

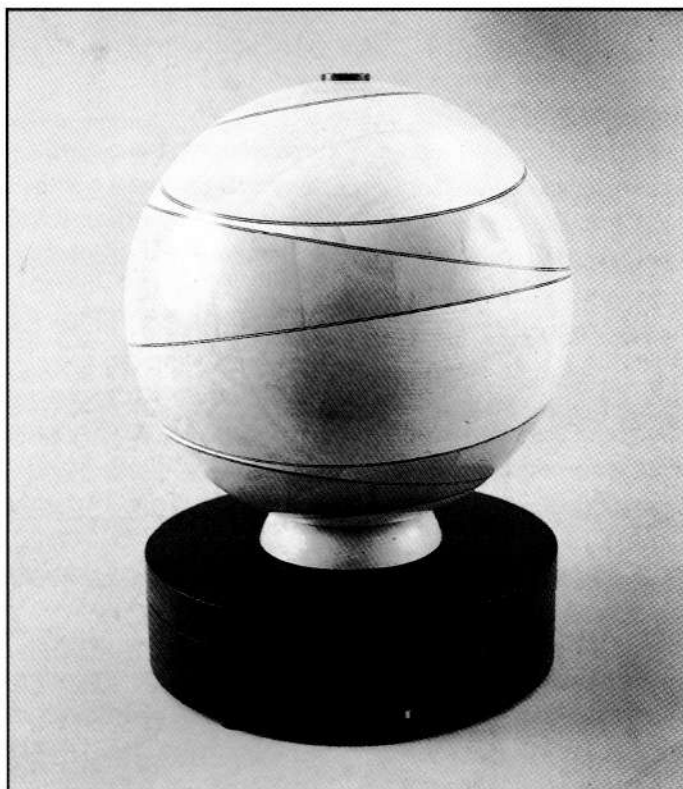
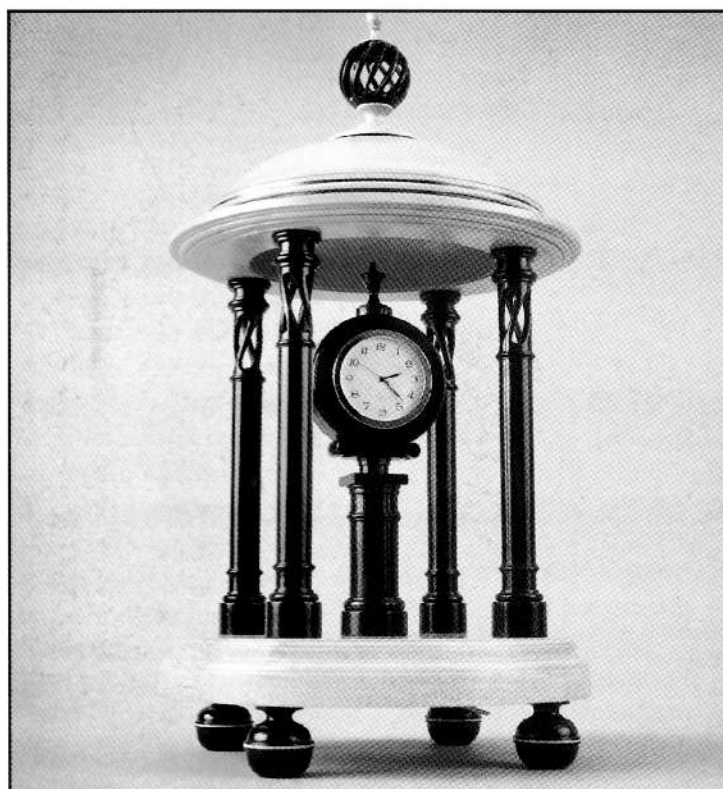
# *Revolutions*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 49

£1.95 Free to members

May 1999



Photographs courtesy of Nexus Special Interests

*Wembley winners - full story on page 8*

# Chairmans Page

A new year begins for the AWGB. Another AGM has passed and we say goodbye and thanks to retiring officers of the national executive. We say goodbye to Peter Einig, Graham Lovell and George Hunter who have all served the AWGB loyally and well. Many thanks to you for the time, energy and effort you have generously given to the AWGB.

Welcome to new members on the committee, namely, Lionel Pringle as secretary, David Grainger and Peter Garrison. I thank them for being prepared to desert their workshops for a time in order to contribute to the running of the AWGB.

## International Seminar – Warwick University

The next time we get the opportunity to meet formally is the Seminar in August. It is always very enjoyable to meet AWGB members and talk and talk and talk as well as watch the presenters. I find it very rewarding to immerse myself in my passion with like-minded people. It is also good to rub shoulders with the talented and skillful presenters. I'm sure that their expertise rubs off a little! I like to think so anyway. One thing for sure is that if you listen hard and watch closely you can pick up many, many tips and hints that have often taken years of experience to acquire.

We get the benefit of experience distilled over many. I have found that using these tips can make great improvements to the work I produce.

I have learnt from past seminars to take a notebook along and to write down the many ideas that are delivered during demonstrations. I now have one much coveted and valued notebook that has attended two seminars and all the other demonstrations I have attended. The book is loaded with tips, hints, ideas and anything that may be of use later. We are exposed to so much information at the seminar that I do not attempt to try to remember it all. I now religiously jot down or sketch the things that are of value to me. The notes are in my own shorthand with diagrams to illustrate. I spend most of my time watching and listening carefully and then scribble the occasional note. It is surprising how much information is accumulated during one seminar. Looking back through the notebook later is a real pleasure. I almost relive the demonstration as though it is happening in front of me.

Another tip I learnt from a regular seminar campaigner is to take binoculars to the demonstrations. This may seem a bit over the top but you will be surprised what difference it can make when

you are trying to see clearly fine detail or "small" action. Now that we have closed circuit television for all demonstrations visibility is always good. Nonetheless the binoculars are a valuable asset.

Writing about the seminars I have attended leaves me looking forward to the next one which will be upon us very soon. I look forward to meeting more members in August.

See you in August.

## Being on the National Executive

For those of you who have maybe never considered being on the national executive committee of the AWGB you may like to know more about what is involved.

I am aware that a great number of AWGB members would be prepared to be involved but are shy of putting themselves forward as well as perhaps unsure of what it entails. Most of us would prefer to be in our workshops but fortunately there are enough people on a regular basis who are prepared to forsake some of their practical woodturning to help run the AWGB.

It means attending usually six meetings a year (including the AGM), invariably on a Sunday. In an International Seminar year it



may involve one or two more meetings although most of the work is undertaken by a small voluntary committee with the appropriate expertise and experience. To keep costs down the meetings are held in the homes of committee members who have the room and facilities to accommodate 10/11 of us. The meetings last from 11 am to approximately 5 PM. Lunch is provided. The meetings follow a pre-planned agenda yet are informal in manner and style. Regular features on agendas are organising contributions to shows and exhibitions, planning the biennial seminar, liaison with traders and business, preparation required for Revolutions, Club and members' services like insurance and managing the lathes that we loan out to members.

Members of the committee have specific areas of responsibility as you can see from the details of the committee published in each edition of Revolutions. We try to share the work as fairly as possible and to suit people's interests, strengths and preferences.

*Continued on page 4*

# 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	4
AGM Agenda	4
International Seminar 1999	5
Wembley Exhibition	8
Profile on Lionel Pringle / Seminar Auction Appeal	9
A Woodturners Holiday in New Zealand	10
Seminar Application form	13
To belong or not to belong?	14
Profile on Reg Hawthorne	14
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting	16
1998 Accounts	18
News from the Branches	21
Loan a Lathe Scheme	24
Millennium Turning Competition	25
So you want to be a Woodturner	26

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: Peter Garrison (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 sewing on Smocks etc

£4.00 inc Post & Packing

**Copy deadline for the next edition of  
Revolutions  
10th August 1999**



In relation to the responsibility that each committee member has, there is clearly work to be done between meetings and that is in the control of each member as to how and when it is done. If you wanted to consider standing for a position you are welcome to contact any committee member to find out what their specific responsibilities might entail.

In addition friendships are formed and are long lasting. I think members of the committee would agree fully that the old adage applies - "you get back what you put in".

You may think it strange to write about this immediately after the AGM when committee membership has just changed. It is worth thinking about it now if you want to be involved next year because before we realise it the Warwick Seminar will be over and you will be receiving requests in *Revolutions* for nominations.

As Chairman I have found it very stimulating to my own development as a woodturner. I have done things I would not have had the chance of doing and I have met people that I would not have met, particularly professional turners who are very gifted and interesting to learn from.

We are a flourishing organisation and woodturning seems to be growing in popularity. We need the AWGB to have available to it a regular supply of fresh talent to join the committed and dedicated long serving stalwarts to take us onwards and upwards. Perhaps you as an individual member would like to do something or perhaps a branch feels it would like one of its number to be involved at the national level. Please think about giving some of your time to keep the AWGB running smoothly and serving its members.

*Chris Lindup*



Frank Clarke and I have just finished our first two man exhibition at a local venue that can be hired for artistic works to be displayed. The exhibition which ran for 1 week took nearly three months to plan for and make enough stock to make a reasonable display. The exhibition, at which we also ran continuous demonstrations, was a great success although very tiring. Since I retired from my full time job just two years ago this was the first time I was reminded of what it was like to go to work. Getting up at the same time each morning, having to shave and then face the rush hour - a week was long enough!!

During the exhibition we put out leaflets about the AWGB and our local branch and it was surprising the number of people attending the exhibition who were woodturners and did not know about the AWGB. It is impossible to forecast how many of these people will become members but at least they now know about us. If you are planning such an exhibition and would like literature to promote the AWGB please ask Frank Clarke for a supply of leaflets and application forms. The same applies if your branch is putting on an event at which the public attend.

Having got this exhibition out of the way it was time to catch up on the affairs of the AWGB. The members handbook needed updating and a copy is enclosed with this newsletter. The Branch handbook was long overdue for updating and I am aware that some branches have been anxious to get an

## Editorial

updated copy. This publication almost needed rewriting due to the great number of changes that have happened in the last few months. It is now done and Branches should be getting their reprints very soon. The internet site also needed a lot of changes due to the new committee and a lot of changes within the branches. All of this work is down to yours truly and I am sorry if the delay in doing it has inconvenienced anybody.

I know I have made the odd mistake in *Revolutions* in the past!!! But in the last issue I made the biggest cock up yet. I printed the application form for the seminar with 1997 prices. Those who used the form were soon told by Len that the 1999 prices were higher. I apologise for any inconvenience that this may have caused. The right form is printed in this issue.

We have three new committee members. Each has the specific task to which they were elected and other duties are imposed or volunteered for. The four Branch Representatives are allocated branches for which they are responsible for liaison between the branch and the Executive Committee. Listed below are the Branch Reps and the Branches they represent.

### Peter Garrison



Avon & Bristol,  
East Hertfordshire,  
East Surrey  
Woodturners,  
Herts. & Beds,  
Kent,

Middlesex Woodturners Association,  
North London Woodturners Group

### David Grainger



Cumbria  
Woodturners  
Association,  
Furness  
Woodturning &  
Woodcrafts Group,

*Continued on page 27*



# Woodturning with a difference at the Seminar

Our biennial International Seminar draws ever closer, if you have yet to book your place now is the time to contact Len Grantham and do so.

