

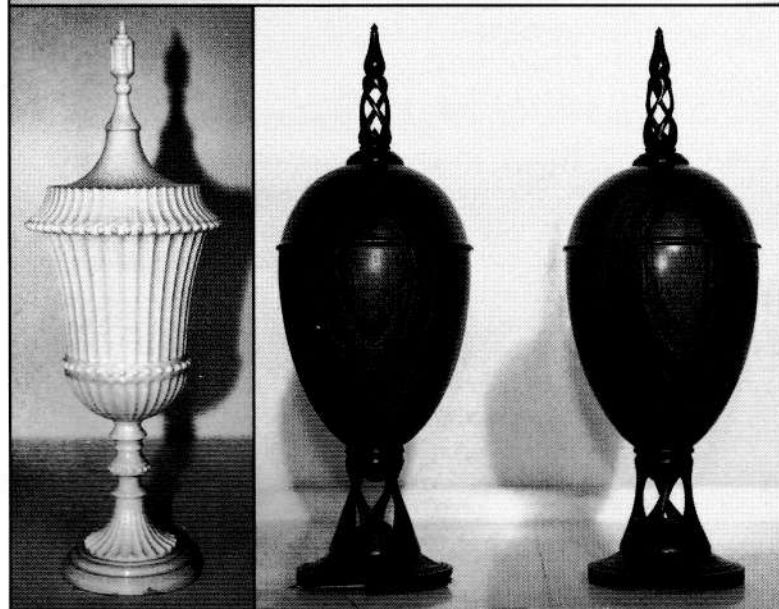
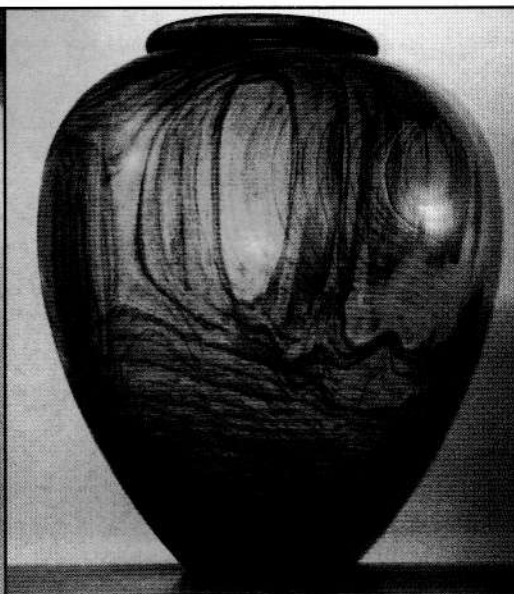
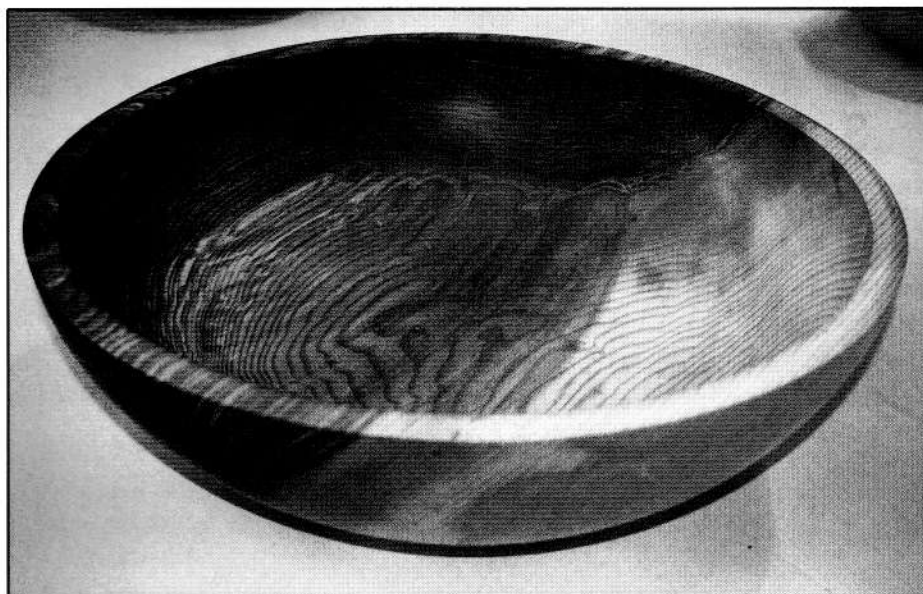
Revolutions

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 48

£1.95 Free to members

February 1999



*Axminster
Exhibition
winners*

Full report on page 8

Chairmans Page

Happy New Year to all AWGB members. Our organisation is going through a sustained period of steady expansion. Membership continues to increase steadily as well as there being an increase in the number of AWGB branches around the country.

Establishing New Branches

We are aware that there are still areas of the country that are not yet served by an AWGB branch. Branches that are established have been started up by individual members in their own areas. If you are an individual member in an area where there is no AWGB branch and you would like one please consider establishing one. Help and advice is available on how to go about it and a start-up pack can be provided to get you going. Please contact the honorary secretary if you would like to find out more. There are many "closet" woodturners I meet who would be eager to take advantage of the benefits of a branch in their area. Woodturning seems to be experiencing a steady and strong surge of interest and the activities that can be provided by local branches are a significant attraction.

Encouraging Young Members

The age profile of the AWGB membership seems to be older rather than younger! We seem to have

few young members particularly those of school age or in their teens. The long term health of woodturning would benefit from a greater number of younger members. I am sure that most of us who turn wood wish that we had started much younger – there is so much to learn and enjoy!

At national level we have tried to encourage initiatives to attract younger members by offering incentives to become an AWGB member. These initiatives have been in existence for a while but seem to get forgotten so I shall take this opportunity to remind members of the arrangements.

Nationally the AWGB is prepared to sponsor the membership of up to two junior members nominated by each branch. This means that a young member nominated by the branch and accepted does not pay the annual subscription for one year. The branch would be expected to offer similar sponsorship in relation to any subscription costs at branch level. Branches who are not taking advantage of this and wish to should send their nominations to the honorary secretary

Branches are of course at liberty to sponsor additional young members if the branch itself is prepared to pay the cost of membership which is half the cost of full membership. Not many

branches have taken advantage of this opportunity yet although I am sure that this reminder will encourage an increase.

Loan-a-lathe Scheme

In addition to membership incentives for young members there is the "loan-a-lathe" scheme where an AWGB owned lathe is dedicated to use on an annual basis by a young member. If you know a youngster who would benefit from this scheme please contact the honorary secretary Peter Einig for further details.

Several additional lathes are available for loan to any member upon application. A lathe is provided and comes with a chuck and turning tools. The usual period for loan is one year. Again for more information contact the honorary secretary.

Nominations are now requested from any member or Branch who wishes to nominate a member to have the use of one of these lathes for a year.

The lathes are handed over at the AGM and nominations need to be with Peter Einig, Hon Sec. by March 10th.

Nominations should be accompanied by a short resume as to why you are nominating that person.



1999 International Seminar at Warwick University

It will soon be here. Preparations are on schedule and we look forward to a splendid few days in August.

Bookings for this year have been accepted earlier than previous Seminars and many members have taken advantage of the opportunity. If you are considering attending the seminar you are advised to book as early as possible. The demand is already showing itself in the level of early bookings.

Subscriptions

I would like to remind all members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1999 that they are now due and should be paid either directly to the Treasurer Derek Phillips (address opposite) making cheques payable to AWGB or if you belong to an affiliated branch please pay through your Branch Treasurer. This is the last copy of *Revolutions* you will receive unless your subscriptions are paid.

Chris Lindup

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

www.woodturners.co.uk

Executive Committee

President

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

Chairman

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

Vice Chairman/Newsletter Editor

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

Treasurer

Mark Prior, 3 Vale Road, St Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex. TN37 6PT
Tel: 01424 428938
Fax: 01424 716477
E-Mail: mark.prior@vale.dialnet.com

Secretary

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

Membership Secretary

Derek Phillips, 15 Greens Road,
Cambridge. CB4 3EF
Tel: 01223 312134
E-Mail: derek.phillips@virgin.com

Trade & Business Liaison

Frank Clarke, 81 Knightwood Crescent,
New Malden, Surrey. KT3 5JP
Tel: 0181 942 5463
E-Mail: frank@fclarke.freemove.co.uk

Publicity

Neil Bell, 32 Framfield Road, Uckfield,
East Sussex TN22 5AH
Tel/Fax 01825 769557

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
E-Mail: tony@awitham.freemove.co.uk

West Midlands

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

Gloucestershire

Reg Hawthorne, Kiln Gardens, Chapel Street
Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. GL4 1DA
Tel: 01451 831675

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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)

CLOTH BADGES

For sowing on Smocks etc

COST £2.50 inclusive of post and packing £4.00 inc Post & Packing

Send Cheque etc, to Frank Clarke (Address Opposite)

MAKE ALL PAYMENTS TO AWGB

**Copy deadline for the next edition of
Revolutions**

10th April 1999

Brief descriptions of five video's kindly donated by Ray Key to the AWGB's Video Library

1) 'Out of the Woods' This video was made to accompany this major USA travelling woodturning exhibition, the curator was Martha Connell. It takes the form of an insight into the working lives and philosophies of three of the most influential figures in the modern woodturning movement. All are now octogenarians, they have all been pioneers and have become legends in their own life times. Ed Moulthrop pioneered the use of PEG (polyethylene glycol) he has become renowned for his large scale end grained vessels from complete tree trunks. Rude Osolnik pioneered natural top bowls in the 1940's and laminated bowls from birch plywood amongst many other things. Bob Stocksdales pioneered thin walled delicate bowls, more reminiscent of those associated with porcelain from rare and highly figured woods back in the late 1940's. This short video gives a fascinating glimpse into how these three men feel about their work and material. They also take a somewhat irreverent look at some of the objects within the exhibition as they take a private view. (Running time 30 mins) *A copy of this video is also lodged with the Crafts Councils Library.*

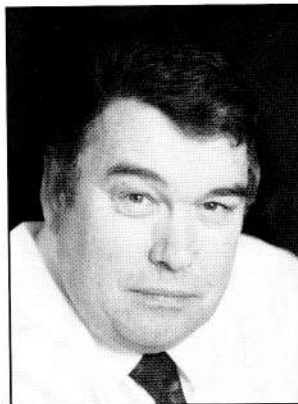
2) Panoramic overview and Critique by Frank Cummings and Ray Key of some of the 600 plus objects in the INSTANT GALLERY of American Association of Woodturners 10th Anniversary Symposium 1996. (Running time 60 mins)

3) Panoramic overview and Critique by Stuart Batty, David Ellsworth and Ray Key of the 400 plus objects in the INSTANT GALLERY of the AAW 11th Annual Symposium 1997. (Running time 100 mins)

4) Techniques from the 1996 AAW Symposium. Twelve turners are featured including such notables as Rude Osolnik, Gael Montgomerie, Mike Lee, Michael Hoseluk, Vic Wood, Jean-Francois Escoulen. (Running time 120 mins)

5) Techniques from the 1997 AAW Symposium. Nine turners are featured including such notables as David Ellsworth, Steve Loar, John Jordan, Lyle Jamieson, Johannes Michelsen. (Running time 120 mins)

See details on page 3 how to rent videos from the AWGB



I hope you all had a good Christmas and I would like to wish you all a very happy New Year.

