

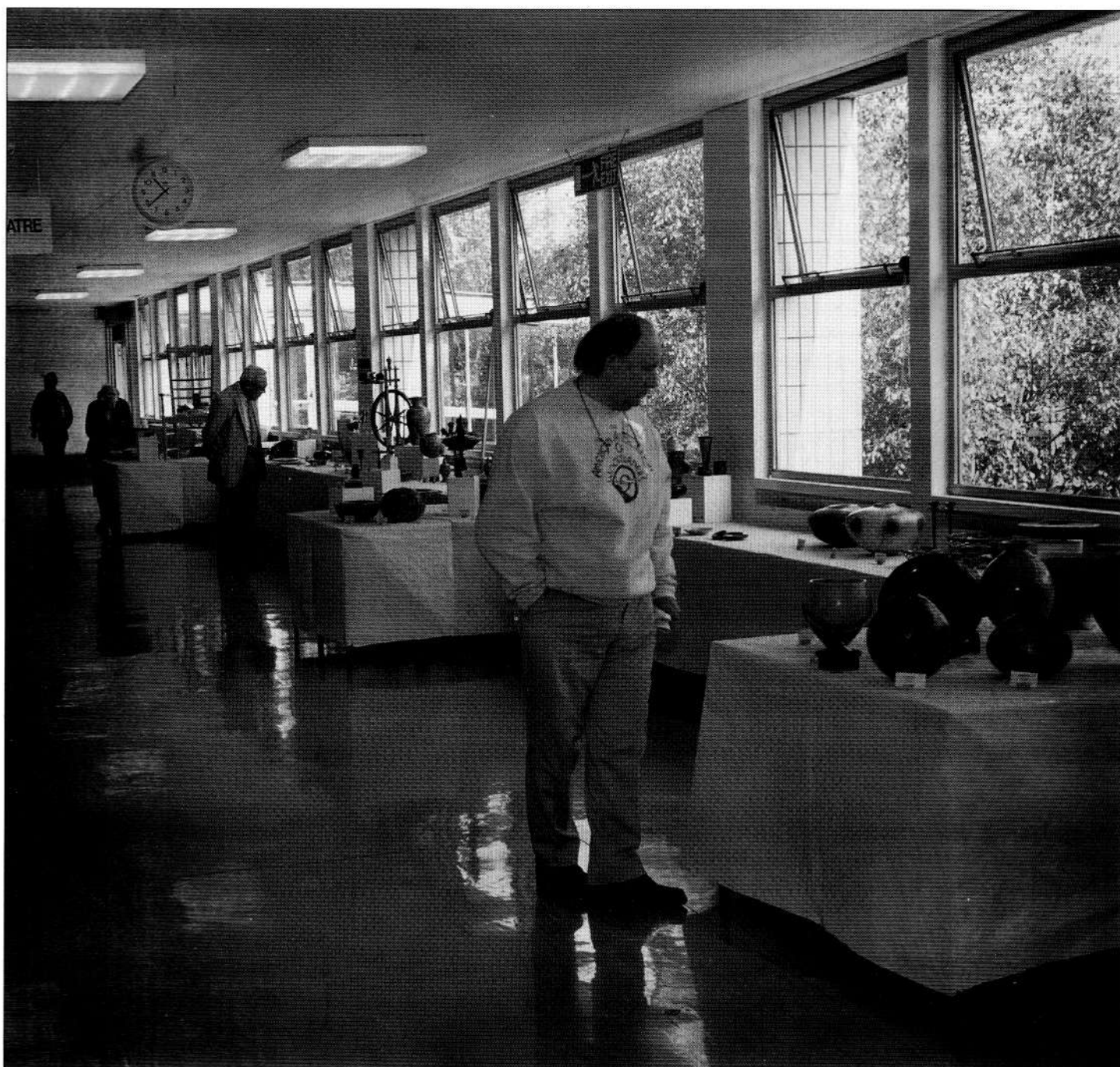
Revolutions

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 50

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September 1999



Photograph by Tony Boase

*The 'Instant Gallery' at the
Seventh International Woodturning Seminar at Warwick University*

Chairmans Page

AWGB Biennial Seminar

Fresh from the AWGB International Woodturning Seminar at Warwick University I write this with all that I have seen still flashing through my mind.

The seminar is always very interesting, informative, enjoyable, enthralling, exciting and very, very stimulating. There is something for everyone and I am sure that people who attend are like me and find lots of things they are itching to try when back home.

There was a very good mix of woodturning talent both from overseas and home grown. The quality of demonstrations was very high and so too was the humour that accompanied them. It was great to see such expertise so close at hand and be able to ask questions. All the demonstrators were very willing to pass on their hard earned experience.

The feedback I received from those who attended was very complimentary and I shall pass it on to those who gave so freely to organise the seminar. We are always interested in what people think of the seminar and we welcome comments. We are always looking to improve. If you have something to say please write to me. Let me know what went well and what you think needs improving.

I will mention a few things that I think are worthy of note.

The best laid plans...

Twenty minutes before the first workshops were to take place contractors, digging a hole in the ground nearby, severed the power cable to two of the six demonstration venues! Panic, panic, panic!!! The University staff came to the rescue with countless extension leads and connected us to a part of the building that still had a power supply. What a maze of cable. Despite this desperate situation we were up and running within half an hour of our official start time and with no ill effects. The two presenters who were affected, Mark Sffiri and Stuart Batty, must be commended for carrying on in true professional style as though nothing had happened.

According to plan

The remainder of the seminar went exactly as planned. On Friday afternoon a workshop followed by an early evening slideshow of the overseas presenters work gave us a taste and prepared us for two very full days to follow. On Saturday in each of the six workshop venues simultaneously demonstrations took place. There were always six demonstrations going on at any one time – quite a challenge to organise your programme to cover all that you wanted to see. In addition there was a slot that offered a variety of six non-lathe sessions on topics closely associated with woodturning. This was repeated on Sunday. By the

time we reached the closing session we had all been fully immersed in a whole variety of aspects of woodturning. I mentioned in the last edition of *Revolutions* about the notebook that I take to seminars to record the many “gems” of information that come out during demonstrations. Needless to say it was much needed again and gets fuller each time. It has now become a very valuable source book to me and makes good reading.