Most of you will know the names and the work of our main British presenters, namely **Stuart Batty, Phil Irons, Gary Rance, Phil Reardon, Dave Regester, and Chris Stott**, these talented turners will present a rich and diverse range of turning.

Most of you will also know the name and the work of **Ciaran Forbes** from **Ireland**, **Ciaran** is a wonderful maker of fine bowls and platters. With his warm Irish charm and wit, along with his wonderful teaching skills he is a hit where ever he goes.

**Mike Hosaluk** from **Canada** is known the world over as perhaps the world's most creative turner. We brought him over here in 1995 and was such a big hit we have brought him back again.

I am not so sure you are all as familiar with the work of **Betty Scarpino** and **Mark Sfirri** both from the **USA**, although their work is often featured in the woodworking press. I hope these short profiles help give you a better understanding of their skills and work.

## Mark Sfirri:

Mark concentrates on spindle turning, but not in the conventional sense. Spindle turning by and large has remained more traditional and stayed in



*Purple Walking Table*  
Purpleheart/Ash  
24" x 18" x 24"



*Candlesticks*  
Cherry  
9" x 13" tall

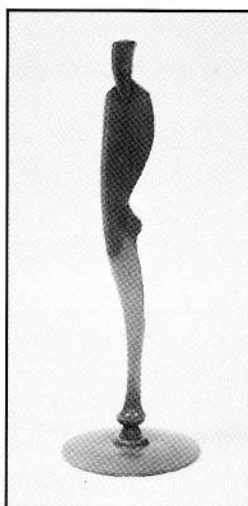
this country in comparison with the directions that faceplate work has taken in recent years. We hope Mark will give those who love to spindle turn a fresh impetus to experiment more and be more creative.

Mark constantly uses multi axis offset to achieve some extraordinary results that are at times wild and humorous. His candle sticks remain functional, but provide a great talking point, and when he adds paint humour is sure to abound.

His legs for tables suggest a drunken man, but they remain functional, you will never look at a table leg in the same way again when you have seen Mark turn one.

When you add his changed axis baseball bats and his multi axis human forms you have a turner who will stimulate you to look at spindle turning in a new light.

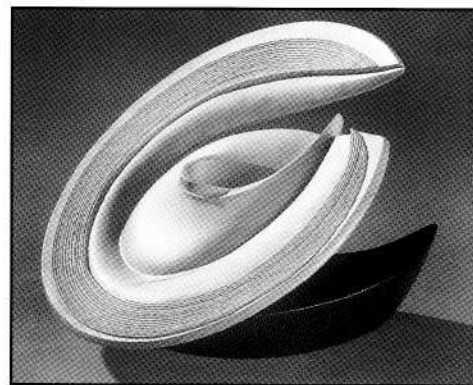
Mark is a superb demonstrator and teacher who is sure to inspire.



*Glancing Figure*  
Walnut  
46" x 16" x 16"

## Betty Scarpino:

Betty is a very creative turner who often makes conventional work and then cuts it into pieces and reassembles it into what can only be described as sculptural forms. Betty does a lot of her work off the lathe, cutting, carving, painting,



*Glory! June*  
Maple 11" dia

bleaching, and texturing. In essence most of her work is about altering the turned form but not to the extent that you would not know it was lathe turned. Turning discs is one of Betty's fortes again alteration and different ways of display on all sorts of bases give food for thought.

Betty is an excellent demonstrator and communicator who will make you look at your turned pieces in a different way. You might find yourself thinking should I cut my bowl up and reassemble it in another way, YES! let's do it.

The presenters the AWGB brings in from overseas are brought over in the main to stimulate your thinking and stretch your imagination.

In this way we hope your work will grow as will the woodturning movement as more creative work is produced, it should in time appeal to a greater audience.



I hope this little resume may have convinced a number of you that you should attend our 7th Biennial International Woodturning Seminar.

*Ray Key (Hon AWGB President and Joint Seminar Chairman)*



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

## What the Traders are offering at the Seminar

*Ashley Iles*

Ashley Iles is an independent family run company, under the direction of two of the founders sons. Offering as manufacturers a specialist range of quality tools for woodturners and carvers alike. They offer a wide range of HSS and carbon steel turning tools individually or in sets, with or without handles. Lifetime quality warranties, together with a commitment to customer satisfaction, make Ashley Iles one of the leading tool suppliers world-wide.

**AXMINSTER**  
POWER TOOL CENTRE

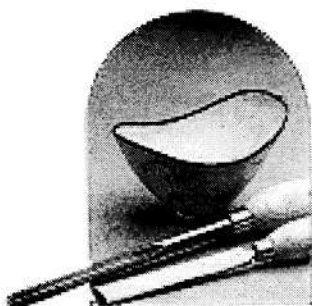
Axminster Power Tool Centre will be offering a 10% discount off the catalogue price on woodturning tools and fitments to members of the AWGB. Available from the stand will be Axminster's range of chucks and centres plus Henry Taylor woodturning tools. Also on display will be the Woodfast lathe and the Yorkleen fine dust extractor. The 440 page catalogue containing over 17,000 products can be obtained free of charge.

**BriMarc**

Again BriMarc are pleased to be associated with the AWGB International Seminar and have many new products for your test and appraisal.

The most important is the new Vicmarc VL-300 electronic variable speed lathe. For Vicmarc this is a ground breaking time and this latest design proves they are at the forefront of heavy weight lathe design. It is no wonder exciting woodturners like Phil Irons are working with Vicmarc.

Please also come and see the Skilton Sanding Pads, which have already received many accolades for their durability and quality. Why not stop by and give them a go.



*Craft Supplies*

Craft Supplies are very pleased to support the AWGB at their 1999 Seminar. We shall be exhibiting the Oneway lathe and our own range of Home of Woodturning tools (with 15% discount).

Various new timbers will be exhibited together with a special "Wood Club" offer to delegates for various packages of wood (up to 25% discount).

Also on offer will be the Ezelap diamond sharpening range (15% off).

Craft Supplies 160 page colour catalogue will be available free to all delegates from our stand.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Book early to avoid disappointment - Application form on page 13 of this newsletter**



Diamic brand woodturning tools have been produced in Sheffield by skilled craftsmen, from the finest steel for more than one hundred and fifty years. The manufacture of these tools marries traditional hand crafting and forging skills with modern heat treatment and finishing techniques to give the quality of design, finish and edge retaining properties demanded by woodturners of today. Stringent quality control ensures that the best Sheffield steel is selected. Each tool is carefully forged, correctly hardened and tempered, then hardness tested to guarantee edge retention.

Many tools unique to Henry Taylor have been designed in co-operation with some of the world's leading woodturners e.g. Roy Child, Dale & Darrel Nish, Richard Raffan, Rude Osolnik, Kip Christensen, Bonnie Klein, Ray Key and Chris Stott.

The latest addition to the Henry Taylor range of woodturning tools is the Supertip 2000.



A Main distributor for VSM-VITEX Abrasives, JILL PIERS Woodturning Supplies has special offers on the fabulous KK532F VITEX abrasive cloth, that Woodturners everywhere have adopted as standard. The GRIP-A-DISC Advanced Power sanding system, Shear Sanding Tool is now available from many retailers around the UK also USA, Norway, Iceland, France, Canada, Germany and Australia. Other VSM products including Starwheels, Adhesive Discs and Handishaper are on sale. Jill is also Distributor for Pacer Technology Super glues and Bison products.

**JOHN  
BRADFORD**

John has been in the timer business for over twenty-five years and specialises in home-grown woods that are ideal for the hobbyist turner or the more adventurous. On his stand you will find a good selection of woodturning blanks and carving blocks at affordable prices. We can recommend a visit to John's wood yard, which is an Aladdin's cave for all woodworkers.

**Poolewood**

Two new lathes have recently joined the Euro 2000 in the Poolewood range, the Euro 1000 Commander and the Euro 500 dominator. With direct drive and electronic speed control these must rank as the quietest lathes on the market today. Offering a wide range of brand name tools and accessories Poolewood's Kent shop is well worth a visit.

*Robert Sorby*

Robert Sorby is the premier manufacturer of woodturning tools with a history stretching back over 200 years in Sheffield. Today all Robert Sorby tools are made in their factory from where tools are sent to all corners of the world. Robert Sorby have always been renowned for the quality of their product. More recently they have been responsible for a steady stream of new products and have underlined this extensively demonstrating their products at exhibitions and turning clubs around the world. There will be displays of new lines including thread cutters, hollowing tools, metal spinning and other innovations. Special prices will be available to delegates at the seminar.

**Other traders include GMC, VB Masterlathe and Peter Hemsley**



# The Wembley woodturning competition

by Nick Hunton

It may be the case that there simply wasn't enough time for turners to get their thinking caps on and get down to some new ideas fresh from the lathe, or it may simply be the case that the theme of the competition did not have a very wide appeal. Whichever way, and following on from the good number of entries submitted for the previous competition at the NEC in October, the number of entries for Wembley was disappointing.

However, it was also the case that rather a lot was being asked in this woodturning recipe by requesting competitors to include various themes of time, reflecting the dawn of a new millennium. Looking back at what has gone before and putting it all together under the title of 'Turn of the century'.

The complex theme of a competition such as this poses problems for judging, for it is difficult to weigh the two areas of original thought and interpretation with the more standard criteria of good turning in terms of complexity, technique and finish. That was the poser for Stuart Mortimer, Ray Key, Jamie Wallwin representing Craft Supplies as sponsors and Dale Nish, the well known American woodturner. And, the debate over placings and criteria was longer and more difficult than ever this year, especially as the top ranking pieces were of such different styles.

First prize was awarded to Dave Roberts for his bandstand style clock in pau amarillo and ebony. This was well proportioned and finished with fine details in the form of open twist features both for the finial and at the top of the supporting columns. All together this was a beautifully turned timepiece.

Second prize was given to Mike Morley for his 'Planet', a technically complex piece in which he had blocked a sphere with insert bands of black veneer rings intersecting the globe at different angles. The optical effect was made more dramatic by setting off the sphere on a revolving turntable. Third prize was awarded to Jerry Collett! whose large

scale workings are well known. But in this case, Jerry had gone to a lot of trouble to explore all the themes of the competition in that this was not only a model of the Dome but inset across the roof were ply striations like the annual rings of a tree used as time markers of the last century with pins to point to dates of events, and accompanying the model Jerry had made a lectern on which he had also produced his own calendar for notable, ironic and amusing events for each year of the last century. This alone, for those who took the time to read it, raised a good smile or two.

## RESULTS

Competition sponsored by Craft Supplies in association with Charles Greville and Hermle

### 1st prize

D. Roberts Bandstand Clock - Pau amarillo and ebony

### 2nd prize

M. Morley Planet - Sycamore and veneers

### 3rd prize

J. Collett Calendar - Birch and ramin

### Runners up

J. Chappell Solar system - Yellow wood, yew, burrs

R. Wood Swing time - Laburnum  
J. Coakes Clock in a box Desert ironwood and African blackwood

A. Cliffe Table clock - Mahogany, tulipwood, yew

R. Haseiden Weight of time - Ebony and sycamore

## Exhibitors honour Jamie Wallwin

By Nick Hunton

The forthcoming retirement of Jamie Wallwin as resident Course Tutor at Craft Supplies was recognised by fellow demonstrators and exhibitors at the Wembley show, when he was presented with a large platter turned by Jerry Collett and signed by many of his friends amongst the trade stands as well as by other woodturning demonstrators.