I would like to thank all of those who have submitted articles for this edition of *Revolutions*. If your article has not been published in this issue then it will be put in future issues. I could still do with more 'how I made it' type articles with photo's or drawings.

Annual General Meeting

I hope to see many of you at the AGM which this year is local to my home. This is line with the policy of moving the venue for the AGM around the country. It is disappointing that few members have been nominated to serve on the executive committee. The nominations received just fill the vacant posts and as such there is no need for a postal ballot. Although that makes less work for those involved it is a sad state of affairs.

International Seminar

I tried to save money by printing the seminar application form on the back of the last issue of *Revolutions* address sheet but it appears that a lot of members screwed this sheet up and threw it away. I have reprinted it this time on page 11. Please feel free to photocopy this page if you want to.

Work is well under way for this years international seminar in August. In fact we are ahead of schedule compared with previous years. Every effort is being made to improve on the last seminar but it is not going to be easy. If you have never been, it is a mecca for woodturners in this country to meet,

Editorial

sleep and talk about woodturning for three wonderful days. Ticket sales are going well and you are advised to book as early as possible to avoid disappointment. There is a limit on the number of tickets that can be sold.

'Wonders in Wood'

The sales on the 'Wonders in Wood' are not going as well as anticipated and we do need to sell more to recover the production costs. It is a wonderful book full of inspiration to all woodturners. It is produced in glorious colour and well worth the cover price of £9.95 plus £2 p&p. This price is two pounds of the list price for AWGB members.

Insurance

The executive committee have been reviewing our insurance policies during the last year to ascertain if we were getting value for money and how it could be improved.

We must thank Peter Einig for the amount of work he has done in negotiating with various companies and preparing reports for the committee to make a decision.

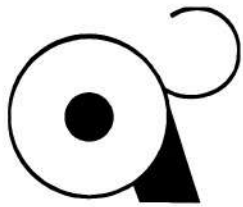
This has resulted in an offer from Ian McCall & Company Ltd to undertake our scheme with improved benefits and it has been accepted.

The start date will be 1st February 1999, but Branches and other clubs insured under the scheme, will not see any change until 1st May 1999 which is their renewal date.

The basic changes are that the basic cover for public and product liability is increased to two million pounds and teaching is included in this cover.

Details on page 15.

Mike Dennis



The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PINNER VILLAGE HALL, PINNER, MIDDLESEX

On Sunday March 21st 1999 and commencing at 2.00pm.

It will be preceded by the
Branch Representatives Annual Meeting which will commence at 11.00am.

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held at the Burcot Village Hall, Alcester Road, Burcot, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire on Sunday April 5th 1998
Minutes circulated in Issue No. 45 of Revolutions May 1998.
3. Honorary Chairman's Report
4. Honorary Treasurer's Report and subscription recommendation for 2000.
5. Election of Officers
There will be no postal voting this year as there have been no changes to the Constitution put forward and only one person per executive post has been proposed. Members will be elected as follows:

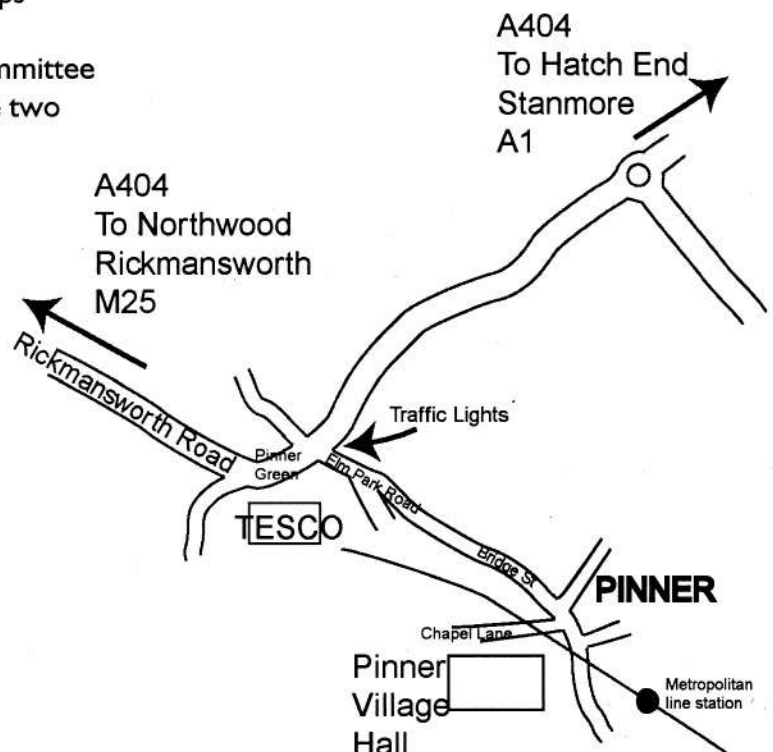
Chairman	Chris Lindup
Treasurer	Mark Prior
Secretary	Lionel Pringle
Membership Secretary	Derek Phillips

6. Branch Representatives for the Executive Committee
As there were only two nominations to fill the two vacant positions the following members will be elected to the Executive Committee as Branch Representatives

Dave Grainger
Peter Garrison

7. Discussion.

NOTE Only fully paid up members of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain are entitled to attend the Annual General Meeting.



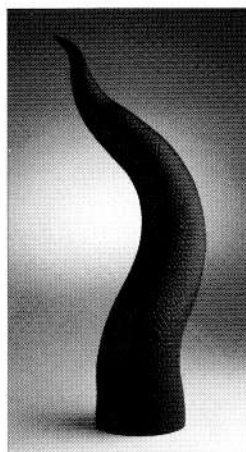
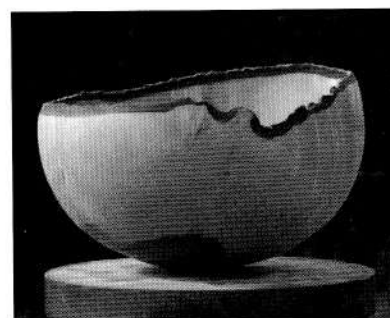


7TH INTERNATIONAL WOODTURNING SEMINAR UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK 13TH - 15TH AUGUST 1999

MAIN PRESENTERS

Ciaran Forbes (Ireland)

First appearance at an AWGB Seminar by the Merry Monk, who is internationally known for his elegant bowls and platters. Ciaran will be demonstrating his skills and discussing the harvesting, storage and drying of wood and how to convert from felled tree to wet-turned to dried finished bowl. Not to be missed if you are interested in bowl turning.

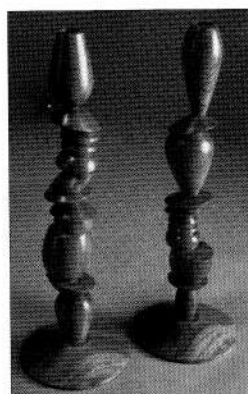
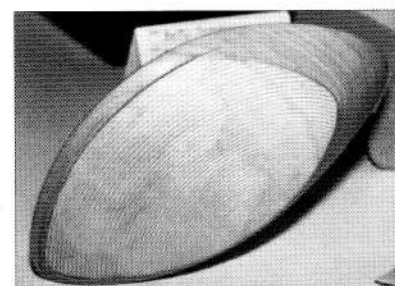


Michael Hosaluk (Canada)

Second appearance at an AWGB Seminar. When he was here four years ago he impressed everyone with his innovative ideas and his ease of presentation. This year Michael will be demonstrating various elements of surface design using several different media together with some innovative turning techniques.

Betty Scarpino (USA)

This will be Betty's first appearance at an AWGB Seminar and although she is well known in the USA, she is not very familiar to the British woodturning scene. She is an excellent presenter who specialises in sculptural forms using assemblage, colour and texture. Betty is for the discerning turner who is looking for inspiration to advance the boundaries of their work.

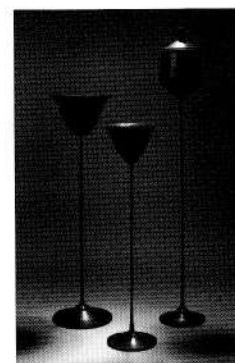


Mark Sfirri (USA)

First appearance at an AWGB Seminar and I think his first appearance anywhere in this country. Mark has been turning and pushing back the frontiers of design for over 20 years and is now recognised for his offset and multi-axis spindle turning. Mark will be demonstrating and explaining these techniques to make some common everyday objects more interesting.

Stuart Batty (England)

Although this will be his first appearance at an AWGB Seminar, Stuart is not unknown having been seen at many shows and clubs for several years. He is well known for his elegant long thin stemmed goblets and his square bowls and boxes. Stuart also has a large repertoire of other items, some of which he will be showing.



Book early to avoid disappointment - Application form on page 11 of this newsletter



Phil Irons (England)

First appearance at an AWGB Seminar. Phil is well known for his appearances at all the major woodworking and woodturning shows, wearing his hat and turning his large hollow forms. He will be demonstrating his methods for turning and colouring these specialist items and also some of the other items in his repertoire.

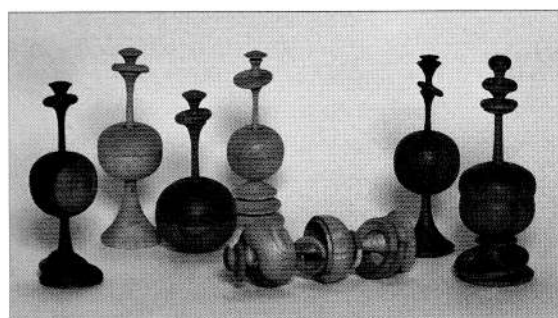
Gary Rance (England)

This will be Gary's third appearance at an AWGB Seminar. He is one of a rare breed, an apprentice trained woodturner. This year Gary will be departing from his usual public demonstration of small turned items and showing the work which he does mostly which is production spindle turning e.g. newel posts, stair spindles, table lamps and chair parts.



Phil Reardon (England)

Phil should have appeared at the 1997 Seminar but was prevented by ill health. We are glad to have him with us this year. Phil's approach to woodturning has always been one of fun and enjoyment, but don't be fooled, underneath that laid back exterior is a very skillful, very clever and innovative woodturner. Phil will be showing a series of lathe projects based on the human form under the generic title of "Fun with Figures."