Generosity of spirit

Not only are woodturners generous with advice, experience and tips. They are also very generous when it comes to the auction that is held at the evening meal that all delegates attend on the Saturday night. Work is donated to the auction by a number of people and particularly the demonstrators at the seminar. Pieces completed in the demonstrations are often much sort after. Our resident comedian and auctioneer, Len Grantham, excels himself each year and entertains us royally each seminar with lots of money raised into the bargain. The money raised this year exceeded £2000 and is donated to the AWGB Education Fund. Thanks to Len and to all those who contributed work and even more importantly bid for work. In the coming year the national executive committee is likely to review the way in which the Education fund is to be used so if you have any



suggestions please let us know.

Instant Gallery

Those who attend the seminar are invited to submit up to three pieces of work to the “Instant” Gallery. Throughout the seminar the work is on display in one large exhibition. It is there to be looked at, admired, photographed and wondered at by all. During the seminar three of the demonstrator are asked to select work worthy of inclusion as a record of the exhibition. Tony Boase generously undertakes to photograph the pieces selected and they are then available in slide form to branches and individuals.

The “Instant” Gallery is a delight to see. There is so much to look at. The variety of work is very diverse. The pieces on display stimulate, challenge and often lead to wonderment.

One of the events of the seminar for those who wish is the “critique” session led by the demonstrators who selected the work to be photographed. The “Instant” Gallery is toured

Continued on page 4

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

DATA PROTECTION ACT

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

The following woodturning videos are available for hire to members.

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

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

Please make both cheques payable to AWGB.

Application for hire should be made to: 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 sowing on Smocks etc

£4.00 inc Post & Packing

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

15th October 1999

and comments are made about the work on display. For me this is one of the most interesting activities of the seminar. I learn so much from the comments about the work of others and about my own work. Thanks to the demonstrators who are prepared to "put their heads on the block" and thanks to those who submit work to the display knowing that it will be scrutinised in this way. We can all learn so much from sessions and opportunities like this.

On the yellow ticket the number is

At the end of the seminar the raffle winners are drawn. There are some great prizes, all of which are donated by the many traders who support the Association and some who attend the seminar. Thanks to the traders who attend for the very interesting stands you provide. I rarely (never) escape without buying something whatever resolutions I may have made before the seminar! Thank you also for the raffle prizes that you so generously contributed.

Memorable moments...

For each of us attending the moments that are remembered will be personal and no doubt different. For me there are so many that there are too many to remember. That's where my book of notes helps out. I read through the things that I noted and it is like reliving what I experienced.

Thanks to...

Many people deserve thanks for without them the seminar would not take place. The committee, of which I am fortunate to be Chairman, deserves unreserved and wholehearted thanks for the commitment that is shown both before and during the seminar. Most of all I would like to thank, compliment and praise Ray Key for organising the seminar from start to finish. Ray has led the seminar committee and yet again has produced a good 'un. Many thanks to Ray from all of us.

Chris Lindup



I must start this editorial by apologising for the delay in getting this issue out. Although we had always planned for this one to be after the Seminar I did not think it would take quite so long to put together.

It has been rather hectic with Association matters over the last couple of months. Mark Pryor felt that he could no longer continue as Treasurer due to other workloads and offered his resignation. This was reluctantly agreed to at the last Executive Committee meeting in June. As no one else was prepared to take on the task, I volunteered. Some of the other jobs that I was doing have been devolved to other members of the committee. Lionel Pringle is dealing with requests for our web site and liaising with our web master on the content. Frank Clarke has taken on the marketing and invoicing of adverts in *Revolutions*. Tony Witham has taken on the updating and compilation of the Branch handbook and the Branch Start up pack. Derek Phillips is assisting in editorial matters.

We now have a volunteer to take on the role of Treasurer and this will be ratified at the next committee meeting where it is likely that he will be co-opted until the AGM. The job will be handed over as soon as the Seminar accounts have been finalised.

As Chris Lindup is not standing for re-election at the next AGM I have decided to stand for Chairman. This will mean that I cannot, and should not, hold any other position on the committee. Reluctantly I will have to give up the job as editor of *Revolutions*.

Editorial

We need, as soon as possible, a person who is willing to take on this role. I believe that it is time for a change of editor anyway, and a fresh approach to the job. If you are that person please contact myself and we can have a chat. You will be provided with all of the computer equipment and software to do the job unless you already have it. The main programme used to make up the pages is Pagemaker 6.5 and the photographs are scanned and enhanced, where necessary, with Photoshop 5.0. I am willing to help anyone with the software and generally get them started. There is a Job Description which outlines the duties involved but you must be prepared to give something like 40-50 hours for each edition.

You will have read in the Chairman's notes the seminar went off, more or less, according to plan although the number of delegates was down on what we would have hoped. The delegates I have spoke to all enjoyed the experience and would like to come again. Talks are already taking place for the seminar in 2001.

Just because the seminar is over we cannot relax, because the exhibition season is upon us. The Association will be at the NEC (see page 20). We have been invited to take part in the 'Woodworkers World' exhibition (see page 22). We will also be at the Axminster Exhibition (see page 8). Finally there will be the Wembley exhibition. Attendance at all of these exhibitions require a huge amount of logistical planning by various members of the Executive Committee. We plan to show the 50 pieces selected at the seminar at all of these exhibitions along with work from local branches.

The delay in getting this issue out has left little time for members to send the advance tickets and competition entry forms in for the Exhibition at the NEC. If you are going to use these forms please make sure you send them off straight away.

NVQ in Woodturning

At the branch representatives meeting prior to the AGM in March an enquiry was made as to whether the AWGB could take on the role of an awarding body for NVQ's in woodturning. Initially this met with a fairly warm response and the committee made a promise to delve further into the matter, and as a new lad at the top table it was passed to me to give the matter a good old chewing over.

At the outset I have to say that my natural inclinations make me want to shy away from anything that even faintly resembles bureaucracy and my first impressions of the NVQ setup seem to me to make local government look like an amateur affair.

As I understand the situation, and I'm not sure that I do, the lead body is BFM Training Ltd., (I think this stands for British Furniture Manufacturers), which is responsible for having set up the syllabus. At the present time only a handful of Colleges of Higher & Further Education have registered for the Woodturning NVQ.

Although the thinking behind these NVQ's is admirable, and those people who have spent a considerable amount of time honing the criteria have to be given a lot of credit, I'm afraid that I do not really feel that this is an area that the AWGB really ought to get involved with.