There can hardly be anyone who has done more to encourage even hesitant woodworkers from getting to grips with woodturning and seeing whether it is a craft for them. In the 16 years that he has been a woodturning instructor at Craft Supplies, he has taught more than 1500 students of all ages, abilities and from many different walks of life ranging from the disabled to the Prime Minister of Malaysia. And, in addition to these students, he has given the opportunity to hundreds of others with the 'hands-on' woodturning opportunities featured at the top woodworking shows.

Jamie, previously a farmer in Nottinghamshire until a serious accident joined Craft Supplies after being approached by Managing Director Nick Davidson, and his first introductions to students were alongside Ray Key and Gordon Warr who were both teaching at the Mill at that time. Not only do Ray and Gordon remember Jamie's first sessions, but so many of the students that Jamie has taught since then have returned time and again to Craft Supplies and have undertaken further courses. The reason quite simply is that Jamie was inspirational in getting them started through passing on his own enthusiasm and his own great enjoyment of the craft of woodturning.

Jamie's presence will be missed at the shows by the woodturning fraternity and by all at Craft Supplies when he and his wife Charmaine, whom many show visitors will also know, leave at the end of April for a life of retirement and travel in a mobile home. However, Jamie will not completely disappear from the woodturning scene, as he has at least one engagement booked — 'hands-on' learning opportunities at Art in Action from 15th to 18th July.



Photo Courtesy of Nexus Special Interests  
Jamie hoisted above the shoulders of fellow exhibitors at the Wembley Exhibition

# Profile on *Lionel Pringle* Honorary Secretary



I have been interested in woodworking as a whole since my early schooldays, and cabinetmaking had always been my hobby until the day I acquired my first lathe. The original intention was to enhance the designs of my furniture by the inclusion of turned aspects, but this proved not to be the case, the woodturning bug bit me deep and hard, and I seldom make furniture any more, only when something is needed at home.

I am to a large extent self-taught although I have attended courses and seminars given by some of the very best internationally acclaimed woodturners, whose work and techniques have helped me greatly. I firmly believe that there is always something new to be learnt.

I am particularly interested in spindle turning, as apposed to bowl turning, as I find this to be a more intricate and demanding area of expertise and I particularly admire the work of some of our native born production woodturners whose skills I seek to emulate.

The designs I produce are, to the best of my knowledge, my own, however, external influences, such as the work of potters and glassblowers, have

contributed to some extent to the chain of thought that has brought about a particular design, but there is always a large part of myself in the items that I produce.

I gain particular satisfaction from working with wood which contains natural faults of one sort or another, endeavouring to use my skills to supplement an accident of nature to give an item an enhanced beauty, my weedpots are a simplistic example of this.

I am currently a member of two Sussex based woodturning groups, and the national Association of Woodturners of Great Britain!

I am a member of the East Sussex Guild of Craftworkers and have very strong views on the role and presentation of crafts in the modern society.

I have also, since mid 1995, been selected to be included on the register of The Worshipful Company of Turners.

On the Register of  
THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY OF  
TURNERS

Robert L Davis from Fort Worth Texas would like to correspond by E-mail with UK turners. His address is: "Robert L Davis"  
<rldret@flash.net>

## SEMINAR AUCTION APPEAL 1999

**YES!!** It's that time again, my biannual appeal to all members.

We are aware that we have some wonderfully generous members who donate pieces of work on a regular basis, if you have yet to join this generous band, maybe you might like to this year.

The Auction takes place on the Saturday night of the Seminar at the Banquet, Auctioneer Len Grantham of the deadly Gavel is the master at squeezing the last coin out of everyone. Last year a record £2463 was raised due in no small part to Len's expertise, plus the wonderful donations of work from you our Members and of course the Seminar Demonstrators.

The money has been set aside in an Education and Special Projects Fund.

A number of Lathes, sets of tools and chucks, have been bought and loaned to the young and old, plus the disabled. Sponsored youth membership of the AWGB for a number, nominated by Branches. The fund also helped with some of the capital expenses in the printing of 'Wonders in Wood', that money has now been repaid to the fund. Your Committee will shortly be looking at new initiatives for distribution of the funds, what you can rest assured of, education will be to the fore.

If you would like to help us, help others, please send you donation of work to:

Ray Key (Joint Seminar Chairman) 53, Weston Road, Bretforton, Nr, Evesham, Worcs. WR11 5HW  
Mark the package AUCTION and send to arrive by AUGUST 7th.  
Those coming to the Seminar can bring the work with you.

**A BIG THANK YOU IN  
ANTICIPATION.**

If any member in the Macclesfield area is going to the seminar and would like to share transport and costs please contact Stan Harrison  
01625 427936

# A woodturners holiday in New Zealand

by Chris Wilson

My wife and I spent the whole of February this year on holiday in New Zealand and motored extensively in both islands. Although small in size when compared with Australia, it is far more compact, and its north/south axis gives a range of southern hemisphere latitudes equivalent to, say, those of Zurich and central Tunisia. But there the comparison ends.

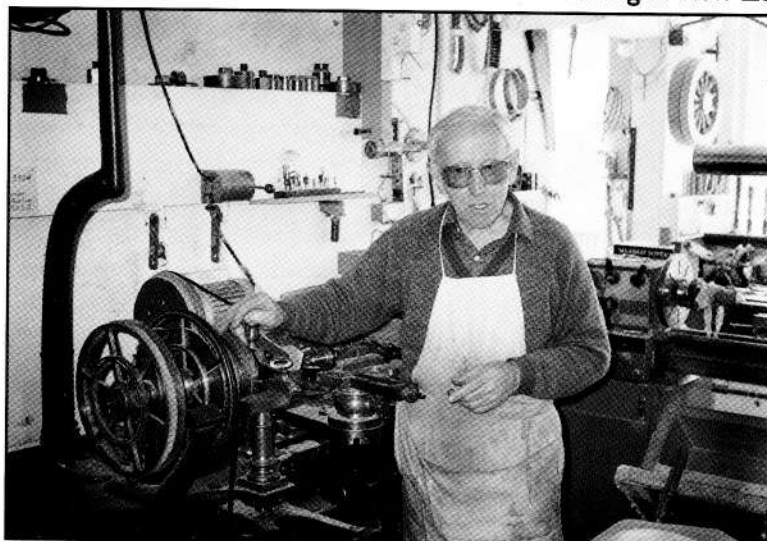
Our main objectives were

- a) Not to spend all the time in the car.
- b) To do some serious walking on various well-known tracks.
- c) To meet some woodturners and to see as many galleries as possible
- d) To learn as much as we could about the country and its history.

We achieved the last of these by not using hotels or motels at all, but by staying in bed and breakfast accommodation. These have been

retail area. There is no point in listing the ones we visited, but the local information services throughout are first class and the only problem facing a visitor is in deciding what to leave out as there is so much to see and do everywhere.

We started in the south island and not far south of Christchurch we stopped in Ashburton, a small town of some 16,000 inhabitants, where we had arranged to visit Bob Lynn, an ornamental turner who has built up an astonishing collection of old lathes and woodworking tools dating back to the beginning of the 19th century. He has 6 Holzapfel lathes, a Bower rose engine lathe, some 3000 woodworking tools and several hundred examples of ornamental woodturning and woodcarving. This was an Aladdins Cave for a visiting woodturner and a wonderful introduction to wood and woodturning in New Zealand.



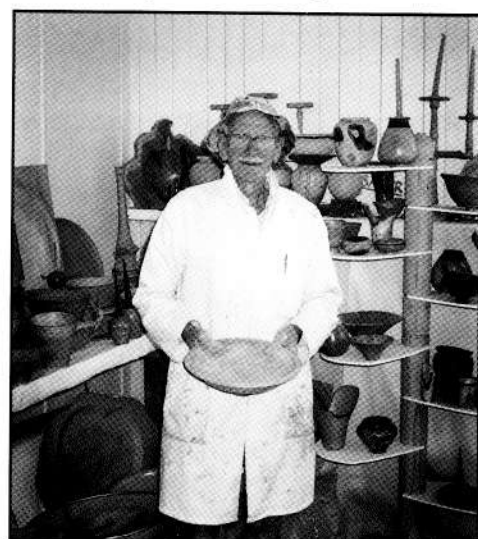
Bob Lynn with the Bower Rose Engine Lathe  
Museum of Ornamental Turning, Ashburton

Originally, 80% of New Zealand was covered in forest; just under a quarter of this is now left, much of it protected. Most native trees are evergreens but there are some wonderful examples of the deciduous

and ground cover. Because of the rape of the natural forests by the early settlers between about 1840 and 1920, to which I will refer later, and with the consequent loss of available timber, there is now a strong programme of afforestation, mostly under the control of the Department of Conservation. This produces fast-growing conifers which, from the study of a cross-section, appear to grow by about 1" per year in diameter, and which are then felled at about 20 years. The roots are grubbed out and bulldozed into windrows where they are left to rot away and work their way back into the growth cycle. While rotting down, they provide shelter for new rows of trees which start life under "nursery" conditions before being planted out. But the range of conifers, as we know them, is also vast and I could not begin to list all the variants which we saw.

Despite a long interest in trees, there was something special about most of the trees in New Zealand. Almost without exception, no matter what their size, they were vigorous, majestic and symmetrical. Even in the botanical gardens the trees, many of them more than 100 years old, had been planted with sufficient space around them so that they could develop without any physical constraints by their neighbours.

We then stayed for two nights with Ann



Ken Sager

developed to a very high standard and provide a superb facility; some are in the towns or cities, while others are on farms or in rural areas. The choice is extensive, but the standards in almost all of those in which we stayed were faultless.

New Zealand is a great country for craft skills and most towns, even quite small ones, have a crafts gallery in the

trees which we know in the UK and which were originally brought in by the early settlers; many of these are in botanical gardens or on the older farms and estates.

The range of native trees is enormous. In areas of natural forest there is normally a canopy of large, sometimes huge, trees which then shelter smaller trees, tree ferns, smaller ferns, bushes



and Bob Phillips, well-known woodturners, near Nelson. They had stayed with us when on a UK lecture tour a couple of years ago. Bob very kindly gave me several small samples of New Zealand wood, including Rimu, Red Beech, Mountain Beech, Matai and swamp Kauri. New Zealand beeches, of which there are several varieties are not directly related to ours. They are evergreens, and grow at different altitudes and on different soils. This means that one can often see where there is a soil change on a mountainside as one tree variety gives way to another.

At the end of our time in the south island we flew from Blenheim to Napier, in the north island, via Wellington. Place names in New Zealand tend to be either terribly British or absolutely Maori. The latter are often long and difficult to pronounce, with the added complication that many are very similar, making the navigators task quite tricky.

Heading northwest from Napier, we had arranged to call and see Ken Sager, one of the father-figures of New Zealand woodturning. This was a fascinating visit, and Ken had some superb examples of off-centre turning among the wide range of pieces on display. While Ann and Bob Phillips appear to sell much of their work direct from their own home, Ken puts some through galleries, even though this usually reduces the net return to him.

Passing through Auckland on our way north, we had lunch with Diana Cheney, who was the Secretary of the Kent Branch of the AWGB for several years when her husband Derek was Branch Chairman. After his sudden death she decided to return to her native Auckland as several members of her family live in that area.