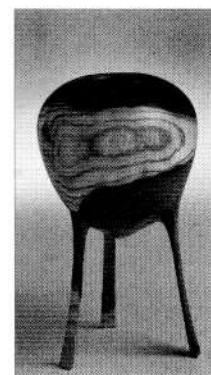
Dave Regester (England)

Dave has been a professional woodturner for over 20 years specialising in high class production kitchenware and one off gallery items. He is a regular contributor to Woodturning magazine and also teaches at Parnham College for Designers. He has published several books on woodturning. Dave will be showing his skills with both spindle and faceplate turning and in particular with the "dreaded" Skew chisel.

Chris Stott (England)

Chris needs no introduction, being well known for his excellent woodturning videos and his visits to clubs. He will be demonstrating and discussing the development of turned boxes and how skills are developed through a series of small projects.

With his varied and professional approach to the skills of woodturning and his emphasis on mastering the handling of tools, there is always something that everyone can learn from watching Chris.



Other presentations include

Tony Boase - Photographic workshops

Barry Isles - Tool Sharpening

Simon Keen - Maintenance and safe use of Chain Saws

More presentations are to be added and include lectures on Modern Design, Historic Design, Finishing, Tropical woods

Plus two One slot lathe presenters.

Plus Instant Gallery

Plus Critique and slide presentations.

Axminster Exhibition 1998

By Mike Dennis

The Axminster Tool and Machinery Exhibition held last year in November in Shepton Mallet lived up to all the expectations that we anticipated of the show. These expectations were based on the excellent exhibition staged in 1997 and we wondered how the organisers were going to improve on that show. Well they did it with approximately 30% more stands and 11,000 people through the doors.

The organisers had added an extra day to this year's show and the Thursday was a preview day for those who had bought tickets in advance. Many branches had hired coaches for their members to come on this day.

The AWGB were given the same space as in 1997 for the display of members' work and the advice clinic. We are indebted to Axminster for the generous stand that is provided for the Association. The display of members' work was augmented by additional pieces to those seen at the NEC from our professional members who were demonstrating on various stands throughout the show.



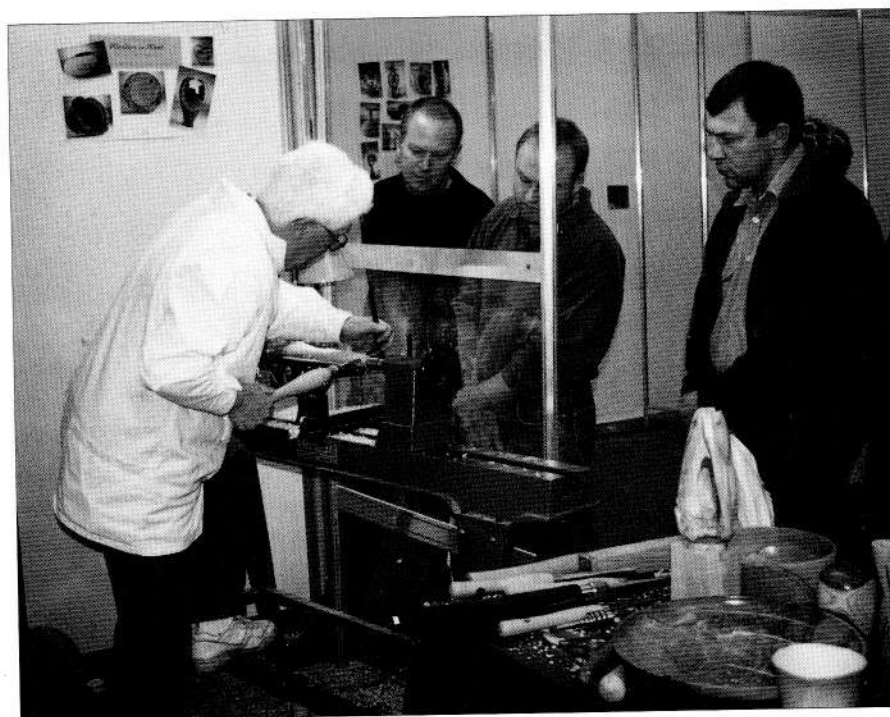
The stand at the Axminster Tool and Machinery Exhibition

Len Grantham, Frank Clarke and yours truly answered numerous questions from the public on all sorts of wood turning related queries. It seems the public now know about our advice clinic because they bought tools along that they were having difficulty in sharpening, wood to be identified and questioning the relevant virtues of one tool against another.

The display of members' work was stewarded by members of the Avon and Bristol branch for which I thank them for their contribution.

The woodturning competitions were very well supported with over 200 entries in the six classes. The judging for the competition did not get under way until the Friday morning which was disappointing for those who had come on Thursday to see if they had won anything. The display area for the competition was good but all of the classes were mixed up, which meant that you could not compare one piece with another, or in some cases, which class a piece had been entered for. The other complaint that came from many of the entrants was that none of the packing material was available when collecting work after the exhibition.

The innovative idea of the 'Professional Ready Steady Turn' in which each of the professional turners had to make a piece from start to finish from a given piece of wood in 15 minutes really put some of them to the test. The pieces were sold in aid of the Devon Air Ambulance Fund which raised £3,000



Len demonstrating in the Advice Clinic

FULL RESULTS

First place photo's on front cover

Decorated Platter

- 1st D. W. Gliddon
2nd R.W. Reeves
3rd J. Collet
Highly commended A. A. Witham

Pair of Matching Items

- 1st D. R Roberts
2nd D. E. Dezelsky
3rd G. Francis
Highly commended E. T. J. Vage.

Set of Items for Kitchen or Dining Room

- 1st E. T. J. Vage
2nd J. E. Coakes
3rd G. Ravine.

Ornamental Turning

- 1st G. C. Brandon
2nd B. Edwards
3rd G. C. Brandon.

Large Plain Bowl

- 1st R. Bonner
2nd A. E Hickson
3rd G. C. Brandon
Highly commended I. Clarkson.

Hollow Form

- 1st R. Bonner
2nd J. Collet
3rd M Dean.

Special Award

(for Laminated or Blockwork):
G. Brown.

Special Award

(for a 15-year-old or younger):
M. Wilding.

The Thoughts of Chuck Turner

Pencil & Pen Tubs

When I first started turning on a Black & Decker Drill driven lathe, one of the first things I made was a Pencil & Pen Tub to stand by our telephone. It was mainly beech, which on reflection is a rather lack lustre wood, with very little by way of interesting grain. The body of the Tub was two wooden plugs from the ends of a large roll of paper, glued together. The base was a square of mahogany with a routed Ogee edging, screwed to the base of the beech barrel. It has been most useful for over 18 years, but recently I realised it could be bettered, and decided to have a go at something more appropriate. The possession of one telephone all those years ago only required one pencil tub, but with the help of modern technology, the installation has increased to four. All of which really need to be equipped with at least pencil and pad (Two telephones upstairs, is a great help in resisting the temptation, to run madly down stairs to answer the phone, with the risk of tripping on the top step. Not recommended by anyone and particularly OAP's). So recently the idea of turned pencil & pen tubs was revived. The first one was a built up blank consisting of layers of different woods, glued together to form a block of about 6 inches long. The base layer was a 2" thick piece of mahogany, This layer needs to be much thicker than the others, to allow cutting of the dovetail or spigot to be gripped in the chuck and allow room for parting off. Subsequent layers can be of any thickness, or wood, and in this case included 2 layers of $\frac{1}{2}$ " good quality ply, which produced quite an interesting banding. Hollow pockets in the edge of the ply some times need filling. Each layer needs to be a minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ " square although further experiments indicated that more leeway was obtained with shaping the outside if 4" squares were used. This prepared blank was turned to a cylinder between centres, with a

dovetail cut on one end to be held in my scroll chuck jaws.

Transferred to the scroll chuck, it was then bored with Forstner or saw toothed bits to a depth of $3\frac{1}{4}$ " to $3\frac{1}{2}$ ", starting at about a $\frac{3}{4}$ " bit through to 2" or $2\frac{1}{8}$ " final size. The inside edge of the hole was then lightly opened and rounded. At this stage a hard sorbo ball was fitted into the open end and supported by the running tailstock, before work was commenced on the outer shaping. In this case only $3\frac{1}{2}$ " squares had been used so there was no room left to do much by way of fancy shaping. So a bead rim was turned and a bead base and the body in between tapered, similar to a common shape found in dice shakers. The result was very striking, and could not be commissioned by me for the house, before it was claimed by the first visitor. The next tub was of spalted beech, which fortified by lots of sanding sealer turned out quite well, but circumstances led me to donate it as a prize, for the raffle at a company reunion of retired colleagues. This was coveted by so many, who failed to win it! that a spate of orders were forthcoming. Now seeking to improve the design, and give much more choice to my customers, I embarked on lots of redesigned tubs, using 6" long 4" square Sapelli & Cedar blanks, which after being bored as mentioned above, retained sufficient thickness to allow much more by way of shaping. It was possible to open up the throat to a much more funnel shape, and turn the outside to more of a vase like style. Both woods looked splendid when finished, and with the increased throat and shaped outside were even more attractive to the customers. My trouble now is that I cant get enough done for my own use! So if you are looking for ideas for the Craft Market, how about some super Pencil tubs or pots you might just have enough time to get a few turned for Easter!!

REMINDER
This is the last
newsletter you will
received unless
you have paid your
subscriptions for
1999

Don't Burn it - Turn it

by Ron Allen

With the ever increasing pressure on forest and the rapid rise in the cost of new wood have you considered the use of reclaimed salvage, there's a plentiful supply of very good wood in salvage yards and such places.

I've found some very good hardwood at barn conversion sites. And for a small fee off cuts and odd pieces can be obtained. Don't be afraid to ask as I have found out on many occasions they will say "Take it, it's only going to be burnt".

I was given the end of an old oak beam dated 1730, however in this instant I would like to write about old chairs as they happen to be a favourite of mine. Take an old chair that's past it's best and beyond repair, I prefer ones with wooden seats. Take it apart with care, then decide what to do. The seat can be cut for bases for table lamps, candle sticks or coasters, some of these seats

have very good figured grain mainly elm or oak but I have found some very good ash, this turns well and has good finishing qualities. You can be sure it's well seasoned and will not move when turned. The odd bits can be kept for block bowls or other small jobs.

The legs and frame, firstly take time particularly if the legs are turned this can really be a bonus as the wood is already round there's less waste. If I am going to make a lamp, bore the centre first then if it's off centre use the holes as the centre. I've found some that will make eggs. The rest can be cut for light pulls and lace bobbins.