Currently the membership is composed of a vast majority of retired hobbyists who I don't think would be interested at all in going along this road, and those members who are professional are in most cases on the Register of Professional Turners, a body whose reason for existence has much more in common with this area of education, in fact they were instrumental in getting the entire scheme off the ground.

I have no doubt that there will be

members out there who disagree with my views, either way I would be very glad to hear from protagonists as well as antagonists, please **WRITE** to me with your views, the spoken word on this matter is very easily confused and can play havoc with telephone bills, my address is at the front of the magazine.

Lionel Pringle.

It is believed that the first college to run the NVQ course in woodturning was the North Berwickshire and Hinkley College, Nuneaton. The course tutor was Roger Warren-Finding and had 18 students

Another college that has just equipped itself with a woodturning workshop to run courses is Sandwell College which has a new specially adapted woodturning workshop for NVQs and Creative Skills qualifications in woodturning.

The dedicated woodturning workshop has been equipped with new Turnstyler TS500 and TS 1 000 lathes and Crown tooling.

The courses are offered on a full time, part time and evening only basis. Qualifications on offer include NVQ level 2 and 3 in woodturning and 7802 Creative skills in woodturning, all of these courses are City and Guilds accredited.

The Creative Skills course was piloted this year with two students, Les Smith and Raymond Evans who have just successfully completed the qualification

The course tutor is Neil Baldwin

These courses are offered at the College's Smethwick Campus,

Crocketts Lane, Smethwick which is 3 miles north of Birmingham city centre, 5 minutes walk from Smethwick Rolfe Street railway station and is also well serviced by local bus routes.

***For further details contact
Central Enquiries on
Freephone 0800 622006.***

If you are aware of other colleges/Adult Education (I understand some local authorities call them Continuing Education) Centres that are offering NVQ, Creative Skills or any other type of Woodturning Course on a full time, part time or evening basis please let me know. The Association has a lot of information about individuals and companies offering woodturning courses but little from education establishments.

The Editor

FOR SALE

Axminster Carbatec Lathe

Virtually as new

£200 on stand

Purchaser to collect

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with complete range of accessories except mini jaws but including pin jaws
Fitted with 3/4" x 16tpi interchangeable backplate

As new condition

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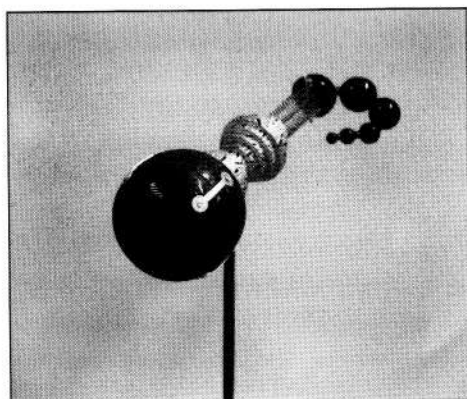
WARWICK SEMINAR 1999

By Emma Brennan

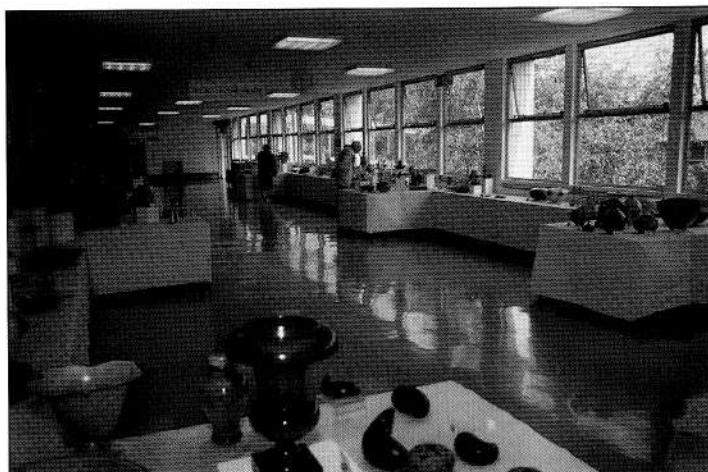
What a brilliant deal! I have just returned from the Warwick Seminar, which I was only able to attend through a sponsorship provided by the A.W.G.B. In return I was asked to write an article giving my opinion of the event. I definitely got the best out of the deal and I would very much like to thank the A.W.G.B for their generosity.

As a student I am somewhat lacking in the financial department but the A.W.G.B has always provided me with knowledge and advice for next to nothing. I joined the Staffordshire and South Cheshire branch a year ago and was welcomed with open arms. Since then I have learnt a great deal about techniques and equipment from the club members as well as the demonstrators.

My love for woodturning began with a lecture on turning jewellery as part of my degree in Jewellery/Metalwork at Wrexham University. I then had a session on the lathe turning an eggcup as my first piece and I was immediately hooked. When I



Emma's Bird Box



The Instant Gallery

Photo by Tony Boase

returned home that weekend I walked into the house and said "Hi Dad, can I have a lathe?" To which he replied "Of course you can but not with my money". It wasn't quite what I wanted to hear but I did manage to get a second hand lathe without spending a great deal. The man who sold it to me gave me a stack of 'Woodturning' magazines and it was from these that I discovered the huge variety of beautiful objects that can be created on the lathe.

Unfortunately with studying and working I do not find I can practice my turning very often, but I have managed to incorporate woodturning into one of my projects at university. I was asked to produce a garden feature and although my course is metal based I was allowed to use wood instead. I decided to produce a bird box, see photo, which turned out to be rather challenging. It is quite unconventional and it aroused a lot of interest at our Show and Tell evening. In my final year I am hoping to produce turned jewellery combining metal and wood. I also organised a presentation of contemporary woodturning to a group of students as part of my course. It went down very well. I feel that many design students disregard woodturning

because it is such a traditional craft yet it has the potential to be a very creative process. Two of the artists whose work I showed were Mike Hosaluk and Mark Sfirri as I find their pieces particularly inspirational. When I learnt that they would be demonstrating at Warwick I was mortified. I knew that I could not possibly afford to attend but how could I miss such an opportunity to see them. It was then that the A.W.G.B came to my aid again by allowing me to attend for a drastically reduced fee.

And so this brings me to the seminar, which turned out to be a truly inspirational experience. It was hosted by a variety of professionals ensuring that everyone present could see work that was of interest to them. I must admit that I was quite dismayed on first receiving the timetable as it was literally jam packed with demonstrations. With no less than 6 demonstrations at a time I felt sure that I was going to miss out on something. Yet the organisers had arranged for most demonstrations to be repeated so that they could be attended at a later time. In fact the arrangement of the timetable meant that nobody had to see a demonstration that they were not

particularly interested in which certainly would have happened had they been presented one after the other. It also gave the whole weekend a constant sense of excitement, as there were always a variety of activities on the go.