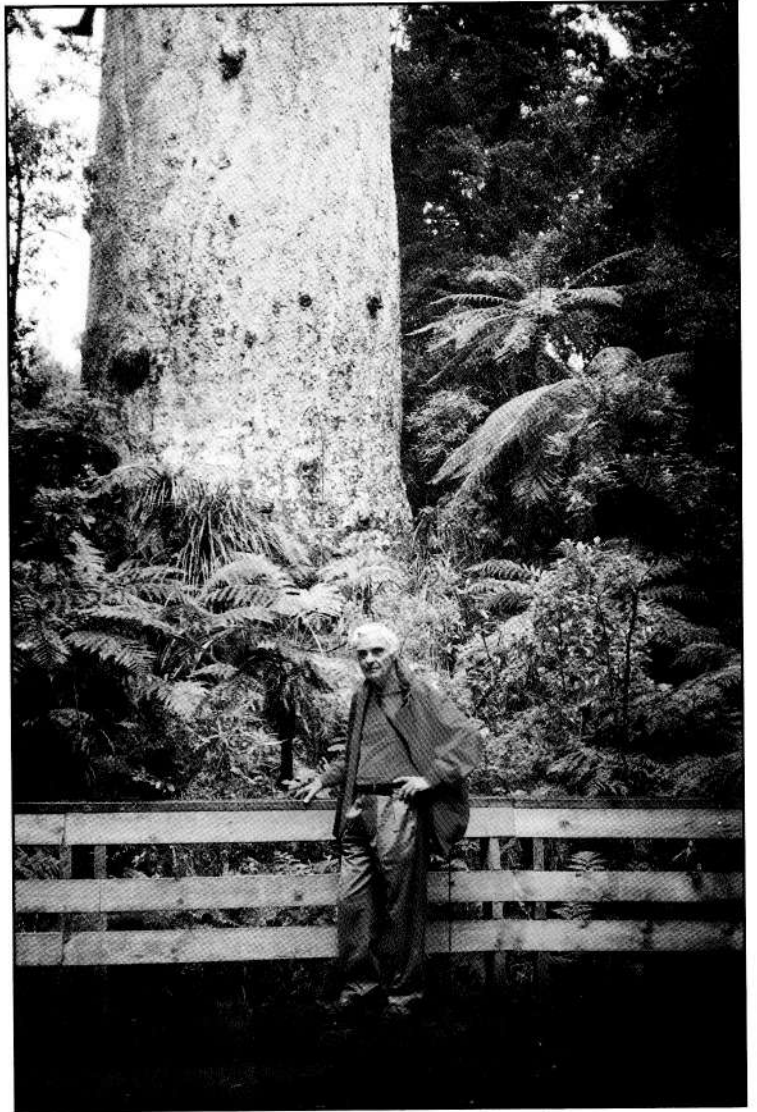
Near the northern tip of the north island we spent some time at the Kauri Museum, a museum specifically dedicated to the Kauri tree and its history. Kauri, which only grows in the extreme north of New Zealand, is closely linked to the early days of European settlement. It claims to be one of the largest trees in the world and although available statistics vary, it can grow to a height of 50 metres (160 ft),

with a girth of up to 16 metres (52 ft), or a diameter of 5 metres (17 ft). The Sequoia may dispute any claims for first place made by the Kauri but, like the Sequoia, Kauri is an awe-inspiring tree.

But the full history of the Kauri is not a happy one. When the first settlers arrived early in the 19th century, the Kauri forest covered 1,200,000 hectares (3,000,000 acres). Today, only 4000 hectares (10,000 acres) remain, just 0.3% of the original area. How did this happen?

As with many conifers, Kauri produces substantial quantities of gum and the Maoris had used this for many years and for many purposes before the arrival of the early settlers. However, the latter soon realised the value of this gum and a significant export industry gradually evolved. In an industrial environment this gum was used for, among other things, the making of varnish, paint and linoleum. Initially, most gum collected was found lying about in lumps on the surface of the ground, but as this source gradually disappeared it was realised that the gum from many centuries of forest evolution lay many feet underground. This led to what might be described as a manually operated opencast mining operation, with the gum being extracted in lumps, washed to remove the earth and then sold to dealers for onward sale in Auckland and elsewhere.

At the same time, gum was extracted



from living trees by tapping in a similar way to rubber, but this was done in a reckless manner and many trees died prematurely where they stood. But, however they died, a dead Kauri tree, like any other, will fall sooner or later and gradually become buried by decayed vegetation. The interesting thing is that although the wood is relatively soft, it does not decay when buried and trees dug up from well below the surface have been carbon-dated as being anything up to 50,000 years old.

Parallel with the extraction of gum, a thriving timber industry developed. In addition to its large diameter, Kauri grows tall and straight, without any side branches, until it mushrooms out at the top. The main trunk is straight-grained, without any fault lines, and was very suitable for house construction, boat building, packaging and so on. Sadly, the

top branches, from the centre of the mushroom, were usually burned as rubbish. It is the material from this area of the tree, plus that from the bole and root, which offer the turner the most interesting pieces on which to work.

This fascinating but rather sad piece of history is wonderfully depicted in the Kauri museum. Not only is there a very comprehensive display of the equipment which was used to fell, mill and transport the trees, but there are many photos of the people who were involved in these activities, showing the rugged and basic lifestyle which they and their families had to endure.

Needless to say, the Kauri and several other native trees are now protected and the main legal source of supply is from old Victorian houses which are being demolished prior to redevelopment and which were constructed entirely of wood. All-in-all, I collected about ten pieces of New Zealand wood (all legally!) and had to buy another small bag in which to carry them all. They will be treated with great

care when I get them onto the lathe.

Our final wood-orientated visit was to a craft fair in the Bay of Islands, the furthest north we went. This was an amateur event, covering a number of crafts, and the general standard was very high. The fair only operates during the summer and only on days when a cruise ship calls in. This is usually two or three times a week so a good stock of finished items is required at the start of the season. On one stand there was a fantastic display of what the standholder described as woodcrafting. Every piece on display was completely asymmetrical and had obviously never seen a lathe. Roughing out was done using an angle grinder with an industrial cutter. The latter was then replaced by a sanding pad, using discs of reducing grit size until a perfect surface was obtained. At the outset, the workpiece can be held in a vice but for sanding an appropriately sized car tyre is placed on the bench and covered with an old piece of carpet to prevent marking of the wood.

The astonishing thing was that the

craftsman was clearly a senior citizen and it transpired that he was a retired farmer who had only been doing this work for a year. Not only the artistic profiles of his work but also the finish were superb and I much regret now that I did not buy one of his pieces. But that might have meant buying yet another bag!

All-in-all it was a wonderful holiday and we achieved all our objectives. The warmth of the welcome everywhere was fantastic wherever we stopped. Everyone was courteous and had time to talk; they wanted to know where we came from, where we had been in New Zealand and where we were heading for next. It is certainly a long way to go - over 24 hours in real terms - and with a 13 hour time change as well. But it was all worth a bit of jet lag.

If anyone should think that I have extolled the good and ignored the bad, I can say with all honesty that the worst thing that happened to us was that we had one wet day in the whole month. That can't be bad.

## *Is your turning lacking inspiration?*

**You will find all you need in this book**

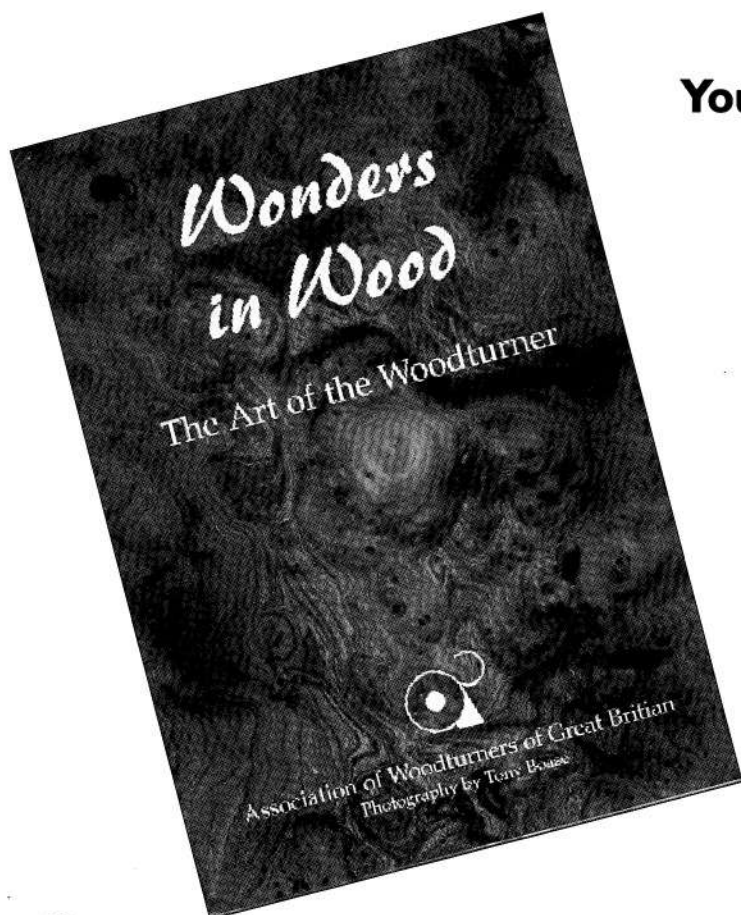
**You can order your book**

- Directly from David Grainger, Laurel Bank, Kirby Thore, Nr Penrith. Cumbria CA10 1XN for £9.95 plus P&P quoting your membership number.
- 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.



# *To belong or not to Belong*

*(A sporty note)*

by David Grainger

It's true, Woodturning is a lonesome activity. It's not like the team sports where each member depends very largely on his teammate in order to reach success. We are amongst that group of enthusiasts who for the sheer joy of it spend lots of time, working at chunks of wood and sometimes amaze ourselves by producing beautiful objects from material that might otherwise have been thrown away or burned.

It's also true that woodturning doesn't altogether have to be a lonesome sport. It is not like football, or rugby or cricket. Perhaps the closest analogy to sport is in connection with Stuart Mortimer's giant bowl. (sorry Stuart) which was worked at times by more than one turner.

There is however a sporty atmosphere amongst some woodturners who are only too pleased to give and take, or more correctly adopt a team spirit, to divulge a few secrets and to learn from others who might "drop a few" (in good taste of course) and this we agree because of our common search for excellence. We might remind ourselves that one of the aims of AWGB is to provide a forum, to encourage communication and an exchange of views amongst woodturners. Our aim therefore, stands aloof from such things as "sharp practice" in business. Although we must employ a level of security. We should remember that not many of us have any truly original ideas, most of what we do are modifications of what we have been shown, and in my own experience when I have thought of a good idea, someone else has been there before.

The desire to stimulate and to encourage is the usefulness of the branches of the association and whilst I

am aware that the number of branches is on the increase, there are quite a number of members who although they would like to, do not belong,

"That's all very well," they would say, "I'd like to, but there isn't a branch in my locality". We are aware that there are still some large areas on the map where there is yet no AWGB branch. We are assured however that the world would become a far better place for woodturners should these blank areas become represented by the AWGB. The sales figures of woodturning lathes, equipment and tools indicates that it can be.