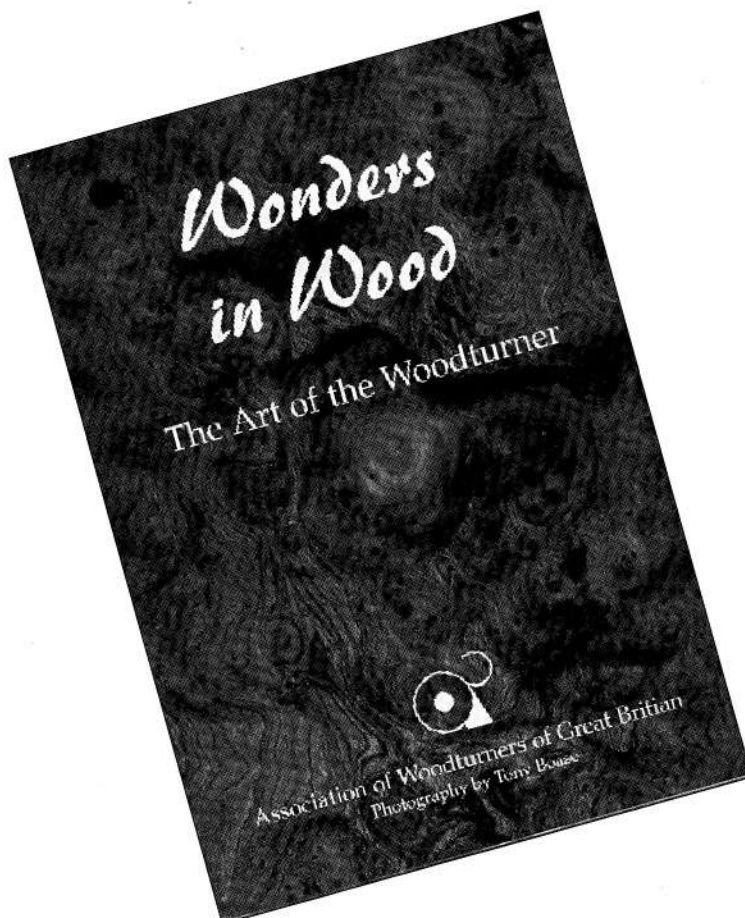
But light pulls are a different story they always sell very well, I usually make two or three hundred at one time. Put them in a box and let people sort out what they like, the wood is not costly it gives you the edge when it comes to price. I can undercut DIY stores.

I recently did a small job for a furniture restorer who wanted some knobs for a small chest, I found I had just the stuff in an old chairseat under the bench it really was a good match it could have come from the same tree.

I think that covers the old chair, it gave me a lot of pleasure and the end result was not bad, two table lamps, four egg cups, forty light pulls and some thin pieces for lace bobbins.

Well there's a few ideas for an old chair. I'm now going to the workshop to sought out some off-cuts off an old beam from a barn built in 1730, that could be interesting if it turns out well. I may be tempted to write again.

Finally remember old wood turns well has character and above all is cheap but that does not show in the results.



You can order your book

- Directly from the Hon. Sec. Peter Einig, for £9.95 plus P&P quoting your membership number.
- Via your Branch if they wish to order in bulk at a reduced P&P rate.
- At the Wembley show in February 1999 for £9.95 upon production of your valid membership card.(subject to availability)
- Members saving on cover price - £2.00.

Post and Packaging;

- UK £2.00
- EU £3.00
- Rest of the world £5.00

Cheques with order made payable to the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain for the full amount, including P&P, quoting your membership number, name and address please.

ESSEX WOODTURNERS MEET THE MAYOR

By Peter Brown

It was with some considerable excitement and slight apprehension that Thameside Woodturners prepared for their annual display of woodturning which is held at 'Porters', the Mayor's residence at Southend-on-Sea.

The theme of this year's event, held on 5th September 1998, was to consider approaches that might prove useful in the promotion of a wider interest in woodturning activities, particularly in the East Anglian region.

To facilitate discussion other Association branches in the area, Colchester, Chelmer Valley, and Suffolk, Essex & Cambridge Borders, were invited to join Thameside.

The day began with a display of work from members of the various associations. Space at 'Porters' is limited so numbers attending had to be restricted and over forty delegates attended. The very wide diversity of the items on display was a surprise to all. These ranged from lace bobbins, vases from 'monkey puzzle' wood to a



Bill Jones making the presentation to the Mayor

magnificent 24" diameter bowl turned from sycamore.

The Mayor, Nora Goodman, accompanied by representatives of the

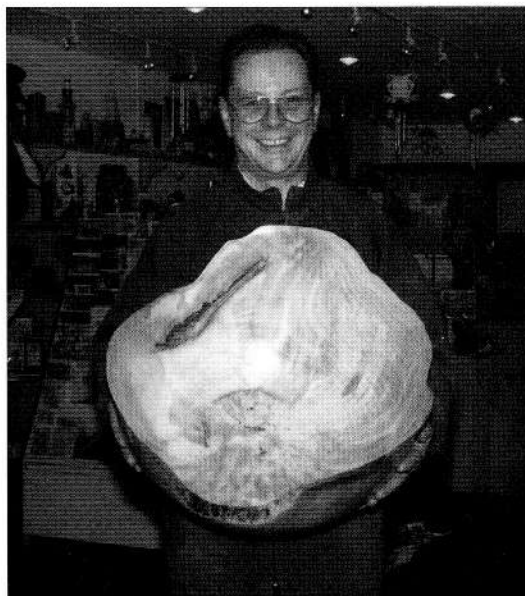
Council arrived at mid-day and Thameside Chairman. Peter Jackson, escorted the group around the exhibition. The Mayor expressed admiration for the expertise applied in

producing the various pieces of turning and was delighted in being able to touch and examine the displayed items at close quarters.

In his inimitable style Bill Jones gave a very amusing and thoughtful keynote address (we are lucky to have Bill as a life member of Thameside). He recalled some of his family history, reminding the gathering that previous generations had started in the turning profession making shaving brush



Some of the items on display



Dennis Knott with his Sycamore bowl

delicious smooth (600 grit!) chocolate.

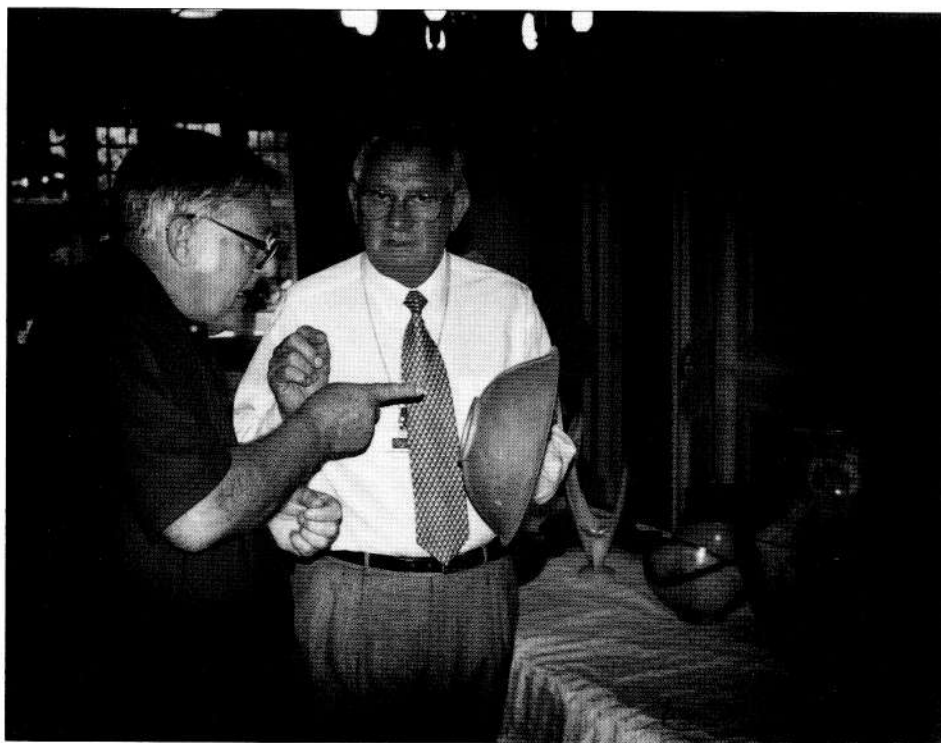
Following the lunch delegates were treated to a conducted tour of the late 15/16th century 'Porters'. The name was taken from the 13th century le Porter family who were prominent in the south-east. The house contains a fascinating range of wood furnishings including 'linen fold' panelled walls and a Mayor's Chair that had been rescued from a local rubbish tip! The walls of the Mayor's office display the photographs of all the previous incumbents.

handles. Bill also referred to the 'Jones third arm'; an armrest, which he explained, extended considerably the flexibility of the whole turning process. The address ended with a plea to lathe manufacturers to consider the possibility of including a foot control to variable speed equipment thus freeing both hands for tool control - Any takers

The presentation was followed by an excellent buffet lunch which included a desert of strawberries coated in a

The day was considered to be a resounding success and provided a good opportunity to review woodturning activities, visitors and woodturners alike were extremely impressed with the range of the exhibits and the undoubted skill of those involved.

It was agreed that there was a need to engender a wider awareness of the craft and it's potential.



A point of discussion between Derek Manwaring, the Treasurer and Peter Brown, Events Member,

Money saving tip

by Frank Clarke

On a visit over the New Year to the Model Engineering Exhibition at Olympia. I noticed the range of engineering tools that can also double as Woodturning tools and accessories. It was mainly the difference in prices of the items that made them leap out at me. A good quality 2mt revolving centre for eighteen pounds, when a comparable centre from many of the Woodturning catalogues start at over twenty. Another dual-purpose tool is the Jacobs chuck, where small savings can also be made. These engineering supplies companies offer a range of tools and supplies that can be used in our daily woodturning. Tracy Tools even have those elusive thread chasers that you always meant to track down, with ten different sizes on offer, for Ten pounds a pair + VAT (inside & out).

Two such companies that have comprehensive mail order catalogues are; Tracy Tools Ltd of Dartmouth, South Devon, on 01803-833134 or e-mail: TracyTools@aol.com, the other, Millhill Supplies of Wallingford, Oxfordshire, on 01491-838653. Both these catalogues are free on request and are a veritable Aladdin's cave of bits and bobs, drills, taps & dies, drive centres, they are all there. You may even be able to find a source locally with out too much bother. It's surprising what items you can make use of and what savings can be made.

IMPORTANT

If you pay your subscription by standing order please let the Treasurer know. It appears that some information was not transferred when we changed banks.

East Surrey's Popular Autumn Exhibition

by Neil Innes

In November the East Surrey Woodturners held their third annual exhibition. This was generally accepted to have been the best so far. The ESW have found a formula that works, and improved it with each repetition. Amongst the visitors at the show was the Mayor of Croydon, Pat Ryan, who was presented with a bowl made by Jim Jones, a Council employee, from unwanted timber rescued from the Council's depot. This seemed most appropriate to everyone including the Mayor.