In addition to the demonstrations we were enlightened by the American approach to woodturning with an excellent slide show. I found the work of the three American turners highly creative and innovative. They were all extremely open about their techniques and ideas and motivated everyone to be more experimental with their own ideas. It was great to be able to mingle with them at mealtimes and in the evenings and discuss techniques with them.

All of the demonstrators were very approachable and friendly. Our native demonstrators were equally as informative as the Americans and gave advice on the whole process of woodturning right from the harvesting of wood to photographing the finished piece.

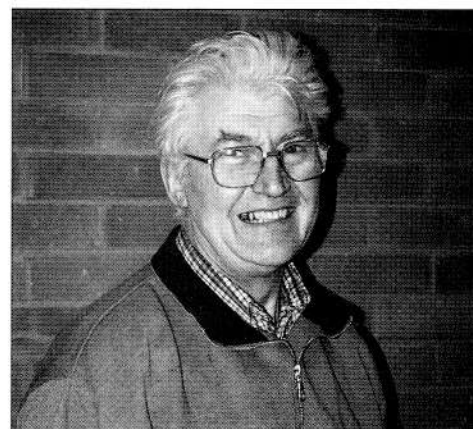
Furthermore we even had access to a profusion of trade stands which made sure that I didn't have enough money to get too drunk in the bar. I was astonished by the generosity of the trade companies as they donated many prizes to the raffle, some of which were very expensive. Congratulations to everybody who won.

I must also give credit to staff and the facilities of the University. They provided excellent visual aids for every demonstration, the lecture theatres were very comfortable, tea and coffee was provided regularly and most importantly the food was absolutely delicious. I had a wonderful weekend. Thanks again A.W.G.B.

If anyone has any more stories or thoughts about the seminar please let me have them. A fuller feature will appear in the next issue of Revolutions

The Editor

Profile on *Dave* *Grainger* **Branch** **Representative**



Fascinated since childhood by the variety, the grain patterns and the colour of the different woods that exist around us Dave was determined to find out more about wood. He enjoyed woodwork at school, Although he admits he was not very good at it. When a lathe was installed at the school, he was impressed by the sorts of things that could be made on it. It was then that he decided that Woodturning was for him. Dave never had the opportunity to have a go on the school lathe. He says that he discovered that the lathe was for the bright boys. Those blue eyed boys who could make perfect dovetails. Dave says because he was always known as 'Grave Danger' that he couldn't be trusted with a gouge or a skew chisel.

However, not to be beaten, Dave converted a tradesmans bicycle into a primitive treadle lathe. He pedalled, and scratched away at bits of wood with bent nails and other bits of metal, and enjoyed woodturning. By today's standards the whole contraption was horribly dangerous. Sadly on Friday evenings the lathe had to be converted back for his Saturday butchers round. After school Dave worked in a joiners shop for about 2 years before being called up for National Service. During the final year he worked as Camp carpenter at a camp in the north, not far from his present home. At the camp Dave came across an ancient treadle lathe and as it didn't seem to belong to anyone, he fitted an electric motor to it and installed it in his workshop on camp. During that time

he was able to produce simple turned items and even made some money.

After Demob, in 1957, he bought a Picador pup for 4 shillings and dabbled with things fitted to electric drills. He also bought a cheap set of three woodturning tools. He began work with the Post office (now B.T.) as a technician and was able to impress some colleagues with some of his work. There are several offices in the City of London which still have a turned candlestick telephone. After Marriage, D.I.Y had to give place to woodturning, that's an accepted hazard. But in 1968 he was asked to produce some woodturning for a church event. The enthusiasm was still there. Dave invested in a new machine and some proper tools and some books and spent some evenings producing shavings and other things as well.

After 36 years with B.T. Dave took the voluntary redundancy package and decided to expand his woodturning interests. He took advantage of B.T.'s carrot (A retraining allowance) which was spent on a natural edge, wet, hollow form course in Somerset. There he was introduced to the AWGB and soon afterwards became a member. Following the seminar in 1993 Dave invested in some serious tools and machine and began some really serious work. In 1998 Dave moved north into Cumbria where he now runs a woodturning school and gets involved in a number of craft activities.

The Ubiquitous Light Pull

by "Chuck Turner"

Much maligned by some "superior" woodturners - object of derision in some quarters - is nevertheless quite a god send to many who share our mutual delight in woodturning.

What on earth would we do, or feel like, after getting a nice chunk, hunk, trunk of some free and precious wood, labouring mightily to prepare it for seasoning.

(hand sawing a trunk down the length to relieve the internal tension - my bandsaw only has a 6 inch depth of cut - my God my arm does ache).

Sealing the ends - finding yet another suitable place to lay it under cover - caring for it carefully for months - nay even years, only to find its so full of cracks that there are only $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ pieces left of any value. If we didn't have the light pull what could we do! Burn it you say! - this is a smokeless zone.

I used to give it to old Mrs Smith, who got fed up with waiting for dark foggy nights to put it on the fire.

Anyway she said, "it soots me chimney up" - well perhaps one should not expect too much gratitude!

She is probably right at that!

So what else to do, with pieces of this size. Ah! I know, make some of those fancy bottle corks - but most people I know drink the whole bottle in one session!

Better still, keep these pieces for making individual knobs - but I have already got 2 sacks of them up in the loft! and the half sack in the workshop is getting a nuisance.

Make some wooden beads? Not really fashionable at present.

The dustman could have them, but what a problem for archaeologists in years to come, to find the remains of a sack of small even shaped pieces of what looks like wood - what on earth could they have been used for, in the twentieth century?

What about those odd ends of beautifully grained tropical woods which we have bought at great expense? -

Can't throw them away, each piece is probably worth 50p - YES I know! I have made a handsome profit on the whole piece - but well.....

There is in my mind the thought, that with the advance of science we will arrive at the position that lights will come on when one enters a bathroom, and stay on all the time that room is occupied by a warm, living, breathing being.

What we urgently need as woodturners, is a genius, who will find a new use for those lovely, but mainly useless bits of wood. Time may be short for makers of lightpulls - but with an average of two pulls per household there is still a considerable market.

