to our June meeting to give an appreciation of our art and the club will have its first public showcase at the centre in November. Liz Falconbridge (Visual Art Manager) was "very impressed by the standard and skill of our work . . . and would be very pleased to set up the exhibition".

Our last meeting (July) was our summer recess competition which was to turn a lidded bowl of no more than four inches diameter. The entry standard was very good and twenty-seven people attended, putting the icing on the cake. Now the summer

break (No meeting in August) is upon us and we must bide time until September to get back into the swing. This is the first missive from this branch but should by no means be the last.

Nigel Hellon

Chair/Sec. Kings Lynn Woodturners.



When last writing we were just finalising our 1998 programme. Two months remained to be filled and we wondered if there was anything really novel that we might try.

THERE WAS & WE DID!

In July we were privileged to welcome Alan Holtham for an evening's demonstration-and what a demonstration! I think Alan is still wondering how we talked him into it, since he does very few demonstrations, but the evening proved to be one of the most informative, well controlled, quietly masterful demonstrations that we have ever seen. We saw so much and learnt so much in the short space of that evening yet it was all completed in such a calm, leisurely and relaxed manner. A true professional - thanks Alan.

The August club evening saw another exciting and novel venture when we invited wives, partners, friends and relatives to a talk with slides on **The restoration of Windsor Castle** by Mr. Roger Venables, Company Chairman and Director of Henry Venables Ltd. Henry Venables Castletown Sawmills, Stafford has been supplying timber for over 100 years and is best known for its supplies of English oak. The fifth generation of

this family firm expanded the business into supplying high quality architectural joinery and is renowned for its work on such projects as the restoration of York Minster, St. Paul's Cathedral and latterly Windsor Castle.

We were treated to a fascinating talk on the restoration work after the fire in November 1992 which destroyed or severely damaged nine principle rooms, and over 100 other rooms within Windsor Castle. A myriad of slides showed the devastation, followed by the wonderful restoration; in particular they showed the artistry and craftsmanship of the architects, Sidell Gibson and the Venables' craftsmen who built the Octagon Room which is now called the Lantern Lobby.

The following weekend a coach party of us - members, wives and friends - arrived at Windsor on a beautifully sunny day to see the restoration in all its glory, for ourselves. A truly memorable day, hopefully the first of many such expeditions.

Our year has been saddened by the death of our President, George Reade. George had been a club member from its earliest days and always worked tirelessly for its success.

We all miss him greatly.

To end on a forward-looking note, - our plans for next season are taking shape but more details next time. What we do need for our demonstrators is a small but effective amplification system. Perhaps a small clip-on mike, a pocket size transmitter /amplifier, without trailing wires but with 2 small speakers. If anyone has knowledge of such a system and could furnish us with details of possible suppliers together with typical costs we would be extremely grateful.

Gordon Fradley - Secretary



Now that half of 1998 has passed it is fitting to look back on another interesting selection of meetings. The group consists of nearly 70 members and is privileged to meet at Peter Child in Little Yeldham where Roy and the other members of the family generously provide us with lathes and space for meetings. The meetings take place on the second Tuesday of every month.

Many of the demonstrations are given by members of the Club but, following on from last year's visit by Gary Rance the highlight this year was a weekend with Phil Irons, at which we welcomed several members from the neighbouring groups. The Saturday was devoted to a series of demonstrations by Phil with plenty of jokes and useful advice and a wide variety of projects made. Phil started with some quite simple things and went on to demonstrate how he makes Caddie spoons, deep hollow vessels and how he uses dyes to enhance grain, in this case of a little bowl. On the Sunday six members were privileged to participate in a master class. Phil rushed from one lathe to another and we all made an attempt at a hollow vessel. There was a lot of learning, some success and a few accidents, in which bases departed unexpectedly from tops. Phil said he enjoyed himself, but admitted to being exhausted, and the participants all enjoyed themselves too. The only disappointing thing, which the committee members find it hard to understand, is that we did not have a better take up from within our group. There is always a good turnout for the monthly meetings but the highlights suffer a less enthusiastic turnout.

In addition to the meeting described above we have seen eccentric turning (Tony Witham), a large bowl (Chris Child), Routing (Ralph Rowlinson) and have had a hands on group session on sharpening and a critique evening. Every

second meeting is supposed to attract a selection of pieces on a theme (box, clock, candlestick etc.) which are to be admired criticised or learnt from. Members are encouraged to bring pieces along to other meetings to act as a stimulus of discussion.