Dave Grainger, the ESW's only honorary member appeared unexpectedly. Dave started the club back in 1993 with a letter in *Revolutions*. From 5 initial members, the club has now grown to 85. Dave was the Secretary from the start until the beginning of this year when he felt the call of the wild, and moved to Cumbria.

Also noticed amongst the crowds were Mike Dennis and Frank Clarke of the AWGB giving welcome support. Frank had also been a member of the ESW for a couple of years.

The principal demonstrator at the event was Phil Irons, alas lacking his hat. Phil turned a pair of sycamore hollow forms about 6 inches diameter, on a small Vicmarc lathe supported on a Workmate. The Woodcut tools he

used were very long and had small blades which looked like miniature planes. Phil says that this makes them impossible to dig in, which must be true, otherwise doing this kind of turning on a small lathe supported on a Workmate

would be extremely dodgy. His colouring technique is very interesting: he applies his first wash of spirit dye immediately after final shear scraping and before sanding. This enables the dye to be absorbed into the slightly open grain. He then applies 2 contrasting colours, sanding down between each. The result is a magical marbled swirl.

Bill Pickett, the woodcarver, was also in action at the show. He was carving a small bird perched on the side of a long vertical twig. He had an illustration of the bird in front of him, but admitted that most of the details were in his head. His carved version, even though unfinished, looked a lot more lively than the picture. Bill had a



very lifelike carving of a rattlesnake with him which we had noticed at the Axminster show a few weeks before. Another Bill, Bill Roberts had the stand next to the woodcarvers. This Bill is a well known carver of sticks, and he was showing and selling sticks with handles carved in a number of different materials. Bill is

visiting the ESW on May 27th 1999 (visitors welcome). He has promised to bring along some pieces of buffalo horn, which he would otherwise throw away, for us to try turning. At another stand was Brian Pattison, patiently carving a rocking horse. On display he had a number of love spoons, for which he is better known. Interestingly some of these illustrated mistakes which were easily made, and how they could be rescued. Some of course can not, so Brian, who has a regular job and can spend up to 6 months on some of the bigger spoons, has to throw away weeks of work. Brian was telling us of the wonders of gesso and rabbit glue for sealing rocking horses.

Mac Kemp was at the show demonstrating for Poolewood on the 38-40. He too will visit the ESW, on the 27th of August, hopefully to demonstrate the kind of urn-shaped boxes he successfully turned at this show.

The pyrography stand displayed the items produced by Terry Peers and attracted a lot of attention, some of it from children intent on turning all the exhibits upside down, but successfully thwarted by Richard, her husband. There were many other stands, and a lot of very interesting people made it an exceptionally enjoyable day.



PUT A SPIN ON IT

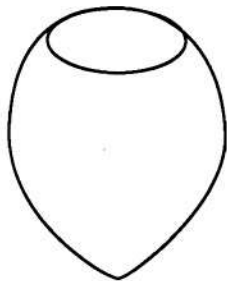
by Oliver Plant

The spinning top, like a ball, is a universal toy. It is found all over the world, and has an impressive history. Many patterns are known, from hand spun to string driven, made in clay stone, wood, cast alloy, or pressed steel. Three types are probably of most interest to the woodturner, the whipping top, the hand spun top, and the handled top.

The whipping top is thought to have originated in China or Japan, and the hand or finger tops in ancient Egypt. The handled top is late 19C European.

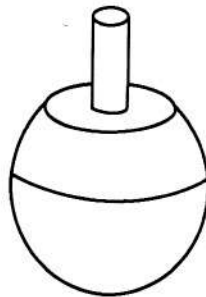
HAND AND FINGER SPINNERS

1250 BC Egypt



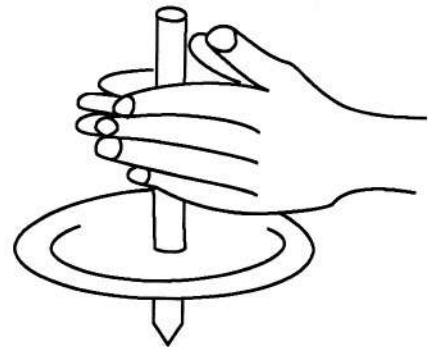
3" dia. hand spinner in stone

"Tipping" top



1" dia wood. When spun on its rounded base inverts itself on the pin

1750



4" - 5" palm drive - Turned wood

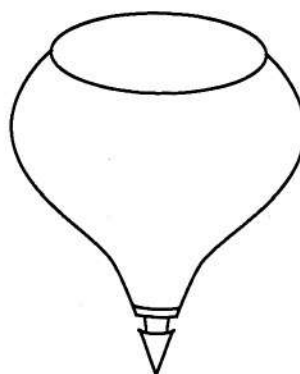
1000 BC to Modern



1 1/4" dia finger spinner in terra cotta or wood

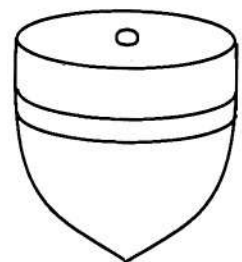
STRING DRIVEN TOPS

1780 From Robert Edge Pine
"The Vaughan Boy's"



3" - 4" dia in wood
String wound and thrown

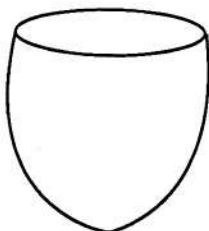
Victorian and still very popular.



2" dia in wood stick and string

1560

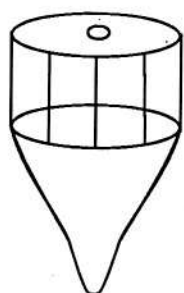
From Pieter Brueghel painting of
"Children's Games"



3" dia in wood stick and yarn.

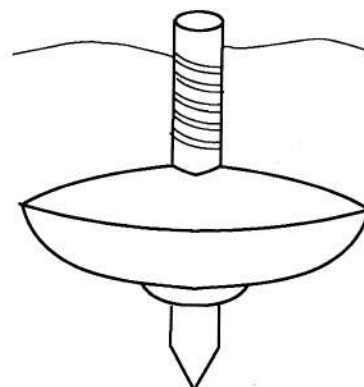
STRING DRIVEN TOPS Cont'd

1914 East African coast



2" dia carved wood.
stick and plaited grass.

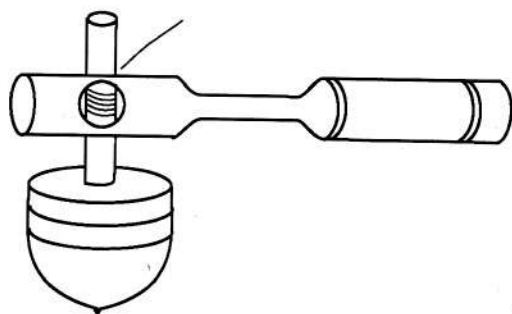
Double string top



3" wood. String is pulled in opposite
directions

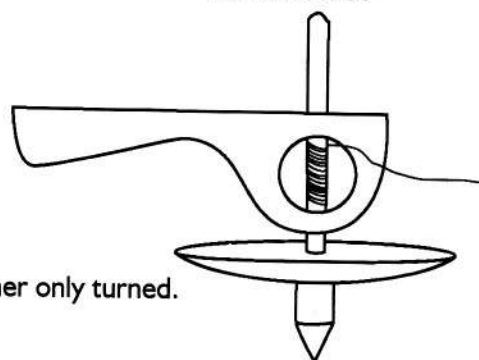
HANDLED TOPS

Victorian



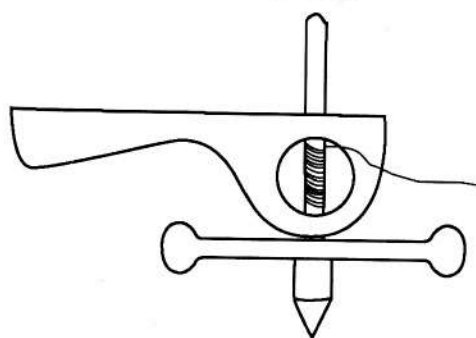
Handle and spinner turned in wood.
Spinner too light to spin for long

Mexican 1980



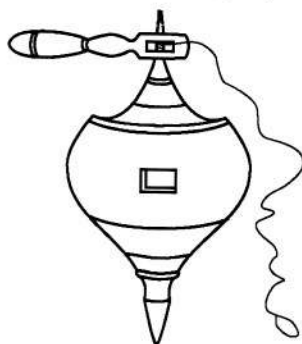
3" dia wood. Spinner only turned.

Modified Mexican 1992



3" dia wood. Spin time increased by
leaving weight on the rim.

Humming top



6" - 8" dia hollow, wood or tinplate.
Stick and string or vertical plunger

I make spinning whorls for hand spinners, and was attempting to improve them with a longer running whorl, by leaving more weight on the rim. In fact this didn't help and was discarded, but when applied to a much faster running handled top, it improved running time considerably.

It's interesting to note that the Mexican pattern had no metal stud in the nose. I tried tops both with and without the stud and to my surprise, the top spins more steadily without the stud, and subsequent wear or flattening of the pointed nose affects its performance not at all. As they say "With woodturning, you learn something new every day".