I must say, I would greatly miss the challenge of spending an afternoon, trying to make each light pull a different shape to the previous one - an exercise which can be most stimulating to ones mental process.

Don't despair, there is still a window of opportunity before you pay no attention to the detractors - seize your opportunities while you may. Market forces will ensure that the price will eventually fall, so get in quickly before the crash!

Millennium Bug – A Woodturning Crisis.

By Juan Morsetaper

For many months now we have been reading and hearing all the doom and gloom about what will happen to computers at midnight December 31st. What worries me is that nothing has been published by the Woodworking press regarding the effects to Woodturners and our lathes. Not one word have we heard, is this a conspiracy? Take heed, your precious lathe is at risk.

You need to take stock of the things that will affect you. The computer experts warn of problems with system memory, will I be able to remember where I put my parting tool? If as predicted many if not all computers will stop or crash. Will there be major problems with the electricity supply? Will our lathes run backwards? If this happens we will need to change position at the lathe and do our turning at the back of it. Turning

with headstock on your right might eventually be fun, but initially could be very dangerous. One consolation is your tools should be ok without major regrinding. This power reversal could present real problems to the owners of Canadian lathes, as they only run Oneway. Little or no effect will be encountered by those with Woodfast or other Australian made lathes, however the end product will be upside down. What of the effects to other machinery? Will the dust extractor blow instead of suck? Bandsaws could be a serious problem.

The worst scenario could be that we have no electricity at all, the only good thing is that, hooked up to a dynamo, you now find a practical use for that exercise bike the wife bought you, but is she up to pedalling the damned thing eight hours a day? Is a Ray Key fitness

video about to be released, "Firm Buns for Iron Lathes" Will the Dutch prevail with wind powered machinery? Will my live centre suddenly die. Most importantly will my credit card still work, or will the wife finally find out how much I am spending on Woodturning? There are many unanswered questions

Government and computer programmers alike try to reassure us that the bug will be beaten, but if this is true, what effect will this eradication have on other micro organisms? Will we see the end of our beloved spalted beech, or will all our wood suddenly turn to sawdust? The problems could be endless. Act today and contact your lathe supplier to see if your model is Millennium compliant. If all else fails lobby your local MP.

ATME

AXMINSTER TOOL & MACHINERY EXHIBITION

Royal Bath & West Showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset
Thursday 11th to Sunday 14th November

- Demonstrations by top international woodturners
- Over 100 trade stands with sales and demonstrations.
- Furniture & Cabinetmaking competitions
- Celebrity 'Ready, Steady, Turn' Competition
- Wood carving demonstrations
- Suberb selection of tools for the amatuer and the professional
- Free workshops covering a wide range of interests
- Outstanding displays of furniture, turning, dolls' houses, decoys etc.

N.B. Thursday is a Special Preview Day and entry is by Advance Preview ticket only with priority for existing customers (tickets limited to 3,000) Advance Preview Tickets are available from Axminster Sales Office (01297 34836) or from Sovereign Exhibition Management priced @ £5.00 each.

Tickets for the other days will also cost £5, or £4 if you book in advance

The Five Categories in the Woodturning Competitions at the Axminster Tool & Machinery Exhibition are being organised by the *Woodturning* magazine.

- **Turn a Millennium Bowl**

This category is for turned bowls that have been enhanced with colour, texture, pyrography or carving. They should have an ecological theme. This category is one where you can really let your hair down and do something original.

- **Turn a Set of Salt and Pepper Mills**

Turn two of these graceful objects to create a centrepiece for any table, combining form with function.

- **Turn a Natural Edge Burr**

This category is open to any type of turning created from a burr. Hollow forms, sculptural forms, bowls or wall plaques are just some of the pieces that can be turned from burrs.

- **Turn a Box**

Boxes are an excellent test of a turner's skill, needing a good eye for form, skilful control of tools, and a superb finish. You can make any type for the competition.

- **Open Gallery**

This category is the only one open to professional turners as well as amateurs. The others are for those who do not teach, demonstrate regularly, or make a living from turning. Any turned item is acceptable for this class, so let your imagination run wild.

When you've decided which category (or categories) you want to enter, write to *WOODTURNING* at the following address for an entry form: *Woodturning/Axminster competition*, 166 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1XU.

The Ubiquitous Light Pull

by "Chuck Turner"

Much maligned by some "superior" woodturners - object of derision in some quarters - is nevertheless quite a god send to many who share our mutual delight in woodturning.

What on earth would we do, or feel like, after getting a nice chunk, hunk, trunk of some free and precious wood, labouring mightily to prepare it for seasoning.

(hand sawing a trunk down the length to relieve the internal tension - my bandsaw only has a 6 inch depth of cut - my God my arm does ache).

Sealing the ends - finding yet another suitable place to lay it under cover - caring for it carefully for months - nay even years, only to find its so full of cracks that there are only $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ pieces left of any value. If we didn't have the light pull what could we do! Burn it you say! - this is a smokeless zone.

I used to give it to old Mrs Smith, who got fed up with waiting for dark foggy nights to put it on the fire.

Anyway she said, "it soots me chimney up" - well perhaps one should not expect too much gratitude!

She is probably right at that!

So what else to do, with pieces of this size. Ah! I know, make some of those fancy bottle corks - but most people I know drink the whole bottle in one session!

Better still, keep these pieces for making individual knobs - but I have already got 2 sacks of them up in the loft! and the half sack in the workshop is getting a nuisance.

Make some wooden beads? Not really fashionable at present.

The dustman could have them, but what a problem for archaeologists in years to come, to find the remains of a sack of small even shaped pieces of what looks like wood - what on earth could they have been used for, in the twentieth century?

What about those odd ends of beautifully grained tropical woods which we have bought at great expense? -

Can't throw them away, each piece is probably worth 50p - YES I know! I have made a handsome profit on the whole piece - but well.....

There is in my mind the thought, that with the advance of science we will arrive at the position that lights will come on when one enters a bathroom, and stay on all the time that room is occupied by a warm, living, breathing being.

What we urgently need as woodturners, is a genius, who will find a new use for those lovely, but mainly useless bits of wood. Time may be short for makers of lightpulls - but with an average of two pulls per household there is still a considerable market.

I must say, I would greatly miss the challenge of spending an afternoon, trying to make each light pull a different shape to the previous one - an exercise which can be most stimulating to ones mental process.