Tom Pockley (Chairman)



Thursday 9th July. Talk and demo on Design in Woodturning, by Jimmy Clewes of Craft Supplies.

This was an informative and well received talk on faceplate turned work design. Jimmy as usual inserted humour, often at his own expense. He brought along items of his own work to illustrate many of his points. Many of which we hope to see in members work in the future.

He also judged the monthly competition, giving useful pointers to the entrants.

Thursday 13th August.

The club members "Show and Tell" night. This was introduced by our last secretary, Barbara Fishburn. It has proved very popular and shows what a wealth of talent there is in the amateur ranks.

Each participant was to give a brief 10 minute talk, on a topic of their own choice, explaining how they had produced a particular item. We in fact only needed four people to fill in an hour and a half. First came our chairman, Arthur Hickson. His first words were "I like to turn things which aren't round" (his last effort was oval turning). This time he was to explain how he turned spirals on the outside of a box. The process was not his own but came from a David Springett book. He showed the jigs and tools used and then proceeded to turn one of the six spirals.

He took up much more than the allotted 10 minutes and had every one enthralled.

Next came Les Stott, our treasurer and volunteer for jobs which no one else will do. He talked about "Welsh love spoons". I'm afraid I let him in for this after he showed me his love spoons at a committee meeting. This talk also lasted well over the allotted time but was very informative and well received.

John Haige came next talking about, and showing examples of his spinning tops. A very well prepared and executed talk. Again well over the 10 minute time.

Tom Buttress then talked about his mark two "yo-yo". This replaced a previous effort submitted for one of our competitions. The first one, he informed us, wouldn't Yo. He proceeded to show us that this one would.

The club members then judged the monthly competition, anything with captive rings on. Tom won this but, as he had the bottle of wine for the last one, proceeded to pick out another winner.

Alan Hewitt



Sometime during 1995, our Chairman, Albert LAIN, began talking about encouraging and involving branch members to use their own workshops and to have members as observers/spectators. This activity would of course take place on regular branch evening meetings.

Albert had first heard of this idea prior to 1995 when he was then a member of the North Suffolk branch. One of the instigators of this was Pearl Whyntie who now resides in Deal and is a member of the Kent Branch.

The committee listened closely to Albert (and we are pleased that they did) who set out the finer points.

What was required?

12 PRESENTERS each with his own TOPIC.

5 or 6 Presenters to function on the same evening accommodating 35 to 40 members divided between the Presenters.

What was it to be known as?

The name 'TURNABOUT' was chosen.

When would 'TURNABOUT' be held?

Alternate months commencing March and ending in November.

Information was passed to members by our branch NEWSLETTER.

Our 1996 programme included 'TURNABOUT' for the first time.

At our AGM held in January, each PRESENTER briefly outlined his TOPIC. This was followed by members then making their choice(s) for the appropriate meetings. This method of selection has proved to work satisfactorily. The branch has been able to keep 'TURNABOUT' in our '97 and '98 programmes and we hope to continue into '99 and beyond. We are fortunate enough to have been able to use a number of PRESENTERS and to vary the TOPICS.

Topics have included, Gadgets, barley twists, routing, carving on woodturning, box making, natural edge bowls, plus many more.

Has it been a success?

It certainly has.

The exchange of information, ideas etc.

and being able to see other workshops, sheds, garages, and woodturnings/work has proved to be invaluable.

In addition to these advantages it helps to keep our yearly programme not only full, but varied and interesting.

Thank you Pearl for your contribution and to Albert for overseeing its implementation.

Thank you to those who have acted as PRESENTERS in the past and to the present ones. Your help and contributions help to keep our branch busy and productive and interesting to our 60 members.

Further information about 'TURNABOUT' can be obtained by contacting Geoff Moss on tel. 01394 383569, or Albert LAIN on tel. 01728 663567.

(Geoff Moss) Secretary.

Colchester Branch

Visit to Indasa Abrasives (UK) Ltd

On the evening of 4th August, 29 members of our branch went to Indasa Abrasives in Colchester for what was a very interesting and informative evening.

After the mutual welcome by Alan, Tindall, Andrew, Mel and Nick all of whom looked after us extremely well, we separated into three groups and spent approximately 30 mins in each

section seeing overhead projection slides on the Indasa Group and on their products and having Andrew answer a number of questions on a product, which if it works well for us, most of us take for granted.

Hands-on in the Belt-making unit, with Mel and Nick, took some of us back and encouragement was given to have a go if you wanted to. The range of different belt-abrasives was surprising and in this section we all learned a little more but i don't think that we will become a threat to their business by making our own!