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

AVON & BRISTOL		
Sec: Alan George, 276 Filton Avenue, Horfield, Bristol, BS7 0BA	Telephone 01179 697338	E-Mail: george276@aol.com
BURCOT WOODTURNERS		
Sec: Brian Leake, 36 Oversley Mill Park, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6LL	789 762650	
CHELMER VALLEY WOODTURNERS		
Sec: J Stock, Latneys, Witham, Essex. CM8 1EB	01376 520093	
COLCHESTER WOODTURNERS		
Sec: Wendy Thompson, 28 Barker Close, Lawford Dale, Manningtree, Essex. CO11 2JW	01206 393746	
COOMBE ABBEY WOODTURNERS		
Sec: Gerald Griffiths, 78 Despard Road, Eastern Green, Coventry CV5 7DF	01203 467765	
CUMBRIA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Sec: Fred Singleton, 1 Piel View, Gleason, Nr Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 0QQ	01229 869550	
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE		
Sec: Nick Bright, 4 Yews Lane, Sawbridgeworth, Herts	01279 724038	
EAST SURREY WOODTURNERS		
Sec: Bryn Taylor, 99 Croyham Valley Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7JH	0181 657 7869	bryngt@aol.com
URL Address: www.surreyweb.org.uk/east_surrey_woodturners/		
HEART OF ENGLAND		
Sec: Reg Reed, 1 Churchfield, Welford on Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8ES	01789 750221	
HERTS & BEDS		
Sec: Mike Sheaf, 51 Hart Hill Road, Luton, Bedfordshire. LU2 0BA	01582 36382	
KENT BRANCH		
Sec: Don Row, 45 West Hill Drive, Dartford, Kent. DA1 3DU	01322 270807	
KINGS LYNN WOODTURNERS		
Sec: Nigel Hellon, Lacewood, 24 Church Road, Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 4EA	01553 762939 (Home)	
	01553 691215 (Work)	nigel.hellon@bt.com
MIDDLESEX WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Sec: David Harrop, 68 Burgess Road South, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. HP9 1EJ	01494 678201	david@harrop.co.uk
URL Address: www.harrop.co.uk		
MID MARCHES WOODTURNERS		
Sec: Paul Balcomb, Bodgers, 5 Caefelyn, Norton, Presteigne, Powys. LD8 2UB	01544 267010	
MID STAFFS WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Sec: Ted Webster, Rose Cottage, Norbury, Stafford. ST20 0PB	01785 284322	
NORFOLK WOODTURNERS SOCIETY		
Sec: Bernard Rose, 63 Belmore Road, ThorpeStAndrew, Norwich, Norfolk. NR7 0PR.	01603 36990	
NORTH LONDON WOODTURNERS GROUP		
Sec: Robert Craig, 55 Woodside Park Rd, Finchley, London. N12 8RX	0181446 0679	craigr@argonet.co.uk
SCOTSWOOD		
Sec: TBA	TBA	
STAFFORDSHIRE & SOUTH CHESHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Sec: Peter Sandbach, 'Langholm', Checkley Lane, Wrinehill, Nr Crewe, Cheshire. CW3 9DA	01270 820477	sandbachpd@clara.net
SUFFOLK ESSEX CAMBRIDGE BORDERS		
Sec: Brian Partridge, Homeside, Lady Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk. IP7 6AF	01473 828489	brianpart@aol.com
SUFFOLK MIDCOASTAL		
Sec: Geoff Moss, 29 Barton Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 1JQ	01394 383569	(via) andrew.galant@breathe.co.
TAYWOOD WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Sec: William Roger, 17 Garten Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee. DD5 3HH	01382 776682	(via Chairman)dwmurray@abel.co.
THAMESIDE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Sec: Wally Hammond, 44 Casleton Road, Wickford, Essex. SS12 0EL	01268 734881	aham287771.com
THE VILLAGE TURNERS		
Sec: John P. Cranna, 5 Stoke Hill, Oundle, Peterborough. PE8 4BH	01832 273377	
WAVENEY & DISTRICT WOODTURNERS		
Sec: Colin Barber, 9 Newson Avenue, Mutford, Beccles, Suffolk. NR34 7UN	01502 476458	
WEST CUMBRIA		
Sec: Enid Winterbottom, 23 Hycemoore Way, Bootle Station, Cumbria. LA19 5XE	01229 718622	
WEST MIDLANDS		
Sec: Graham Lovett, 66 Beachcroft Road, Wall Heath, Kings Winford, West Midlands. DY6 OHX	01384 277398	
WEST NORTHANTS WOODTURNERS		
Chairman: E. Potter, Copper Beech, Earls Barton Road, Mears Ashby, Northamptonshire. NN6 0DR		01604 810434
WORCESTERSHIRE WOODTURNERS		
Sec: Kate Price, 169 Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire. DY10 2SJ	01562 741484	

News from the Branches



So here we are with another new year, a new programme and another AGM behind us. [just!]. The minutes of the January 1999 AGM are now complete [unless the Chair has other ideas], so now a quick note to Mike Dennis for "News from the Branches".

Last year's programme ended in October with a splendid display from Gary Rance; what an artist, what a craftsman, what a worker. Ever since Gary's visit, I've tried to recall all the items he turned in that single day and now into the new year I'm still recalling more. A great day Gary, thanks once more, and we hope to see you back again very soon.

Also coming back soon is Jimmy Clewes with the Craft Supplies Road Show. Jimmy entertained us all again for an evening in November with a multitude of slides showing many aspects of "woods from around the world" - most enlightening. Jimmy followed this with a quick turn on the lathe and "talked us through" his methods of turning a box. Thank you Jimmy, we'll give you a lift with the big lathe in March 1999.

Our new programme is almost complete with evening and whole day demonstrations from Graham Hughes, Bill Kinsman, Jimmy Clewes, Ian Wilkie, Peter Murphy, Tracy Owen, Reg Sherwin, Fred Warr and Phil Irons

January's AGM was attended by 35 members which happily included four new members - welcome aboard Austin, Christopher, Graham and Ron - hope you receive your 'Revolutions' in time. The officers and committee were re-elected en bloc with the exception of yours truly who is happy

for a rest, leaving the secretary's post in the willing hands of Ted Webster; thank you Ted.

In readiness for the new year's demonstrators, we have purchased a neat P.A. sound system, comprising lapel mic., transmitter, receiver, amplifier and two speakers. We are now looking for another video camera to enhance our demo's even further

Time passes so quickly these days and we are already booking demonstrations for the year 2000. But it gets harder each year to find new faces from within a reasonable travelling distance of Etching Hill/ Rugeley/ Nr. Stafford. **SO**, please, anyone reading this who feels we are within striking distance for you to travel to give us a demonstration, please ring our Secretary, Ted Webster on 01785 284322 or our Bookings Secretary Leslie Aldridge on 01922 417795

Gordon Fradley



**East
Surrey
Woodturners**

1998 proved to be an unusual year for the ESW; on the one hand the club finally settled down from its rapid, almost unbelievable expansion in 1996 and 1997, to become much calmer with membership appearing to stabilise at around 85. We now have most of the equipment we need, and our finances seem secure. On the other hand, Dave Grainger, our first Secretary, driving force and originator of the club, left to live in Cumbria at the start of the year, and now, Ted Barrett, our Treasurer from

the beginning and another founder member, leaves the committee in March. The club and the committee are beginning to learn to live without Dave, and now have to manage without Ted's reliable pair of hands guarding the cash.

We managed an excellent programme, with visits from Keith Rowley, Chris Stott, Dave Reeks, Steven Cooper and several other big names. These were interspersed with in-house demonstrators of a high standard and other informal evenings, hands-on days, competitions, critiques, etc. The coach trip to the Axminster show proved to be very popular. We continued the monthly raffle with a wide variety of turning related prizes (and the odd bottle of booze).

A popular innovation during the year has been the opportunity to purchase timber, abrasives and other turning requisites during the mid-evening break. Amongst other sales people, Gordon Angier, a club member and the proprietor of The Fixing Shop in Orpington, brings along a selection of essentials, so members now know to bring their money with them.

We enjoyed our three big public events of the year: Coombe Lane in May, Selsdon Woods in August and our own Exhibition in November. All very successful, fairly profitable and a good chance to have long conversations about the finer points of woodturning with the public, and with each other.

1999 has great potential, the three main events again, with the Selsdon Wood event promising to be bigger and better than ever. We have some interesting visits arranged for 1999, with Bill Roberts the stick-maker on 27th May and Mac Kemp on 27th August to name but two. Perhaps we'll see you here!

Neil Innes



Our 1998 programme commenced in January with a well attended Annual General Meeting. 47 members and 5 new members attended. The programme for the year was discussed and the twelve members who were to act as Presenters for our Turnabout meetings gave brief mention on their own chosen topic.

(Turnabout information was published in the last issue of REVOLUTIONS)

During April our first day demonstrator - Bill Jones - came to see us. He put on a first class day and enjoyed using a lathe which had been constructed by our member, Peter Taylor. Bill congratulated Peter on the lathe and its performance and he makes mention of this in his September issue of Woodturning 'Notes from the Turning Shop' - Thanks Bill.

In June about 24 members and partners visited Cressing Temple, Braintree, Essex. The event was subsidised from our branch funds. Under the guidance of Elphin Watkin, we were given a first class and informative tour of the buildings. Elphin pointed out many special features including roof, joints, upper passing brace support joints and jowled post joints.

We were well looked after with refreshments and after visiting the gift shop we were once again on the move.

We travelled further south along the A12 road in search of Rainbows End. Aided by a map we located a very narrow lane. Our coach and its driver managed to do some hedge trimming (almost tree felling) along the lane. We came into a clearing and there it was 'Rainbows End' and the home of BHP Craftwoods and Woodcrafts. Brian Pugh of BHP gave us a warm welcome along with light refreshments. We

moved into the workshop and things got better when Derek Phillips appeared and showed us some off centre turning and box making. Well done Derek you worked well on such a hot afternoon. Brian then showed us into his sales area. What a stock. Masses of timber and good to see so many native timbers.

We all agreed that we had enjoyed our day out.

Also during June we we had an evening visit by Jimmy Clewes and the Craft Supplies 'ROADSHOW'. Needless to say there was a good attendance. Jimmy worked well with a smooth programme very well presented. There is no doubt that Jimmy is going to be one of the top turners. We look forward to seeing you in November 1999 Jimmy.

About a dozen members attended the seminar organised by the Norfolk Woodturners at Fakenham in August. This really was a first class day and the organisers are to be congratulated.

At the beginning of November Chris Stott came to see us and he put on a splendid day demonstration in front of 35 members. He covered basics, boxes and colouring along with texturing. The following day six fortunate members attended a workshop with Chris. This really was worthwhile and thanks to Chris for passing on his knowledge and some of his teaching skills. One or two of us now feel more comfortable when using that 'skew chisel'.

About 44 members visited the NEC attending the Woodturning Show in October. The pleasing feature being that so many were able to attend and to take advantage of the subsidy by the branch from funds.

Our December meeting is to be our last at Marlesford Community Centre. Yes we have outgrown these premises.

Our membership reached 63 and we have 7 names on a 'Waiting List'.

We have found some very suitable premises not very far away and from January 99 we shall hold meetings at DALLINGHOO Village Hall on the first Thursday of the month.

It is intended to increase membership to 70.

Financially we are in a good position. We intend to purchase two lathes (we already own one) a second bandsaw, another Axminster chuck and back plates. All of these will be used on loan by the members.

Our Programme for 1999 is looking good with Turnabout continuing, some emphasis on Wet Wood turning and visits by Phil Irons and as previously mentioned Jimmy Clewes.

Yes, we are going to be a very busy branch.

(Geoff Moss) Secretary

Colchester Branch

Visit by Chris Stott on 28th November 1998

Chris is a turner that I have seen performing his art on numerous occasions and at a variety of locations over that past years but he has such a good way of demonstrating his many products that he is always worth watching again, Chris brought with him some of his pieces which showed that although sometimes decoration is acceptable and indeed can be very attractive - plain articles well turned and finished can also be pleasing to the eye and very tactile. I was particularly taken with a small pill box which had only a very small amount of decoration on the top and this will certainly be my next inspiration.

There were 28 of us there to see him some were representatives from other branches in our area whom we were very pleased to see and whose support was most welcome.