Former contributors to *Revolutions* have shown the benefits of belonging to and taking part in the events organised by the branches, one man declared that he could see that nothing could be gained by not belonging to a branch and his reason for this comment is obviously because of the communication that takes place among woodturners of greater and lesser experience, within the branches. This communication, and the willingness to share experiences, ideas and methods, really can result in expansion, improvement, and the ultimate excellence which we as woodturners desire.

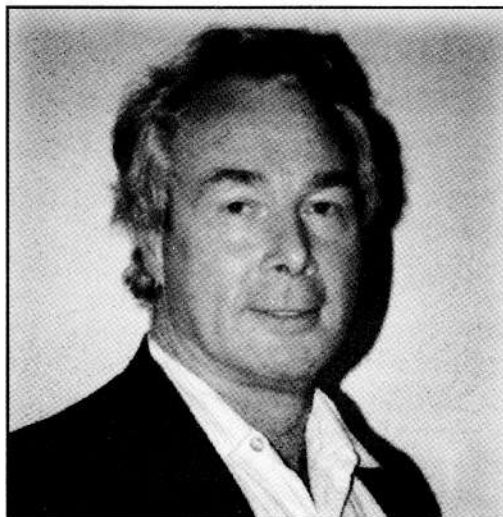
Naturally I am fully aware that there are some individuals who are quite happy to "turn alone" and not to belong, and I respect their views.

It's not too difficult to open a branch in ones own locality using the help and advice given **by the AWGB**, through the branch co-ordinator and with some enthusiasm thrown in. With a bit of preparation and some cheap (or free) advertising, would be members, will appear as if from nowhere. This has been the experience of many who have done this.

The East Surrey branch began in 1994 from a germ lodged in the mind of one individual. After speaking to a few known woodturners five people met together to discuss the possibility of a new branch in that individual's home. Now the information pack clearly states "do not be disappointed if only three or four people show up". So with those words in mind, the members were quite optimistic. A possible meeting place had been located and would be hired should the primary meetings show promise, and twelve people including these five, attended the first East Surrey branch meeting. Today the branch numbers more than eighty people. They hold regular monthly meetings and they have had visits from well known and not so well known turners and demonstrators. They have special hands on weekends, (encouraging for beginners and experienced turners). They take part in several annual public events, they hold their own annual "public exhibition and sale of work". They have Club competitions at certain meetings and they organise visits to events of interest in other localities. Often they are invited to remove unwanted timber from gardens. That surely is a gift from above. This then is an example of how one of the branches was set up. It's not difficult to set up a branch. It just takes a little perseverance when your efforts do not at first succeed. If you think that this is for you do contact the AWGB Branch coordinator for more advice. There's lot's of useful information for those who may not have done it before. There are woodturners almost everywhere who have this need to communicate and act as teams. Just one final thought. It's clear that there is nothing to be gained through not being a member of a branch. Yet it's also true that your fellow members can become your friends. That is indeed a valuable asset.



# Profile on *Reg Hawthorne* Branch Representative



I was born in Limavady, Co. Londonderry in Northern Ireland on the 5th September 1939 which means that I can honestly say that I didn't live through the second world war - I missed the first two days.

I started work as an apprentice in Larne in N. Ireland working for Pye Ltd. training as an electronic engineer. I worked for Marconi in Chelmsford then Mullard in London before joining BBC Television in 1962. I retired from the BBC in December 1994 as Network Operations Manager at the Television Centre in London.

My interest in woodturning started in about 1980 when I attended the Chiltern Craft Show held in Stonor Park over the August bank holiday weekend. I spent a long time watching a turner making yew mushrooms with a long queue of children waiting to buy them, another turner at the same event had an interesting home built lathe making lace bobbins. Both these gentlemen were very helpful in answering my naive questions. About a month later I bought my first lathe, a Coronet no. 1 and a boxed set of carbon steel tools.

I taught myself to turn using various woodturning books available at the time. This is not something I would recommend as the air from the motor kept turning the pages and the wood dust and occasional shaving made the print difficult to read!

A course with a good instructor is what I should have had and would recommend to anyone starting.

Despite this start my turning progressed mainly because I was working shifts at that time and having days off through the week to practice. Attending demonstrations fortnightly at Issac Lords at a time when Gary Rance was first demonstrating helped enormously.

I progressed to a Coronet No.3 with the advantage of a swinging headstock, the No. 1 is still being used to make chair legs by a friend producing beautiful Windsor chairs.

I now live in the Cotswolds and turn almost full time, the No.3 has been replaced by an Apollo Professional and a VB36.

It is only in the last 4 years that I have been a member of a branch - The Heart of England - before that I was an individual member, which was a lonely existence. Branch membership has immediately introduced a large number of friends with many diverse talents and local knowledge. Club nights provide a varied range of demonstrations and a welcome social get together. It is because of this that I was willing to stand as a branch representative. The strength of the AWGB is in the branches, the advantages of being in one needs to be promoted.

## NEWS FLASH.

by Chuck Turner

### Dateline Winter 2025.

For some years sociologists have been researching a phenomena affecting many parts of Middle England. Their investigation? "Is Japanese culture spreading to the West"? It has been observed for many years now, that family life is taking to the floors of our homes.. Families seem more and more to be sitting cross legged on the floor, to eat their meals, and watch TV. Beds have become nothing more than sleeping mats. One of the unfortunate results of this new cult, is furniture factory's are going out of business to an alarming degree. The antique business is finding it very hard to find tables and chairs for those who want to return to former styles of living. At the same time, researchers have noted a great increase in craft markets, of strange torpedo shaped antique objects, reported to be used for switching on lighting.( Not much good these days when computer controlled lights come on when one enters a room). Researchers however are excited at present as a recent divorce case has perhaps given a clue, which is now under investigation. The plaintiff in a recent greatly delayed divorce case, an elderly woman with 12 children told the Judge " He was a keen Woodturner, always short of money as we struggled to bring up our 12 children. One night he read an article in a publication called "Revolutions" entitled " Dont Burn it - Turn it " In the following weeks he sawed the legs off all our chairs and tables to make light pulls - then cut the legs off the beds. Eventually when we were all forced to sit and sleep on the floor he ran off with a Lady Antique furniture dealer and I have never seen him since." Researchers are now pondering, was this.. the strange beginning of this floor dwelling cult?

"With apologies to Ron Allen!"

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

## Pinner Village Hall, 21st March 1999, 2.00pm

1. **Apologies for absence** from Ray Key, George Hunter, Mr & Mrs George White, Betty Dawson, Mike Donovan, John Cranne (Village Turners) and Brian Partridge.

2. **Minutes of the last AGM** held at Burcote Village Hall, Sunday 5th April 1998, previously circulated through *Revolutions* May 1998. Proposed by Peter Garrison that they be accepted as a true record and seconded by Mike Stratton.

### 3. **Honorary Chairman's report**

This year has seen changes in the committee that see two very longstanding officers take their leave. Ray Key stepped down from the Chair and Len Grantham from Treasurer. Both held their positions for long periods of time and the AWGB is, indebted to them. Even though it has already been done publicly, at the last International Seminar and in *Revolutions* I still think it is appropriate to thank them again and state our appreciation.

I am pleased to say that neither Ray nor Len has "escaped" fully. At the unanimous request of the Committee Ray has become President of the AWGB. Ray and Len have agreed to continue as the well tried and tested team that organises the International Seminar and both are currently hard at work making sure that this year's goes successfully. Past Seminars are a testimonial to the success of this team and I would like to personally thank Ray and Len for being prepared to put in the time and effort necessary to produce such a high quality event for 1999.

### **Membership and Branches**

We are growing steadily and surely and now have 1692 members and 29 branches. Whenever we make a decision we have to consider the needs of both branches and individual members of whom have a considerable number.

### **"Wonders in Wood"**

The notable event of 1998 for the

AWGB was the publication of "Wonders in Wood". It was a first for this organisation and a BIG first!

The book has been much acclaimed. Sales to date are steady. As a new venture for us it has been difficult to estimate what the response might be. We offered it to members first and have satisfied the initial rush. We now look to distributing through retail outlets.

If you have not yet bought your copy it is a book well worth buying as a record of current work in the world of woodturning as well as "inspirational".

### **International Seminar**

Planning is well advanced thanks to Ray Key and Len Grantham. It looks to be yet another feast of woodturning to at least match the outstanding events that have preceded it.

The programme is very interesting, exciting and well-balanced. Ray Key spends many hours consulting, considering, planning and negotiating the programme to offer something for everyone whether novice or experienced, whether a regular attender or a first-timer.

### **Subscriptions**

Despite a mandate from the membership to increase 1998/99 subscriptions if required the Committee recommend that the subscription remains the same as for 1998. The subscription has been at its current level for several years. Continuous close scrutiny of expenditure coupled with creative ways of reducing printing and distribution costs for *Revolutions* has meant we have managed to provide more for members at no increase. An example of this is the recent edition of *Revolutions* which has 36 pages.

Again this year the Committee will be seeking the mandate to increase subscriptions for 1999/2000 if required and again will be seeking to avoid making an increase if at all possible.

### **Shows/Exhibitions**

We continue to be represented at major shows such as NEC, Axminster and Wembley. We provide an exhibition of work along with the "AWGB Woodturning Clinic" which continues to be popular with visitors to the shows. The clinic is well received and an attraction to all levels of skill and ability.

Thanks to all those who organise the shows, man the stands and the clinic and to those who provide work to exhibit.

### **Communications**

#### **Revolutions**

We communicate to our members as much as possible through "Revolutions". We try to put everything into *Revolutions*. Each member receives this through the post so we are guaranteed direct access whatever information needs to get to members. It is our most effective means of communicating.

#### **AWGB Website on the Internet**

Our internet site [www.woodturners.co.uk](http://www.woodturners.co.uk) is well established and offers much information to both existing members and the rest of the world! We have reciprocal links with businesses and organisations involved in woodturning. Thanks to Mike Dennis and Peter Helmsley for continuing to develop our site.

#### **E-mail**

The internet plays a growing part in people's lives and this is proving to be the case within the AWGB. Much of the business between committee members now takes place by e-mail. Not only is very cost effective but it allows us to communicate more easily and readily especially the administrative paper work associated with running an organisation. Many (most) of the Committee have an email address so if you want to make contact for any reason please do so.

#### **Revolutions**

Although it has already been mentioned in the previous section I wish to mention it again for another reason. *Revolutions* goes from strength to strength with

unstinting work from Mike Dennis.

The recent edition was 36 pages long. All the work associated with the production of *Revolutions* is done by one person. Sincere and many thanks are due to Mike. The task takes many, many, many hours for each edition. It takes a very dedicated person to take on this work and to those who have ever been involved in such an activity I am sure will know that such a commitment always takes longer than ever expected. So on behalf of the AWGB I would formally like to express gratitude to Mike Dennis.

I am pleased to say that recently Mike has received material, or promises of material for inclusion in *Revolutions*. Please be prepared to make a contribution.

#### **Finances**

As you will see from the balance sheets we are in a healthy position. We are managing our cost and income well. No increase in membership again this year bears witness. We are also trying to give members more into the bargain e.g. 36 page *Revolutions* already mentioned.

#### **The future**

At the beginning of my period of office with the committee we went through the process of resetting the goals for the next few years. We have re-established our targets as:

- a. continue to raise awareness of woodturning
- b. more for individual members
- c. fundraising

#### **Thanks**

For the first part of my time in 1998 as Chair I was out of action for medical reasons. I would like to thank Mike Dennis acting as Chair for that period.