Don't despair, there is still a window of opportunity before you pay no attention to the detractors - seize your opportunities while you may. Market forces will ensure that the price will eventually fall, so get in quickly before the crash!

Millennium Bug – A Woodturning Crisis.

By Juan Morsetaper

For many months now we have been reading and hearing all the doom and gloom about what will happen to computers at midnight December 31st. What worries me is that nothing has been published by the Woodworking press regarding the effects to Woodturners and our lathes. Not one word have we heard, is this a conspiracy? Take heed, your precious lathe is at risk.

You need to take stock of the things that will affect you. The computer experts warn of problems with system memory, will I be able to remember where I put my parting tool? If as predicted many if not all computers will stop or crash. Will there be major problems with the electricity supply? Will our lathes run backwards? If this happens we will need to change position at the lathe and do our turning at the back of it. Turning

with headstock on your right might eventually be fun, but initially could be very dangerous. One consolation is your tools should be ok without major regrinding. This power reversal could present real problems to the owners of Canadian lathes, as they only run Oneway. Little or no effect will be encountered by those with Woodfast or other Australian made lathes, however the end product will be upside down. What of the effects to other machinery? Will the dust extractor blow instead of suck? Bandsaws could be a serious problem.

The worst scenario could be that we have no electricity at all, the only good thing is that, hooked up to a dynamo, you now find a practical use for that exercise bike the wife bought you, but is she up to pedalling the dammed thing eight hours a day? Is a Ray Key fitness

video about to be released, "Firm Buns for Iron Lathes" Will the Dutch prevail with wind powered machinery? Will my live centre suddenly die. Most importantly will my credit card still work, or will the wife finally find out how much I am spending on Woodturning? There are many unanswered questions

Government and computer programmers alike try to reassure us that the bug will be beaten, but if this is true, what effect will this eradication have on other micro organisms? Will we see the end of our beloved spalted beech, or will all our wood suddenly turn to sawdust? The problems could be endless. Act today and contact your lathe supplier to see if your model is Millennium compliant. If all else fails lobby your local MP.

Tips for Turners

This is a new section and has been inspired by Frank Clarke who has set the ball rolling with a few tips of his own

Ever had trouble removing the chuck from the lathe.

Insert a fibre or plastic washer over the spindle nose of your lathe before fitting the chuck, it will stop that metal to metal effect which locks the two parts together. Washers can be obtained from a range of sources, such as plumbers' merchants or the local DIY store. For larger size lathes you can cut out the required size from an old piece of leather.

Graduate owners can help keep dust from clogging up the thread on the toolrest by cutting the end off a 35mm film canister and slipping it over the thread.

To save grazing your knuckles on any protruding jaws on your chuck, cut a section of old tyre inner tube and place it over the jaws. It will also stop the jaws dropping out if opened too far. A large thick rubber band will do just as well.

A note on safety, it is not a good idea to let the jaws protrude in the first place.

I am the owner and constant user of a Racal DM4 helmet, while the dustmask is an essential piece of kit, I find the power pack heavy and difficult to wear

for long periods. Now, those that know me realise it has been a long time since I had a waist, so I have fitted a heavy duty curtain track down the centre of my workshop ceiling from which I suspend the power pack. This makes movement easier and much more comfortable. Hanging the helmet and power pack from the rail is also a good way of storing them. I have been using this idea for over five years and thankfully have not managed to strangle myself yet. I know, try harder.

The above are just a few odd tips that I use in my daily woodturning and, given time, I could think of more. However, to save me racking my brains, why not share your ideas and handy hints with your fellow woodturners. It is hoped that the tips section can become a regular feature in Revolutions, but we do need your ideas, so send any useful tips to me at the address shown on page three.

How about some ideas from some of our professional members just to start things off. Between you, you guys (and gals of course) must have thousands of handy hints to share with us struggling turners.

Frank Clarke.

Cleaning up old turning and carpentry tools

I often buy old turning tools, calipers and Carpenters chisels at Boot Fairs which are usually rather rusty. The Carpenters tools can be cleaned up, rehandled and ground to special shapes for small/medium woodturning jobs.

But how to remove the rust?

I have great success with the following method.

Take a 5 to 6 inch length of 9mm dowelling - fit it upright in a vice and using a fine blade saw (Mini Hacksaw is

the best) make a 1 1/2" cut down the centre of the dowel.

Hold the unsawn end of the dowel in your Chuck and fit a 2" x 4" piece of (preferably cloth backed) abrasive into the saw cut, with the cloth backing towards you, leaving about 1/2" protruding above the dowel.

Switch on and you have your own home made "Flap Wheel". The Abrasive will fly out wide from the dowel but once you press the tool blade firmly up under the dowel the cleaning process will commence.

The tool blade then needs to be worked to and fro under the abrasive which will remove the rust and begin to polish up the metal.

Working through 120 Grit to about 400 grit will give a polish which is quite surprising.

The inside of gouges can be polished by running the flute along the length of the dowel. Care must be taken to avoid touching the chuck with the tip of the tool but if the tool is angled downwards the excess length of abrasive will bend upwards and allow the polishing of the whole flute.

This method can also be used to clean your turning tools which may have been covered with resin or finishes. (The turning tools in the rack behind my lathe tend to get a bit tacky at times with sanding sealer!).

It is also a very good way to polish up carving tools where a highly polished blade will make such a great difference to the sharpening. If the abrasive touches your fingers when flying round before the tool blade is applied it will not cause any problems as it is unsupported at that stage.

Chuck Turner

Do you want an Ellipse?

Reprinted from the Cumbria newsletter comes this tip from Roger Busfield

Having spent a long time trying to form a nice shaped ellipse from a given length and width, with guess work, trial and error, the trammel method and with helpful advice and geometric

solutions from other members (which worked and did the job), I still had in the back of my mind a simple builders method. Although rough and ready, it works!

So here it is

Take three nails, a piece of string and a pencil

(all items in a builders pocket!).

- A-B length of ellipse
- C-D width of ellipse
- E centre of ellipse
- A-E is half the length of the required ellipse.