Alan demonstrated new abrasives, which make some of those in my workshop of antique interest and after seeing the nylon pads in action, my wire wool, which is in fact capable of being a fire hazard, will be a thing of the past as far as my wood finishing is concerned.

A number of us bought a new product which they kindly made available on special offer, this was a Sanding Star Wheel. Unlike the flat wheels which it slightly resembles, the abrasives are on the side of the wheel and not the outer circumference and no damage was done when it was demonstrated on a beautiful beaded spiral.

Indasa will be present at the main National woodturning exhibitions during the year and they have kindly offered to receive other branches at their Colchester works if they are prepared to make the journey or otherwise they may be able to make local demonstrations.

The man to contact is Alan Tindall at Indasa Abrasives on 01206 870336 or by fax on 01206860525

Each of us received a bag of 'goodies' at the end of the evening and some of us came away with an extra gift from a prize draw.

Alan and his team gave us a good evening, for which we thank them and we are now much better informed on a product which most of us use at one time or another.



Ernie Cheal

Turn East '98

Alex Harness, President, Norfolk Woodturning Society.

The Norfolk Woodturning Society's Biennial Seminar took place at Fakenham High School on August 15th. This year four well-known turners accepted our invitation to demonstrate at the seminar. Allan Batty, Stuart Batty, Jimmy Clewes and Martin Pidgen ably demonstrated their skills to the record one hundred delegates.

On behalf of the presenters, Allan Batty writes:

"On behalf of the demonstrators I would like to thank you for a very enjoyable weekend.

The venue was excellent and the event was well planned, which was reflected in the relaxed atmosphere enjoyed by the demonstrators and the delegates.

We were very impressed by the high standard achieved by those who showed their work in the Instant Gallery. We felt that they could maybe show us a trick or two!

We would like to thank all concerned for their hard work and hospitality, and wish you every success with your future ventures.

Looking forward to meeting up with you again soon"

That the delegates, some of whom had travelled considerable distances to attend enjoyed the day is illustrated by the following delegates' eye view from Albert Lain of Suffolk Mid - Coastal Woodturners:

"I have always enjoyed my biennial visits to Turn East; each time it has been well organised with stimulating presentations from carefully chosen presenters and this year was no exception. Just in case you have missed out on Turn East, because of distance or because you have only just taken up woodturning, it's a

concentrated one-day event with four or more notable presenters using the craft workshops of Fakenham High School. In addition the organisers always attract a wide spread of Trade stands and these are much appreciated. It's good for us turners to have the opportunity to see what we are purchasing and be further tempted with the latest set of jaws or an attractive piece of wood. Our thanks to all the participating traders.

This year saw a much more efficient resolution of the draw, always well supported by the delegates, and well supplied with excellent prizes. The winning numbers were well displayed on a board at teabreak with a large bin below for my tickets and all the other unlucky ones. Oh well, better luck next time !

On the plus side though was the skill and helpfulness displayed by the presenters. I watched Jimmy Clewes make versatile use of the Sorby 9 in 1 tool. And why hadn't I thought of removing the sanding disc and using it in one hand to sand fine detail ?

Stuart Batty, whose Dad I guess had chalked on the board "Brought your own shavings ?" gave the trick of the trade with drying boxwood. He advised shrinkwrapping the wet wood but leaving the ends open. It dries better in the round and when ready is best cut into quarters. Another valuable tip from Stuart was the use of a three eighth beading tool but sharpened like a Bedan tool and used for end-grain hollowing.

Likewise, Allan was full of useful advice. Even his portable but lockable tool rack was an inspiration. I loved his term to describe accurate chucking : "Running in Truth" and his revealing observation of the status of tradesmen in the UK as being only one step above a labourer whereas in the USA trades are more respected and valued. Allan's grand finale was a secret box in substitute

Ivory. This would be a considerable challenge in any situation to achieve the necessary close fits for success so he was more than courageous to attempt such a piece watched closely by an audience. Needless to say, each piece fitted well and many of us went home hoping to find an opportunity to try it for ourselves. The use of his "flat tool" produced from old planing machine blades was instrumental in this work as it incorporated a negative rake, necessary for working plastic.

I did not have the opportunity to watch Martin, the fourth presenter, but I gather that like those already mentioned he played to appreciative audiences throughout the day. I am sure my personal thanks are shared by all those present, for the way in which the event was prepared and executed, leaving us to look forward to Turn East 2000"

Albert Lain, fee-paying delegate but too late to get his chicken pieces for lunch as he stayed too long with the Trade Stands!!