I am conscious that although experienced turners will always want to see new techniques and methods it is important that we remember that some have yet to reach a stage where they can benefit from these more refined practices. Chris was very good in this respect and took the time to explain what he was hoping (indeed expecting) to achieve and how he was going to try to get there. All of those that I spoke with after he had finished were very happy with their day.

Chris took us through various projects showing how to make a chair leg to replace the one which all of us may be asked to do at some time or another. This was followed by thin spindle work with a captive ring, then off-set work making a lady. This was followed by the use of colour and surface decoration on a spinning top, grain enhancement and then a variety of his boxes which should be an inspiration to all of us.

Chris finished with a seasonal Christmas tree decoration which he kindly donated for auction, the proceeds going to our club funds

Alan Arnold was our man who set up and controlled our video camera giving us a good view without craning our necks, which would have been particularly difficult for me due to a whiplash injury from a recent motor accident.

Thanks Chris, from all of us and we hope to see you again in the future when you can show us more of your skills and tell us more interesting stories of your increasing international woodturning, travelling.

Ernie Cheal

OOPS!

In the last issue there was a photograph on this page but the caption was missing it should have read

'Members of Suffolk Mid Coastal branch after their August challenge to turn something from a square - Photo by Andrew Gallant'



The Norfolk Woodturners Society continues to prosper, regularly attracting 40 or more members to our monthly meetings.

A new departure for us this year was a weekend event at Bridge Farm, Costessy on November 28th and 29 that which club members demonstrated to the public and many items of members work were available for sale. The event was organised in support of the MacMillan Nurses and 10% of the value of sales was set aside for the charity. In addition many members donated items of work for sale directly in aid of the nurses. With the proceeds of the raffle, etc, a total of £460 was raised, and this was brought up to £500 with a donation from Society funds.

We decided that it would be a nice gesture to present a cheque to the MacMillan Nurses at our Christmas Social evening at Beetley Village Hall on December 10th. Mrs Carol Sexton accepted our invitation on behalf of the Charity and it was with great pleasure that we presented her with a cheque for £500.

The evening itself was a great success and it was nice to see so many ladies present. as usual the Ian Mitchell Trophy competition was held during the evening. The project for this year was an example of multi-centre turning and the trophy was won by Nigel Enroyd with an attractive goblet in Yew. The President's plate was also presented during the evening to Brenda and David Fawkes for all the work they had for the Society in the past year.

The evening was humorously helped along by local comedian, Keith Loads, recounting some of the things that 'happened' to him and his family and friends.

All in all a very good end to a very good year

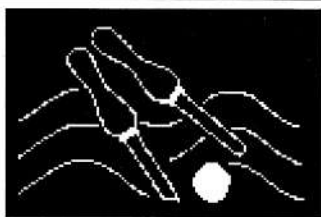
Alex Harness, President



As we enter the New Year it sometimes pays to look back and reflect on the successes and failures of the past year. As a Club we have been lucky in that any failures that we have had have been of a relatively minor nature and have not effected the overall success of the year. On the other hand the success of the year has undoubtedly been a major one in moving of our A.G.M. from its traditional evening meeting to the date of one of our monthly meetings. This resulted in almost two thirds of our membership attending the A.G.M.. This number must be a record for any Club not dealing with contentious matters. For the first time the committee and members attending the meeting benefited from a genuine and diverse cross section of opinion from the membership. Resulting from this will be a program of events that will ensure that member's interests are fully recognised. We will look forward to visits from Tony Wilson, Derek Phillips and The Craft Supplies Road Show and have mid week visits to The Bedford Saw and Tool Company and Isaac Lord and the Furniture Museum at High Wycombe. We also hope to arrange one or two social evenings during the year for members and wives. With last years rapid growth in membership we are finding ourselves with a diverse and interesting supply of talents within the group varying from a complete metal workshop to a retired journalist. The first is already well: employed helping members with machining problems and the second I hope will take over the Club newsletter. Possibly that is wishful thinking on my part! ! Be honest now, it is nice to dream.

With many members becoming more

proficient at turning and less reticent at showing off their skills we are planning for them to show off their talents at our regular meetings. The first will be a demonstration of pen making by a member who make his own mandrills and equipment for the job followed by a demonstration and hands on morning with the Mighty Midget and the Sorby Spiraling tool. If everything progresses as planned we shall have an interesting year.



THAMESIDE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

Introduction

The year was particularly eventful as the Association was faced with having to establish a new venue to hold the monthly meeting.

The Chairman, Peter Jackson, did an excellent job in assessing various possibilities within the Thameside area. The Committee settled on the 'Fold' in Billericay, which proved to be eminently suitable.

A programme was arranged, by Peter Brown the Events Member, designed to encourage a fuller involvement of the membership consistent with the need to make optimum use of a limited financial budget. One approach to this end was to organise two 'set project' evenings.

Monthly Meetings

'Little Boxes' was agreed to be the first of the set projects and Brian Partridge made a presentation on this theme at the February meeting. Various approaches were explored and discussed by Brian and members followed with a lively discussion. The evening was well received and the scene was set for a review of members work in April.

Craft Supplies provided the basis of

the March meeting, including a wide range of pre-ordered purchases made by members, saving on post and packing charges. Jimmy Clewes gave a presentation predominately concerned with a holding device developed by the company. Some comments were also made in respect to design features of wood turning. The evening created considerable interest and it was the Association's view that Jimmy Clewes should be invited back to explore further design concepts.

Ian Mears supplied a large number of wood pieces to be worked by members and the finished articles to be contributed to the Essex Wildlife Auction to be held in October.

As a follow up to Brian Partridge's talk in February the meeting in April was centred on 'Little Boxes' turned by members. The response was overwhelming: over 40 boxes being submitted. Brian reviewed the contributions with constructive and encouraging comments.

It was decided to include a guest speaker in the 1998 programme and the Association was pleased to invite Mike Morley to demonstrate at the May meeting. Mike made an excellent presentation on the development of his very intricate use of veneer inserts. The evening engendered much interest evidenced by a number of attempts made by members to incorporate veneers in wood turned items in the following months.

The second set project for the year was a 'Gavel' and Neil Poston was invited to take members through the basis of construction at the June meeting.

At the following meeting in July Neil gave a critique on the gavels made by some of the members.

At the August meeting Tony Whitham gave a demonstration of 'Off Centre' turning which created a great deal of interest. Everyone was particularly impressed by the range of 'Off Centre'

goblets produced with great care and precision by Tony. This was a very enjoyable evening.

At the September meeting Bill Jones discussed in detail the techniques applicable to the turning of hardware and alternative materials. This was another impressive display of techniques by the Master.

Jimmy Clewes returned in October and gave a well-received presentation on design. Members contributed to the discussion and an interesting series of views emerged on differing approaches to wood turning. This resulted in a members orientated evening. - hopefully an encouraging sign for the future.

November gave an opportunity for Association member, Stan King to make a contribution to the monthly meeting programme. The demonstration and 'hands on' session on 'thread turning' proved very popular - so much so it proved difficult for all members to test their skill on the lathe.

Derek Manwaring also ran the auction of surplus tools and workshop equipment with his usual skilful and persuasive approach.

The main hall of the 'Fold' was made available in December for the social evening and Christmas Draw which proved to be a successful and enjoyable evening. The three 'set projects' proved to be popular. Ted Renn's piece was voted the member's choice and Derek Manwaring's bottomless bowl was considered the disaster of the year.

The sale of Christmas Draw tickets sold at monthly meetings by the Secretary, realised a total of £110, enabling a variety of prizes to be available.

An auction of the tree decorations yielded the princely sum of £120, which will be donated to a charity to be nominated by the Association.

Extra Activities

In addition to the monthly meeting a number of additional events were arranged throughout the year.

Family Fun Day

This was held at the Essex Wildlife Centre in June. Various events were set-up in the area and a visit was made to the Plotlands museum. A tour of the surrounding woodland was also arranged. Wood turning demonstrations were run in the Centre and wood turned items were on display and available for sale.

The family members attending thoroughly enjoyed the day, however, support from the core membership was sadly lacking. (The Committee has concluded that events of this nature are of little interest to the membership).

Lappages Farm

Mike Strelley-Upton invited members for an evening at Lappage Farm in July. Dennis Knott commenced the turning of a twenty-four inch diameter bowl on the 'One-Way' lathe recently acquired by Mike. It was not possible to complete the work in the time available and Dennis finished the project in his own workshop later in the year. This social evening was well attended and the hospitality provided by Mike and his wife was thoroughly enjoyed and much appreciated.

Record Power

The Association's trip to the Record facilities in August proved to be a resounding success. A mini bus was hired, which as the event drew nearer, was in danger of being oversubscribed, the Secretary excluding the driver in the number of seats available. Had this been the case the Secretary would have had to spend the day at home. Fortunately there was one cancellation.

The visit provided an insight into the production of lathes, chisels, screwdrivers and other equipment associated with Record Power. Members were immensely impressed

by the skilled and demanding work, [which we tend to take for granted], involved in producing such a wide range of products. A very enjoyable day was had by all.

Essex Wildlife Trust

As in previous years Thameside provided wood-turned items to be auctioned at the Essex Wildlife Centre in Langdon. This year the Association was joined by the Chelmer Valley Association. Woodturning demonstrations were run throughout the day, visitors purchased a number of items on display and over eighty pieces were sold by auction. Attendance by visitors was excellent and a sum in excess of £1000 was raised and donated to the Essex Wildlife Trust.

Overview

1998 proved to be a full and active year. The move to the 'Fold' went without a hitch, woodturning activities fitting in with the Arts and Crafts theme of the Centre.

Membership has increased over the year and it may be necessary to negotiate larger accommodation at the Fold for the monthly meetings, this may mean changing the evening that the Association meets.

This has been an encouraging year and it is hoped that the enthusiasm generated can be built on in 1999. Further support and involvement of the general membership would greatly assist the value and effectiveness of the Associations activities.

Wally Hammond



**CUMBRIA
WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Amid the mountains and foothills of the Lake District there is a hum of very active wood turning lathes. Professional demo's play an important part in the CWA calendar, with tremendous encouragement from Allan Batty and others. Home grown

events are however showing their value. To report on a couple:

First, the master class (as some would call it!): how often the simplest things prove to be the best; half a dozen lathes, a good turn out of members, a wonderful day of woodturning fellowship, hand-on opportunities and skills galore.

We have always known that within the membership there is a depth of talent and knowledge. The idea of giving expression to this was made possible by experienced members being generous and willing to share their lathes and skills. One member made hollow forms from juniper wood with handy advice on lathe speeds and cutting techniques. The ability to wear a face mask and smoke at the same time was said to be masterly. Another broke new ground for many with his involuted forms. Other keen enthusiasts watched chased threads and demonstration of beautiful cuts and finish that can be achieved with yew wood. Yet another member galloped down from north of the Border, with candlesticks and demonstrations of stain application techniques, hairdryer and all. Not all demonstrators needed a hairdryer, but they enthused all those there with pen making, tool-sharpening techniques, making chess pieces, musical flutes and pearls of knowledge. One lathe was used for taking new members through the basic cuts of spindle and bowl turning.