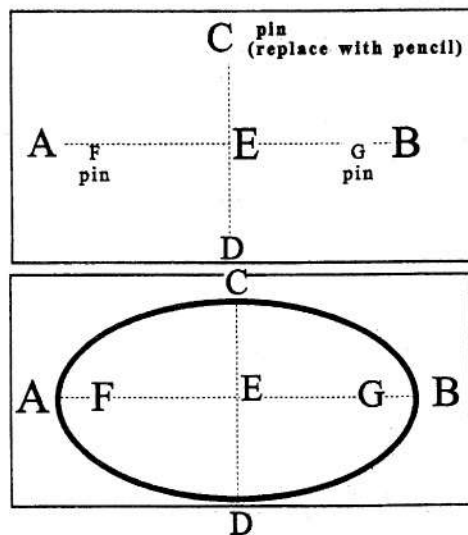
Using this length strike an arc from C to intersect A-E and E-B at points F & G.

At points C, F, & G stick in pins (nails).

Fasten a piece of string at F, take it around C and tie off at G keeping the string just tensioned with no slack.

Now for the interesting bit; remove the pin at C and replace with a pencil.

Keeping the string just tensioned you can now draw an ellipse at your specified dimensions.



When will the Woodturning Bubble burst?

by 'Chuck Turner'

Sit for a while, and contemplate the rise of woodturning in the last two decades, as an occupation or hobby, mainly it seems for the early retired or pensioners, but of course they are the ones who seem to be in the majority, as they have more time to devote to the craft. There was a time not too long ago, when our branch of the AWGB could find about 3 mini lathes for demonstrations at branch meetings. The sort of set up you could put into the boot of a car and take anywhere to entertain, and instruct ones fellow devotees, or set up at craft fairs, to attract the public to the splendid articles being turned out before their eyes. A recent charity event organised by the Kent branch of A.W.G.B brought 15 mini lathes manned by Members to a craft centre in mid county - every nook and cranny it seemed had an enthusiastic turner producing his own speciality. In most cases these were secondary machines purchased for their ease of transport to outside events

It gave great food for thought, when one knew of many other mini lathes owned by branch members which had not put on an appearance on this occasion. What has seized the minds of so many of our population, that makes them want to take up woodturning.

Is it a rebellion against automation? Computer controlled production systems? Is it yearning to go back to the days when personal skills were paramount. Do we feel that human endeavour is being side lined, by computer controlled machines? These days although many don't realise it, nearly every manufacturing process is open to computer control.

Are machines taking over all human

skills in some insidious unnoticed way?

I think they are. Many of us in recent years have seen our personal skills, which have given us employment for all our working lives, whittled away by advances in technology to the point where we may feel somewhat lost in this modern world. It would be interesting to pinpoint just what has sparked off this tremendous revival of this craft of woodturning which was so widespread in past centuries.

Woodturning relies so much on the skill and knowledge of the individual - is that what we like about it? Despite the dust and dirt and working in too cold or too hot workshops, trying to season our own woods with not much success. Whatever the reasons, it is becoming evident that the great revival of woodturning is still roaring onwards - but for how long! When will it all go into a decline? The numbers of suppliers could then dwindle away, leaving us all in difficulty, unable to buy that newly invented tool or finish.

Some strange invention to do what we can already do with the tools to hand! Some finish which has the properties of miracle in a bottle or jar! Seriously though a decline of interest could have some unforeseen effects. As more and more wood turners get into the market it could mean that the public's appetite for turned items could be overwhelmed by the sheer volume of things available. The only answer seems to be in quality - in my view the time is coming, make no doubt about it, when quality must be the guiding principle of us all, if woodturning is going to continue to attract the turners and public interest that it does today. So keep turning out your best quality work - dont be satisfied with second best, cut down on the quantity and hope the bubble will not burst just yet!!

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

These annual competitions were held on the 13th, 14th and 15th July, with the winning competitors receiving prizes of cash, tools and vouchers, to a total value of over £800.00.

Sponsored by The Yorkshire Agricultural Society, John Boddy's Fine Wood and Tool Store, Ashley Isles Tools, Henry Taylor Tools and Robert Sorby Tools.

THE WOODTURNING COMPETITION was judged by Mr Jamey Wallwyn of Buxton, who awarded the following:

GOLD:	Ian Clarkson, Hchden Bridge	Natural Edged Bowl in Cherry.
SILVER:	Desmond Dezelsky, Stratford-on-Avon	Nest of lattice bowls in Walnut and Holly.
BRONZE:	J M Haigh, Huddersfield	Spikes in sphere in Boxwood.
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED:	S Whitehead, Shipley	Native Edge Bowl in Ash.
RESERVE:	Wynford Garnett, Ossett	Natural Edge Bowl in Laburnum.

Jamey commented on the difficult task he had on choosing the prize winners due to the high standard of entries. With only twelve months to next years competitions it may be worth starting TURNING a now, in a Temperate Hardwood or Softwood

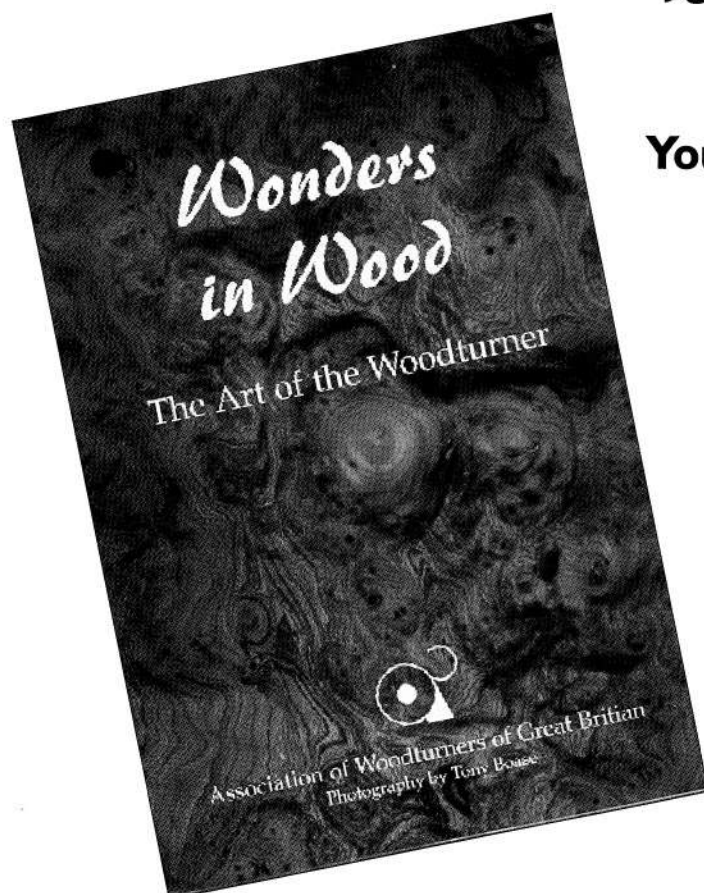
Entry forms will be available from 1st March 2000 from:

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

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

All entry forms must be returned to the Yorkshire Agricultural Society address by mid May 2000.