Thanks also to the many people who through this year have helped and contributed to the smooth running of the AWGB.

**4. Honorary Treasurer's report** and subscription recommendation for 2000. The Hon. Treasurer went through the accounts and recommended that the subscription remain at £12.50. He then invited questions from those members

present.

a.) A discussion followed centred around the publication and price of the book. It was agreed that it was a worthwhile exercise and that it would be wrong to reduce the price of it too soon, as it was well worth the price. It was obvious that not many members had supported the Association by purchasing a copy.

b) Branch representatives present felt that they would be able to sell some books at meetings if they could have some on a "sale or return" basis and this was agreed.

c) It was suggested that the poor sales reflected a lack of distribution, as opposed to poor publication. The Chairman confirmed that discussions with other outlets were being held to try and create a more extensive market place for the book.

d) The Treasurer pointed out that we were still in a healthy financial situation.

e) The Treasurer was thanked for his concise and honest remarks and it was proposed that the accounts be accepted by Neil Baldwin and seconded by Nigel Hellon.

#### **5. Election of Officers.**

As only one person per executive post had been proposed, the following members are elected as follows:

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

#### **6. Branch Representatives for the Executive Committee.**

Only two nominations were received as follows:

Dave Grainger & Peter Garrison  
The Chairman welcomed them to the Executive Committee along with Lionel Pringle.

#### **7. Discussion.**

a) The Chairman started by pointing out that at the Branch Representatives meeting in the morning, the following issues had been raised, NVQ's and "awarding body" status and raising funds.

It was agreed that the Executive Committee will look at the possibility and implications of becoming an awarding body and/or an assessment centre under the NVQ banner.

Funding has been looked at before and it will be looked at again specifically in relation to charitable status and consideration given to introducing "friends" of the Association.

b) Paul Balcombe (Mid Marches) suggested that one issue the Branch Reps. could get to grips with was liaison over demonstrations and demonstrators for a geographical area and that the Reps. do not appear to be exactly geographically spread. Mike Dennis pointed out that the geographical areas for the Reps. depends on the nominations received as we rely on members in Branches being willing to stand for the posts.

c) Les Stott (South Cheshire & Staffs) asked why there was a difference in the published prices for the Seminar. Mike Dennis apologised for the error as he had printed the 1997 prices in the last edition of *Revolutions*.

d) Peter Hemsley asked, "Do branches appreciate that they can have input into the running of the Association?" It was agreed that it was a valid point, and that it was not precisely known if they did. A general discussion followed about the role of the Branch Reps. Les Stott pointed out that the Branch Rep. for them had always been available when there was an issue that needed clarification, or when help was being sought.

e) Peter Einig was asked to clarify the changes to the Branch insurance. He replied that as from 1st May 1999 all Branch insurance will include public and product liability to the value of £2,000,000, including cover for teaching, but only for Branch events. All other packages, for instance machinery and tool cover, were available but at a cost to the individual Branch.

f) Don Row proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee for their hard work, this was agreed by all present.

g) There being no further business the Chairman thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 3.20pm.



## THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

TRADING AND PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1998			
Note	1998	1997	
	£	£	£
Advertising		1,165	1,165
Net Seminar Income		0	168
Video Hire		130	170
Web site links		125	0
Sale of Merchandise		2,067	1,957
Sale of Book		2,665	0
Membership Subscriptions		23,266	22,386
Sundry Income (Net Raffle ticket sales)		0	794
	29,769		26,640
<b>COST OF SALES</b>			
Purchase of Merchandise	191	1,890	
	9,602	0	
	9,793	1,890	
Less: Closing Stock	8,627	(1,166)	0
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>		28,603	24,750
Bank Interest Received (Net)	2	794	1,024
	29,397		25,774
<b>LESS OVERHEADS</b>			
Equipment Repairs and Renewals	139	75	
Telephone	583	805	
Photocopying	55	65	
Printing and Stationery	2224	1,418	
Postages	1447	1,543	
Travelling and Subsistence	2528	1,821	
Branch Expenses and Refunds	0	68	
Newsletter	8549	10,476	
Grants to Branches	2520	1,920	
Insurances	3527	2,692	
Exhibition Expenses	1309	2,575	
Internet Costs	153	291	
Bank Charges	22	174	
Meeting Expenses and Sundries	310	223	
Accountancy Fees	160	150	
Charity Donation	1773	0	
Depreciation	1111	1,318	
	26,410		25,614
<b>ACCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>2,987</b>		<b>160</b>
<b>BALANCE TO ACCUMULATED FUND</b>	<b>£2,987</b>		<b>£160</b>

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1998				
	Notes	1998	1997	
		£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets	4	5,305		6,231
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stock		8,627	0	
Debtors	5	1,183	1,608	
Cash at Hand and in Bank	6	11,408	16,804	
		21,218	18,412	
<b>CREDITORS:</b>				
Amounts falling due within One Year	7	(3,795)	(4,902)	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		17,423		13,510
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>£22,728</b>	<b>£19,741</b>	
Represented by:				
<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	8	<b>£22,728</b>		<b>£19,741</b>

# THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

## NOTES TO ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1998

### 1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

#### Basis of accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

#### Tangible Fixed Assets

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life

General Equipment	15% reducing balance
Computer and Accessories	20% reducing balance

#### Membership subscriptions

Membership income is reflected in the accounts on the basis of subscriptions receivable during the year

#### Investment Income

Investment income has been regarded as an integral part of the operating activities

#### Accruals

All known expenditure paid after 31st December 1998 attributable to the accounting year has been incorporated into the financial statements

#### Stock

Stock is valued at the lower cost or net realisable value

### 2 INCOME FROM INVESTMENTS

Bank Interest Received (Net)

1998	1997
£	£
794	1,024

### 3 TAXATION

During the year ended 31st December 1998 all interest was received net of tax and no corporation tax becomes payable.

### 4 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

#### COST

At 1st January 1998	7,697
Additions in Year	185
At 31st December 1998	7,882

#### DEPRECIATION

At 1st January 1998	4,436
Charge for Year	517
At 31st December 1998	4,953

#### NET BOOK VALUE

At 31st December 1998	2,929
At 31st December 1997	3,261

General Equipment £	Computer & Accessories £	TOTAL £
7,697	8,026	15,723
185	0	185
7,882	8,026	15,908
4,436	5,056	9,492
517	594	1,111
4,953	5,650	10,603
2,929	2,376	5,305
3,261	2,970	6,231

### 5 DEBTORS

Amounts due within one year:

Prepayments	1,183	1,608
-------------	-------	-------

### 6 CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

Current Account	8,787	7,188
Education Account	2,621	2,701
Seminar Account	0	6,844
Petty Cash	0	71
	11,408	16,804

### 7 CREDITORS

Amounts falling due within one year:

Trade Creditors	880	0
Membership Subscriptions in Advance	2,915	4,902
	3,795	4,902

### 8 RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENTS IN ACCUMULATED FUNDS

EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE

Opening Accumulated Funds	2,987	160
Closing Accumulated Funds	19,741	19,581
	22,728	19,741

## 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
<b>AVON &amp; BRISTOL</b>		
Secretary: Mrs Julie Heryet, 92 Coombe Dale, Sea Mills, Bristol. BS59 2JE	0117 968 3440	
<b>BURCOT WOODTURNERS</b>		
Secretary: Brian Leake, 36 Oversley Mill Park, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6LL	01789 762650	
<b>CHELMER VALLEY WOODTURNERS</b>		
Secretary: J Stock, Latneys, Witham, Essex. CM8 1EB	01376 520093	
<b>COLCHESTER WOODTURNERS</b>		
Secretary: Wendy Thompson, 28 Barker Close, Lawford Dale, Manningtree, Essex. CO11 2JW	01206 393746	
<b>COOMBE ABBEY WOODTURNERS</b>		
Secretary: Geoff Astin, 24 Rugby Road, Dunchurch, Rugby Warwickshire CV22 6PN	01788 810431	
<b>CUMBRIA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION</b>		
Secretary: Fred Singleton, 1 Piel View, Gleason, Nr Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 0QQ	01229 869550	
<b>EAST HERTFORDSHIRE</b>		
Secretary: Nick Bright, 4 Yews Lane, Sawbridgeworth, Herts	01279 724038	
<b>EAST SURREY WOODTURNERS</b>		
Secretary: Bryn Taylor, 99 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7JH	0181 657 7869	bryngt@aol.com
URL Address: <a href="http://www.surreyweb.org.uk/east_surrey_woodturners/">www.surreyweb.org.uk/east_surrey_woodturners/</a>		
<b>FURNESS WOODTURNING &amp; WOODCRAFTS GROUP</b>		
Secretary: John Taylor, 11 Rusland Drive, Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria. LA15 8UJ	01229 467030	
<b>HEART OF ENGLAND</b>		
Secretary: Reg Reed, 1 Churchfield, Welford on Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8ES	01789 750221	
<b>HERTS &amp; BEDS</b>		
Secretary: Mike Sheaf, 51 Hart Hill Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire. LU2 0BA	01582 736382	
<b>KENT BRANCH</b>		
Secretary: Don Row, 45 West Hill Drive, Dartford, Kent. DA1 3DU	01322 270807	
<b>KINGS LYNN WOODTURNERS</b>		
Secretary: Nigel Hellon, Lacewood, 24 Church Road, Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 4EA	01553 762939 (Home) 01553 691215 (W)	
E-Mail: <a href="mailto:nigel.hellon@bt.com">nigel.hellon@bt.com</a>		
<b>MIDDLESEX WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION</b>		
Secretary: David Harrop, 68 Burgess Road South, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. HP9 1EJ	01494 678201	david@harrop.co.uk
URL Address: <a href="http://www.harrop.co.uk">www.harrop.co.uk</a>		
<b>MID STAFFS WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION</b>		
Secretary: Ted Webster, Rose Cottage, Norbury, Stafford. ST20 0PB	01785 284322	
<b>NORFOLK WOODTURNERS SOCIETY</b>		
Secretary: Bernard Rose, 63 Belmore Road, ThorpeStAndrew, Norwich, Norfolk. NR7 0PR	01603 36990	
<b>NORTH LONDON WOODTURNERS GROUP</b>		
Secretary: Robert Craig, 55 Woodside Park Rd, Finchley, London. N12 8RX	0181446 0679	craigr@argonet.co.uk
<b>SCOTSWOOD</b>		
Secretary: TBA	TBA	
<b>STAFFORDSHIRE &amp; SOUTH CHESHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION</b>		
Secretary: Emma Brennan, 22 Russell Road, Sandford, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 5LR	01782 257398	
<b>SUFFOLK ESSEX CAMBRIDGE BORDERS</b>		
Secretary: Brian Partridge, Homeside, Lady Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk. IP7 6AF	01473 828489	brianpart@aol.com
URL Address: <a href="http://members.aol.com/brianpart/secbhome.html">http://members.aol.com/brianpart/secbhome.html</a>		
<b>SUFFOLK MIDCOASTAL</b>		
Secretary: Geoff Moss, 29 Barton Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 1JQ	01394 383569	andrew.galant@breathe.co.uk
<b>TAYWOOD WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION</b>		
Secretary: William Roger, 17 Garten Street, Broughty Ferry, Dundee. DD5 3HH	01382 776682	dwmurray@abel.co.uk
<b>THAMESIDE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION</b>		
Secretary: Wally Hammond, 44 Casleton Road, Wickford, Essex. SS12 0EL	01268 734881	aham287771.com
<b>THE VILLAGE TURNERS</b>		
Secretary: John P. Cranna, 5 Stoke Hill, Oundle, Peterborough. PE8 4BH	01832 273377	
<b>WAVENEY &amp; DISTRICT WOODTURNERS</b>		
Secretary: Colin Barber, 9 Newson Avenue, Mutford, Beccles, Suffolk. NR34 7UN	01502 476458	
<b>WEST CUMBRIA</b>		
Secretary: Enid Winterbottom, 23 Hycemoore Way, Bootle Station, Cumbria. LA19 5XE	01229 718622	
<b>WEST MIDLANDS</b>		
Secretary: Phil Stevenson, 1 Willoughby Drive, Solihull, West Midlands, B91 3GB	0121 705 9794	phil@stevenson20.freemove.co.uk
URL Address: <a href="http://www.stevenson20.freemove.co.uk/awgb/">www.stevenson20.freemove.co.uk/awgb/</a>		
<b>WEST NORTANTS WOODTURNERS</b>		
Chairman: E. Potter, Copper Beech, Earls Barton Road, Mears Ashby, Northamptonshire. NN6 0DR	01604 810434	
<b>WORCESTERSHIRE WOODTURNERS</b>		
Secretary: Kate Price, 169 Birmingham Road, Kidderminster, Worcestershire. DY10 2SJ	01562 741484	