Alex resumes:

We understand that the traders were pleased with the response they received, several saying that they look forward to returning for the next seminar.

For myself, as President, I would like to thank the Officers and Committee of the Norfolk Woodturners Society for all the hard work they put into organising 'Turn East '98' and ensuring that the day ran smoothly. I would also like to thank the ladies who manned (womanned ?) the reception desk and supervised the refreshments and lunch. We are also extremely fortunate with our venue and with the support we receive from the High School. Plans for 'Turn East 2000' are already being discussed and we look forward to seeing you all again in the next century

Thoughts of "Chuck Turner"

Wire Wool 0000 grade is used by most Woodturners, and it is not generally known, particularly by many hobby woodturners that it is highly combustible, both on its own, and when impregnated with wax polishes or combustible liquids. It should always be kept in a safe place away from the possibility of sparks from your grinder. One good spark will set it alight and many workshop fires are attributable to this little known fact. Take a piece out into the garden, and apply a match, and you will be astonished how inflammable it is. Polishing materials, paper and clean up rags can be subject to spontaneous combustion when impregnated with French Polish, White Spirit, Spirit Dyes, Linseed Oil etc and should be kept in an air tight jar or moved out of the workshop every time it is closed up for the night. I keep an old metal bucket outside in the garden, and all this type of material is thrown out into it, when I finish for the day. Care should be taken to keep pressurised containers and any inflammable liquids in a cool position, where there is no possibility of them being overheated by sunlight through the workshop windows. A small fire extinguisher for your workshop is a very good idea. Take Care !

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From Cherry Trees to Cherry Bowls

by Keith Donald

The fruit trees in North Kent; were, until fairly recently, predominantly sweet cherry, *Prunus Avium*, only giving way in the last twenty years or so to the more commercially attractive apple. Two factors have led to the demise of the cherry as a viable crop: the high costs of the labour intensive harvesting of the fruit from trees growing to over forty feet and the cost of protecting the flower buds from the ravages of finches in the Spring. A small flock of finches can decimate the juicy buds of an unprotected cherry orchard in a very short space of time.

As well as the obvious use of the cherry tree as a very pleasant food source (cherries) the tree when felled is a source of wood, used for centuries in top quality furniture and fine craftware. Because the tree trunk, before it divides into several large branches, is never much taller than ten feet with an average diameter of little more than two feet, large billets and broad planks are quite scarce and hence command a high price. The wood is close grained, varying from light pink to dark red in colour and, because it is easily worked to an attractive finish, it is much sought after by makers of fine furniture and turned work. It is in turned work that cherry wood is mostly used today, particularly with the recent swelling interest in the craft of woodturning as more people retire early and take up wood turning as a relaxing and absorbing hobby.

In the conversion of felled timber for furniture manufacturing there is considerable wastage, the original tree rendering only some 25% of its bulk as useable boards, some being lost to waste as cracks develop in the timber in the course of seasoning. For wood turning however over 60% of the tree can be used, with some fine work such as lace bobbins being made from thin branches which otherwise would have been burnt.

The majority of wood turners are amateurs working from garden sheds and converted garages, some producing no more than meeting the domestic needs whereas others take the hobby more seriously, aiming to produce a variety of objects, utilitarian and objets d'art of a quality fit to grace the highest tables in the land. Such items in cherry wood are much sought after for their fine finish and, although an amateur occupation, the craft is taken very seriously by those who practice it, with work regularly on display for sale at craft shops and periodic craft fairs, prices varying from around £5 for the more simple items (weed pots) to £130 and more for large platters and vessels. Some of the more esoteric items requiring additional skills and many hours of labour can fetch figures approaching £400, so delightful and attractive is cherry wood!

The craft of wood turning, described as 'a branch of sculpture', has come a long way from the days in the beech woods of High Wycombe, where treadle operated pole lathes were operated by bodgers turning chair legs and spindles in support of the local furniture making trade. Today, the amateur wood turner has available low cost, electronically controlled, variable speed, electric motor powered lathes which respond at the press of a button and turn of a switch.

Despite all of these modern advantages of engineering sophistication, the basic skill of hand craft and an eye for and appreciation of form and balance is as important as it ever was in the conversion of cherry wood from its raw state in the orchard to an attractively finished eye-catching work of art in the gallery. Learning to 'cut the wood as it likes to be cut' is as true today as it ever was.