Through the day, almost fifty members became involved and got to know one another even better. The pleasure was seeing little groups looking at pieces of exhibition work, talking over a coffee and exchanging experiences and knowledge. The lending library did a roaring trade with books and videos going out to stimulate new projects and ideas.

We shall never fully know how much the day taught, but the appreciation and delight of relative newcomers alone made the day worthwhile. After

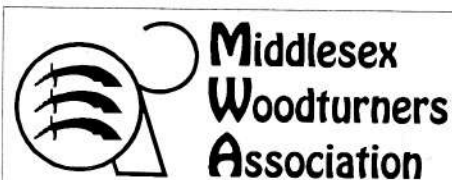
six hours it could have gone on for longer, but many hands were ready to make light work to sweep up and to clear lathes and equipment. As the sun set over the car park, no one seemed to want to go home and the reoccurring question seemed to be; when can we do this again?

The latest event, a 'Bring and Tell' morning; a spontaneous happening, with a little orchestration. Always a popular occasion, especially when fuelled by a Christmas mince pie. The first exhibit, a device for extracting fine dust from an extract system. Although reminiscent of something out of Jurassic Park and attributed to Heath Robinson, the device has proved brilliantly successful. Fine particles are diverted by a flexible duct into a modified bucket of water; the bubbling action washing the particles out of the air. Next, an exposition on the geometry of setting out for involuted turning, enabling thickness and shape to be controlled. Following on, a run through on the making of Christmas tree baubles from contrasting laminated woods, complete with teddy bear motif. This delightful idea was made even more interesting by the use of a wooden jig made especially for cutting small off-cuts at 60 deg. angles with a cross cut saw. Fingers are kept well out of the way, the wood being held by a simple cam lever.

A break for coffee and on again, - how to make little Christmas trees from carcassing timber, by means of simple skew cuts against the grain producing foliage shapes up a cone. Next, discussion on the merits of the use of a 'stem-drive' and the advantages of being able to introduce, extract or simply stop rotation on the lathe. Then on to an introduction to stick making, including woodturning techniques and shapes. Finally a few minutes discussion on woodcarving, with admiration of a members work. No event is complete without a raffle, the first prize a fine roughing out chisel appropriately going to one of our young new members; old dried out

lumps of wood to the rest of us.

David Matthews - Chairman



Middlesex have just completed another very good year and we look forward to 1999 which is our 10th anniversary year. We are always pleased to recruit new members and AWGB members visiting from other branches. We pride ourselves on the quality of the monthly demonstrations that are presented to the members. All demos are enhanced by the use of CCTV.

Our 1999 programme is as follows: In January Stuart King demonstrated the turning of goblets from wet wood and colouring them. Our AGM is in February. In March Paul Coker will be demonstrating ornamental turning including the use of a rose engine. April sees the return Dave Reeks who will be showing how to turn those large pieces he is renowned for. May will be the time for Tom Pockley to demonstrate involuted turning while June gives the members the opportunity to discuss how to get that last 5% from their work. The Middlesex Show is also in June where we hope to put on our usual stand. In July Lionel Pringle will be demonstrating how he turns those wonderful candle holders he makes. The members get their hands dirty in August at the problem solving clinic. Also at the end of August we have an exhibition and sale of members work in aid of our tenth year anniversary at The Cow Byre, Ruislip. September sees the return of that diddy man from Knotty Ash Ray Jones. Mike Dennis will be demonstrating hollow forms and colour in October. Tony Witham will be with us in November to show how to turn offset turning and December is a social gathering and 'bring and buy' complete with Mary's mince pies.

Mike Dennis - Chairman

WOODTURNING & WOODCARVING COMPETITIONS GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW 1999 HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

We are pleased to announce that the annual competitions will be held 13th, 14th & 15th July 1999 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 1999 and must be returned by mid May 1999.

Available from:
The Yorkshire Agricultural Society
Yorkshire Showground
Hookstone Oval
Harrogate
North Yorkshire HG3 2PW
Telephone No: 01423 541000
Fax No: 01423 541414

OR

John Boddy's Fine Wood
& Tool Store Ltd
Riverside Sawmills
Boroughbridge
North Yorkshire
YO51 9LJ
Telephone No: 01423 322370
Fax No: 01423 323810

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 Temperate Hardwood or Softwood and make a date in your diary to visit the show.

Questionnaire Results

The answers to questions 1 - 30 were given in the November 1998 issue of *Revolutions*

Section 5 Revolutions

31. How much do you read

None	0
25%	7
50%	21
75%	60
All	335

32. Overall contents

Poor	15
Average	135
Very good	251
Excellent	22

33. Amount of Adverts

Too many	32
About right	330
Too few	41
No comment	20

34. Have you submitted articles

Yes	23
No/No comment	400

35. Would you write an article

Yes	97
No	296
Maybe	16
No comment	14

36. Production quality

Average	38
Good	236
Very good	140
No comment	9

37. Type of articles you want to see

Product reviews	227
Profiles on Pro turners	158
How I made it	293
Tips & tricks	335
Other, see forms	31
No comment	6

38. Volunteer Writer

Yes	51
No	344
Maybe	10
No comment	18

Section 6 Miscellaneous

39. Exhibition attendance

Wembley	200
Midlands show, Warwick	84
NEC	247
Ascot show	58
Gt Nth show, Harrogate	24
Scottish show, Glasgow	28
APTC, Shepton Mallet	94
Yandle's, Martock	27
Good Woodworking, Ally Pally	17
Craft Supplies	19
Other	25
No comment	39
Don't attend shows	14

40. Internet access

Yes	64
No	359

If Yes;

Own site	8
Service provider	56

E-mail address, supplied for publication

Yes, see forms	32
No	32

Section 7. Professional Turners

Section 7 completed by 50 members

41. Years as a Professional

One	2
Two	6
Three - Five	13
Six - Ten	13
Eleven - Twenty	9
Over twenty	8
No comment	1

42. Do you attend biennial seminar?

Yes	31
No	21

43. If No, reason

Too busy	10
Too far	7
Not interested	2
Other	2

44. Have you demonstrated at a seminar?

Yes	8
No	44

45. Did you enjoy the experience

Yes	8
No	0

46. Would you take a more active role in AWGB

Yes	7
No	33
Possibly	3
No comment	9

47. Do you give

Courses	23
Demonstrations	32
Individual Instruction	7

48. Comments, see forms

Yes	28
No	24



Just a slight amendment to my letter printed in Issue 47.

I know that we blame our climate for a lot of our ills but the last thing I wanted to do was to "dampen" the tribute payed to you all for "Wonders in Wood".

Whether you should blame your spell checker, your scanner or your proof reader, I don't know, but the word was CLIMACTIC, - you know - as in climax -whoops - sorry! !

Gordon Fradley

Converting to variable speed

by Alan Southworth

Earlier in the year I decided to upgrade my lathe, and on recommendation from a visiting woodworking colleague from Australia (via the International wood collectors Society) I subsequently purchased the 'Woodfast C1000 6 speed version. On delivery, the lathe was unpacked from two substantial cases, assembled and bolted to the workshop floor, the electrics completed and the big switch on, at the slowest speed setting (250 r.p.m) there was a low hum from the motor and a small amount of vibration which increased considerably as speed was built up. At top speed and under no load both noise and vibration were unacceptable. I contacted the supplier and explained the problem. In all fairness, the person I spoke to was extremely apologetic, considerate and helpful in offering various suggestions to alleviate the problem, however, no matter what I tried there was no improvement. It was then left for the supplier to inform 'Woodfast' of the problem. In the meantime issue No 46 of revolutions arrived through the letter box and on reading the article 'Over the limit' by John Cranna I contacted Tom Gilks and after a lengthy conversation I decided to order the speed control unit from him and forwarded the cheque, understanding there would be a three to four week delivery delay (due to demand)

During the same week I was browsing through a machine mart publication, posted through the letter box, when I came across a local company advertising phase converters and speed control units. I rang the firm and spoke to the proprietor, who happens to be an electronics engineer. I outlined my problem to him with the resulting explanation: merely fitting a speed controller to the existing single phase motor would not eliminate the vibration or noise, as the problem was the motor itself, inasmuch as a single

phase motor is really a compromise, and that the answer would be to replace it with a dual voltage three phase motor and a frequency converter. At his suggestion I took my motor to him and he found me a compatible second-hand three phase motor of the same frame size, albeit a 1.5 h.p instead of the original 1h.p (this was not intentional) the frequency converter would be overnight delivery and so it was left that I would call the following day to inspect the motor set up with my pulley's attached and connected to the frequency converter, I could then decide whether it would do the job. On seeing the set-up and a test run, I paid the man and took the assembly home. The motor went straight on the motor plate without modification, the unit secured to the wall adjacent to the lathe and the lathe switched on. The result was remarkable, there is little or no noise from the motor, a slight hum as the speed is increased. Vibration is non existent, until under load or when a large unbalanced lump is attached at which the speed is merely wound down until the vibration ceases. In conclusion I now have an extremely well engineered, substantially built machine well capable of handling any size of work I am required to undertake. More than enough motor power and plenty of torque, with a speed range of 0 - 3000 via the ABB (ACS 100) frequency converter which has soft touch control and L.C.D readout, the parameters of which can be changed to show r.p.m instead of frequency output, although it is not really necessary.

I have included the name and telephone number of the supplier below. Incidentally, although I had cancelled the order for the original speed control unit from Converter sales, I later received my cheque back with a letter stating that the single phase speed controller was not

available, but no explanation why. I have been reliably informed since the demonstrator was experiencing some difficulties with the unit at the Craft Supplies exhibition.

Finally I can personally recommend the transition from single phase to three phase motor with or without a variable speed facility. The total cost of conversion was £330 (£296 for frequency controller/ £250 for 1 h.p version) and £34 for second hand motor (almost new). If I had purchased the variable speed version of lathe it would have cost £400 more than the speed model.

I hope my comments will be of some value to other members.

Frequency converters and motors available from:-

STEVE HAYDOCK,
230. HOUGHTON RD.
HOUGHTON.
NR CHORLEY. LANCs
TEL. 01254 852950

PS Steve is extremely helpful and obliging and very knowledgeable.

FOR SALE

EBAC wood kiln unit, still boxed and unused. Will drive a kiln of over 8ft 4ft. All slab polystyrene for insulation included. Various building and running instructions £350.

Sand/bead blasting cabinet for etching bowls and signs.
Some sand and glass beads. £220.

Heavy wadkin jaw chuck for RS lathe £90.

Some large grass trees and other turning timbers.

Hugh O'Neill 01584 810266.