# News from the Branches



Looking back over the last year or two's issues of *Revolutions*, reports of activity in the Heart of England are notable for their absence and some of you may wonder whether any woodturning gets done in these parts. Actually quite a lot has happened and our excuse for not reporting it is that we have been too busy to write. However our committee felt that we really should get into print and instructed the undersigned to find the time. So here goes with an account of ourselves.

The club was formed eight years ago and is based on Stratford upon Avon. Membership hovers around the 70 mark and is drawn from surrounding towns and villages including Stow on the Wold, Chipping Campden, Banbury, Warwick, Leamington Spa, Coventry and Bicester, and some even more distant places. Most members are amateur but one or two are professional/semi-professional. We meet in a Scout Hut which is pleasantly located on the edge of open country in the village of Tiddington, a few miles from Stratford.

At the end of each year a programme of events is drawn up for the coming year. The programme now falls into a regular pattern; we hold one event each month, nine of these being Friday evening meetings and three all-day Saturday events.

Last year the evening meetings included demonstrations both by club members and by outside demonstrators. Three of the meetings were hands-on with several lathes operating, where less experienced members could try their hand at making objects under the guidance of more experienced members. At

evening meetings there is usually a display of members' recent work. Vitex and sanding sealer bought in bulk are on sale at advantageous prices and there is a library of woodturning videos for members to borrow.

Saturday all-day events always feature one of the outstanding well-known demonstrators; last year's included Mike Cripps, Ray Key and Stuart Mortimer. And there is always a good buffet lunch.

Meetings are never dull occasions - they are usually enlivened by the awkward questions and derogatory comments of one notable wag and a few lesser wags (who shall all remain nameless), and the atmosphere is always friendly and sociable.

A quarterly newsletter is published. It gives details of the programme and items of interest to members.

We held two social events last year. In March we spent an evening at the world-famous Pudding Club at Mickleton where, after a small main course, members enjoyed unlimited helpings of seven classic (heavy) puddings, including the deadly spotted-dick. And in June we enjoyed a summer barbecue in our chairman's delightful garden in Stow.

In the autumn we made up a coach party for a visit to Record Power's factory in Sheffield an interesting insight into the manufacture of lathes and tools and an enjoyable day out.

Some of our members have had winning entries in national woodturning competitions and the work of several is featured in the Association's *Wonders in Wood* book published recently.

All in all 1998 was a good year. A full programme is planned for 1999 including one of our biennial

exhibitions in Stratford where members work is displayed and sold. We intend to report some of this year's activities more promptly.

Reg Reed



January saw the annual general meeting with quite a good turn out considering that we had to have new members on the committee. We got sufficient volunteers to fill all places without my prepared speech to obtain the required numbers. It pleased every one that Emma Brennan, one of our newer and probably youngest member, chose to put herself forward for the job as secretary. The last female incumbent of this post, Barbara Fishburn, proved to be a very successful secretary. She was able to bring all her organisational skills to bear. I wish Emma every success during her term in the job.

February saw the return of Allan Calder, one of our professional turners, to give his usual skilful demonstration of fence top finials. His speed and skill impressed us all.

March saw the return of a one time member of our club, Tracy Owen, well known to visitors to the major shows, as a very skilful turner. I have known Tracy since he started in turning, as he was a pupil of mine. I have seen him mature into a very good turner and demonstrator. He managed to keep the chatterers quiet during his demonstration. Quite some feat. He demonstrated bowl turning including texturing using his texturing tool and colouring on a burr elm bowl using

vinegar and wire wool. In all a very successful evening.

We have a full program for the next 10 months. Including Reg Sherwin, Peter Nelson, Ray Jones, myself, my boss David Hanlon, Craft Supplies, a Show and Tell evening and a new one for us a Turners Question time.

Alan Hewitt.



The new year is well under way, starting with the presentation of club awards for the year ended 1998. Congratulations to Alex Evans for his achievements in winning both the Challenge Cup for the bi-monthly competition running throughout the year, and the Premier Cup. Well done, Alex.

Our first demonstrator this year was our own Graham Hughes, this time giving us a most impressive presentation of tool sharpening and then showing the results on the lathe. If we were all like Graham the sandpaper manufacturers would soon be out of business, at least for anything down to 1200 grit.

Unfortunately Bill Kinsman was unable to be with us for the March meeting, get well soon Bill. In the event, Alex Evans and Gordon Fradley stepped in at very short notice with presentations on reverse chucking.

Our all-day demo with Jimmy Clewes in early March was a great success, we even managed to get his big lathe in without any wrenched backs! We saw a hollow form demo with the Exocet making a superb goblet with the greatest of ease, in Jimmy's hands. The theme of Jimmy's Craft Supplies Road Show this visit was design; and the two bowls he made illustrated some basic

principals of wood turning design involving the use of various curved forms. The event certainly stimulated a lot of thought and discussion; thanks again Jimmy for a super day.

We have even more new members: welcome to Geoff and Joan, Frank, Anthony, Graham and Peter, we hope you enjoy your club nights at Etching Hill.

We are looking forward to our fourth Open Day at Brownhills at the end of March. This is an annual event and is an opportunity to display members work, give demonstrations and to raise funds for charity. We hope to see many of our old friends on the day.

Ted Webster

## Colchester Branch

Visit by Ray Key on 10th April 1999

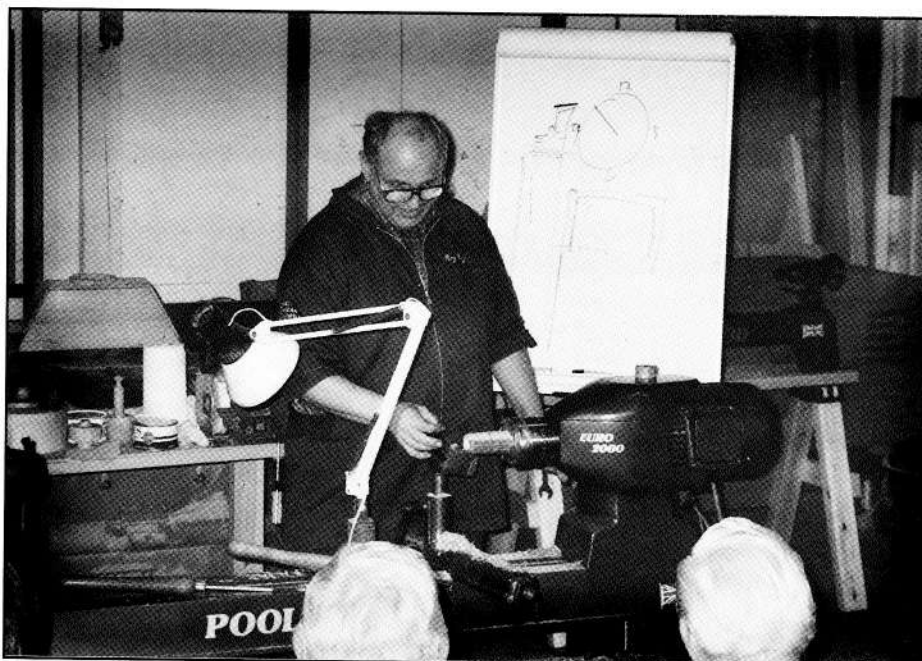
I have had the pleasure of seeing Ray's demonstrations a number of times over the years in which I have been turning but I had no hesitation in requesting one of the places in what would be a well attended day. Not only has he skills born out of hours of turning but the ability to talk about what he is doing at the same time as

doing it! It is similar to rubbing your head with one hand while patting your stomach with the other; something which I regret I was never able to master. His approach to his subject such that there is a wealth of information imparted to his audience particularly on design and technique.

The morning was spent on Ray telling us some amusing stories from his travels and the techniques of other well known turners and demonstrating the use of various of his tools and commenting on how his approach to turning has changed over the years. Most would acknowledge, design is important if the finished object is to be pleasing to the eye and Ray spent some time not only showing what looks good but also what looks less attractive.

The afternoon was spent on boxes showing what can be achieved from relatively small pieces of wood but with a variety of different designs and giving us some tips to help add those little touches to our future work to make it look just that little bit better.

In addition to the demonstration day Ray also conducted a master class on the Sunday for six of our members putting them through their paces on platters and boxes and I expect to see



Ray Key demonstrating to the Colchester Branch

in the future examples of his influence on their pieces brought in on club nights.

In addition to our thanks to those who assisted in making the day run smoothly, our thanks also go to our friends from other local clubs who came to join us for the day and to Terry Davis of Poolewood Machinery for the loan of a splendid Poolewood 2000 for the weekend.

*Ernie Cheal*



## TURNING FOR CHILDREN

The Suffolk Mid-Coastal Woodturners are to hold a fund raising event from Thursday 29 July to Wednesday 4 August 1999.

Members have agreed to donate turned items of work which will be put on display. It is hoped that items will be quite varied from things such as a light pull to prestigious pieces. Our membership has certainly got the required experience to fulfil this cross section of work.

The chosen venue is to be:- Snape Maltings Riverside Centre, Snape Maltings, Nr Saxmundham, Suffolk. It is to be a manned exhibition commencing at 10am until about 7.30pm daily. Free admission. We will be using a room known as the Pond Gallery which is most suitably located



*The Snape Malting Riverside centre*



*Left to right - Alan Jones, Nicole Harris and Alan Griffin*

directly opposite to the main concert hall entrance. The Promenade Concerts commence on the 1 August so we hope to attract customers with a musical taste. The Riverside Centre is open all year. Within the complex there are a number of shops, galleries, restaurants, painting and craft courses, plus self catering accommodation.

We hope to have one or two members woodturning using our very own branch Poolewood Commander lathe recently purchased from Poolewood Machinery, Sittingbourne. (Terry Davis was most helpful)

To anyone, especially AWGB members, we extend a warm welcome for you to visit us, just introduce yourself, turn something if you wish.

To our own branch members - please keep turning and producing and donating. We can and we will make a success of this event. The daily cost at the hospice is £6,000.

Any money, any amount, will be greatly appreciated at the hospice.

*Geoff Moss*

## "Presence of Wood" raises £800 for Charity.

Worcestershire Woodturners raised a record £800 for Leukaemia Research at their annual Christmas exhibition "Presence of Wood" in Droitwich Spa.

Many beautiful items of wood, all turned by members were displayed as part of a six-week exhibition organised jointly by the woodturners and Droitwich Heritage Centre. The staff and counter volunteers supported the venture most enthusiastically and all were delighted to hand over such a healthy cheque to Mrs Nicole Harris, local fund raiser for Leukaemia Research, earlier this week.

This magnificent figure was reached with the help of donations from members; proceeds from a raffle, a "Where did 'I' grow?" competition which was won by Mrs Audrey Pearson who guessed where the tree grew from which the bowl was turned. (It grew close to the Chateau Impney).

The organisers wish to send their thanks to everyone who participated in any way.

*A.W.Griffin*



# Loan a Lathe Scheme

Fourteen-year-old Craig Barnes of Hayes End, Middlesex who is interested in a wide range of practical crafts, has been selected for the loan of an Axminster M900 woodturning lathe for a year.

Craig has been sponsored for this award by the Middlesex Woodturners Association (MWA), who meet at Harlington Community School, Pinkwell Lane, Hayes, on the evening of the second Thursday each month. The MWA has nearly a hundred members whose abilities range from complete beginners to professional turners who have international standing. Three years ago the MWA was successful in sponsoring another teenager, Greg Sinclair of Ickenham, for the same award.

The AWGB has four good quality lathes together with a set of associated tools which is lent each year to a young person. The loan encourages successful candidates to develop their skills without having to find the considerable sum of money needed to buy the equipment. In addition to the

lathe and tools, Craig will receive a year's free membership of the AWGB and the MWA, and MWA members will support by providing advice and

encouragement. David Moore, a very experienced and skilled turner who lives in Hayes, will oversee Craig's training.

Craig's family enjoy a wide range of craft activities, and Craig has been woodcarving for some time. He is involved in woodworking at school, and he was first drawn to turning when he watched a demonstration on the MWA stand at a Middlesex Show. He discovered the existence of the loan lathe scheme when he visited the AWGB stand at the International Woodworking Exhibition at Wembley with his mother and father earlier this year.

David Harrop, the MWA Secretary, said "The loan lathe scheme provides wonderful opportunities for young people to experience the fulfilment of turning wood at an age when they naturally acquire skills and knowledge quickly. The AWGB showed vision and commitment when they set the scheme up. We in the Middlesex Branch will play our part, and Craig will receive good support from the members. Craig is particularly fortunate to have David Moore as his mentor; David is a gifted turner whose work has been selected for national exhibition."

Other recipients for loan lathes include Jenny Oravetz also from Middlesex and James Taylor from Norfolk Branch. Ronnie Head from East Surrey Branch continues with his loan lathe for a further year.



Craig receiving his first lesson from David Moore

## FOR SALE

### VICEROY BOWL TURNING PEDESTAL LATHE

Fully reconditioned 17 1/2" sw inboard

Precision combination chuck with many fittings. Sanding disc and table £895

Mike Cripps Tel/Fax 01895 675

### DeWalt 1150 Planer/Thickener

Floor standing 10" cut Little used £350

### Black & Decker Chainsaw

14" blade Excellent Condition £40

0181 342 1532

### Video's for sale

Boxes, Goblets & Screw Threads by Dennis White

Hollow Turning by John Jordan

Turning Wood by Richard Raff

Cutting & Sharpening by Chris Sutton

Woodturning Workshop by Slad

£5 each

P. Berry 01929 423594

### Wadkin RS6 Lathe

LRE Reconditioned inc 1hp conveyor immaculate cost £3000+ will accept £2000 ono

0151 291 3796

### CARBATEC VARIABLE SPEED MINI LATHE

Complete with Multistar mini chuck and various other extras £300

Frank Clarke 0181 942 5463 (Surrey)

### Lace Bobbin Blanks

Bundles of 9 assorted woods £1.50 per bundle + p&p

James West, 11 Kingsway, Radcliff

Trent Notts NG12 2EB

Tel: 01159 333724



# The Worshipful Company of Turners

## MILLENNIUM TURNING COMPETITION

for

Liverymen, Freemen, Registered Professional Turners, and Members of the Society of Ornamental Turners, the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain, the Northern Federation of Woodturning Groups and the Association of South Western Woodturners.  
28th JUNE 2000

### RULES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

1. The Competition will be held at Apothecaries' Hall, Black Friars Lane, London EC4, directions to which will be issued to all entrants nearer the date.
2. The Competition is for a set piece, namely a high quality traditional Wassail Bowl, which should be ready for use and worthy of display in a Livery Company's Hall.
3. The following prizes are being offered:
  - a. 1st - £1,500 plus a certificate
  - b. 2nd - £1,250 plus a certificate
  - c. 3rd - £1,000 plus a certificateAdditionally, up to seven runners-up will receive cheques for £500 each.
4. All winning entries, including those of the runners-up, will be retained by the Worshipful Company of Turners for presentation to other Livery Companies, with attendant publicity for the successful competitors.
5. All entries must have been made specifically for this Competition, and not previously entered in any other. Apart from metal liners (if incorporated), the Wassail Bowls must also be exclusively the Competitors' own work.
6. Any suitable wood may be used, but both the wood and any applied finish must be non-toxic and, unless fitted with a metal liner, the wood must be able to withstand contact with wine.
7. Competitors intending to use Lignum Vitae (Family GUAIACUM), the traditional wood used for the construction of Wassail Bowls, may receive a grant from the Worshipful Company of Turners to help defray the cost of the wood. Further details of this grant may be obtained by writing to the Clerk of the Company before 30th April 1999.
8. The Wassail Bowl should be of conventional design, with a minimum internal diameter of not less than 165mm: all other dimensions should be in proportion. The Bowl should be topped by a lid incorporating a covered spice cup.
9. Both plain turned and ornamentally turned entries will be accepted, although traditional Wassail Bowls usually incorporated some form of embellishment.
10. Any competitor may enter as many Wassail Bowls as he or she cares to make.
11. Entry forms may be obtained from the Clerk of the Company at the following address:

The Clerk  
The Worshipful Company of Turners  
Apothecaries' Hall  
Black Friars Lane  
London EC4V 6EL

Completed forms must be returned to the Clerk by 1st June 2000.
12. Entrants should make their own arrangements for the delivery by hand of their Wassail Bowl(s) to the Reception Steward in Apothecaries' Hall by 10.30 a.m. on the morning of the Competition. Those Bowls which are not retained by the Company should be collected at 4.30 p.m. that afternoon. If a competitor is unable to comply with this instruction, (s)he should say so on his(her) entry form so that alternative arrangements can be made.
13. The Company will appoint its own judges, whose decision will be final.  
**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES  
WILL THE COMPANY ENTER  
INTO ANY CORRESPONDENCE  
OR DISCUSSION OVER THE  
RESULTS OF THE  
COMPETITION.**

# SO YOU WANT TO BE A WOODTURNER

by "Chuck Turner" Part I.

*This is the first of a series of articles written by 'Chuck Turner' aimed at those members just starting out in woodturning*

This series of articles is intended to try to pass on to those who are contemplating taking up woodturning, some of the things which should be considered.

## BUYING A LATHE

Where can I put it? What room is available, for me to be able to operate it fully!

If long hole boring of Table or Standard Lamps is contemplated, room must be available to the right of the tailstock, to allow the insertion of the boring tool.

Will shavings and dust affect other things close by?

I.E Car in the garage - deep freeze etc. A lot of turners set up in their garages and the car eventually ends up in the open..

Will I need to make a bench to support it - or will it have its own stand?

Quite a few lathes are sold with their own stand, some stands are an additional cost or the lathe can be mounted on a home made bench.

What accessories come with the Lathe? How many more items will I have to buy, to start even the simplest bit of spindle turning?

Most lathes are equipped with a drive centre in the headstock and a dead centre in the tailstock - some have 2 sizes of tool rest, others one short one - you will need a longer tool rest for spindle work and probably a running tail stock Centre.

What diameter of wood can I turn over the bed bars?

This is an important measurement, and is known as the "Swing over the Bed" it is sometimes reduced by the

saddle" or tool rest holder, which will come between the bed bars and the wood being turned - it is an advantage to have a fairly good diameter.

Has it a swivelling headstock? What is the maximum size bowl I can turn?

A swivelling head stock will allow you to turn larger bowls than you could over the bed bars using the same chuck. Otherwise you may have to do outboard turning - using the other end of the headstock spindle, which requires another chuck with a left hand thread. A swivelling headstock is a good facility especially when working inside vases or boxes.

Can it be run off the household ring main? What is the Electric Motor rating?

I.E 1/2hp, 3/4hp, 1hp or above, remember if the lathe is to be run off the household ring mains the motor rating needs to be taken into account - bearing in mind lighting, heating, dust extraction, power requirements.

What is the best length between centres?

Lathes can be purchased with different bed lengths, according to the room available. For table or chair legs - turned in one piece you need at least 30 inches or 750mm.

Has it a hollow headstock spindle?

Hollow headstock spindle will allow a special Jacobs chuck to be held securely in the headstock and allow morse tapers to be knocked out should they be difficult to remove.

Are the head and tailstock Morse tapers the same?

This can be useful in some circumstances.

Has it a hollow tailstock?

This facilitates easy long hole boring, although other methods can be used.

Are spares readily available? With old or out of date lathes spares sometimes have to be specially made can be expensive.

Is it substantially built?

To help damp out vibration, try to avoid box, pressed steel bed bars.

Does it have a NO VOLT/OVERLOAD Switch?

A machine provided with this facility, will not start up after a power failure, without being switched ON - Overload facility will cut the power OFF - if the motor is overloaded - A good safety device.

What speeds are available?

It is best to have at least 5 speeds to suit different sizes and types of Wood. Variable speed is a great advantage as there are no belt changes to be made - this facility could cost more.

What do I intend to make?

Unless you are quite sure that you intend to specialise in one particular thing - i.e Lace bobbins or miniature furniture making - a small Mini Lathe would be sufficient - it would be better to go for a middle of the range sized machine on which you can make nearly anything including small items. Take your time before buying, try to get advice from an experienced Wood Turner (not the one who is selling the lathe) look at and judge all the machines you can - once you have bought, you will have it for a long time or have to sell and start again.



West Cumbria,  
Taywood Woodturners Association,  
Scotswood.

**Reg Hawthorne**



Burcot  
Woodturners,  
Coombe Abbey  
Woodturners,  
Mid Staffs  
Woodturners  
Association,

Heart of England,  
Staffordshire, South Cheshire

Woodturners Association,  
West Midlands,  
West Northants Woodturners,  
Worcestershire Woodturners,

**Tony Witham**



Chelmer Valley  
Woodturners,  
Colchester  
Woodturners,  
Thameside  
Woodturners  
Association,

Norfolk Woodturners Society,

Suffolk Essex & Cambridge Borders,  
Suffolk Mid Coastal,  
Waveney & District Woodturners,  
Kings Lynn Woodturners,  
The Village Woodturners.

Tony is also responsible, as the Branch  
Co-ordinator, for ensuring that  
branches and the other branch reps,  
are kept up to date with developments  
in the AWGB

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