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



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.

So you want to be a Woodturner

Part 2

by Chuck Turner

What Electric Power is easily available?

This is a difficult matter to give much advice on, as it will depend on each persons own knowledge of matters electrical. However if you have only a little knowledge, it is essential to seek advice from an Electrician. My own supply is via an 18mm armoured 3 core underground cable which is taken off a 13amp ring main point adjacent to the back wall of the house. The ring main is fed from a circuit breaker mains box. Cable is buried 2 feet deep beside the concrete garden path. Great care should be taken to get your supply correctly and safely installed. All the plugs in my workshop are fitted with the correct fuses for the equipment being used. Loading should also be taken into account if coming off a 13 amp socket. However, remember that all of your equipment will not be in operation at the same time. Lathe, Lighting, Dust extraction & possibly a small heater would probably be the most power required at one time, if supply is coming off a 13amp socket. I am not qualified to give full advice on the power supply, but must insist, that when setting up do ensure that you get the best advice possible, and don't stint on the quality of cables or electrical fittings.

Has the Lathe got its own stand ?

Quite a few different types of stand are available, to suit particular lathes, some being a long box like structure which can be filled with sand or building blocks, to give stability and damp out vibration. Others with splayed legs at each end of the lathe bed which may need fixing to the floor. It is not a very good idea, to have the lathe fixed to a wooden floor, unless the floor is solidly underpinned - otherwise there may be unacceptable vibration.

Do I need to adjust the working height of the lathe?

It can cause a lot of back ache, in the long run, if the working height of your lathe is too low. It is generally accepted that to get the right height for yourself, you should stand beside the lathe and place your hand on the shoulder of that side, tuck the elbow into your side and the elbow should be roughly level with the headstock spindle. Stands are sometimes available in different heights. Otherwise mounting on wooden blocks or lengths of square timber can be the answer. It is generally best for lengths of timber to be at 90 degrees to the lathe bed axis and not protruding much beyond the front legs. These timbers can then be fixed to the floor if required.

Can I make my own stand ?

Bearing in mind that vibration needs suppressing when the lathe is in operation, plans for your own made stand need to be well designed. Assuming that your carpentry skills are up to the job, the stand must be built with strengthened joints, and of substantial timbers. It is advisable to improve stability by incorporating some weight into the base, with perhaps paving slabs or building blocks. A stand of this type can give extra storage space and more stability if shelves are built into the plan. Filling in the back and sides with sheet material will give the strength of box construction.

Is the lathe well sited ?

There should be room on the right of the tailstock for boring operations and if the lathe has a swivel headstock or the headstock is fixed and there is a threaded spindle at the back of the head stock allowing "outboard turning" you will need room to stand

to the left of the headstock when turning large items. If the lathe is sited against the side of the workshop and it has a swivelling head stock, make sure that there is room for it to swing round. It is not a good idea to site the lathe against a workshop window to try to get more light. Windows could be broken if anything flies off the lathe, which can happen from time to time.

What type of lighting will be best ?

Generally a good angle poise lamp with a 60 watt bulb or above, sited above the lathe bed, will be sufficiently flexible to provide all the close up lighting requirements. It can be an advantage to have other fixed lights in the roof at either end of the lathe bed but positioning will of course need to be worked out for each situation. Some Turners don't like florescent lighting as it can produce unwelcome tricks on the eyesight when used close up to revolving work. But it can be used for general workshop lighting with good effect.

Where should I site the ON/OFF Switch ?

In the main the ON/OFF switch for most lathes is in a fixed position, which has the advantage that with use, it is quickly found when required. Some lathes have a switch which can be placed in any position suitable to the user and some turners site them so that the off switch (which is usually protruding) can be operated by the knee. Lathes can be modified to operate from a foot pedal switch and electronic variable speed lathes sometimes have a free standing control panel. Depending on the kind of On/Off switch available, suitable site/space would have to be found when installing the lathe.

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 the Branch Co-ordinator for our records

	Telephone	E-mail
AVON & BRISTOL		
Secretary: Mrs Julie Heryet, 92 Coombe Dale, Sea Mills, Bristol. BS59 2JE	0117 968 3440	
BURCOT WOODTURNERS		
Secretary: Brian Leake, 36 Oversley Mill Park, Alcester, Warwickshire B49 6LL	01789 762650	
CHELMER VALLEY WOODTURNERS		
Secretary: J Stock, Latneys, Witham, Essex. CM8 1EB		
Telephone: 01376 520093		
COLCHESTER WOODTURNERS		
Secretary: Wendy Thompson, 28 Barker Close, Lawford Dale, Manningtree, Essex. CO11 2JW	01206 393746	
COOMBE ABBEY WOODTURNERS		
Secretary: Geoff Astin, 24 Rugby Road, Dunchurch, Rugby Warwickshire CV22 6PN	01788 810431	geoffrey.astin@cwcom.net
CUMBRIA WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Secretary: Fred Singleton, 1 Piel View, Gleason, Nr Ulverston, Cumbria. LA12 0QQ	01229 869550	
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE		
Secretary: Don Stuart, 155 Churchgate, Cheshunt, Herts, EN8 9DY	01992 636967	
EAST SURREY WOODTURNERS		
Secretary: Bryn Taylor, 99 Croham Valley Road, South Croydon, Surrey CR2 7JH	0181 657 7869	bryngt@aol.com
URL Address: www.surreyweb.org.uk/east_surrey_woodturners/		
FURNESS WOODTURNING & WOODCRAFTS GROUP		
Secretary: John Taylor, 11 Rusland Drive, Dalton-in-Furness, Cumbria. LA15 8UJ	01229 467030	
HEART OF ENGLAND		
Secretary: Reg Reed, 1 Churchfield, Welford on Avon, Warwickshire CV37 8ES	01789 750221	
HERTS & BEDS		
Secretary: Mike Sheaf, 51 Hart Hill Lane, Luton, Bedfordshire. LU2 0BA	01582 736382	
KENT BRANCH		
Secretary: Don Row, 45 West Hill Drive, Dartford, Kent. DA1 3DU	01322 270807	
KINGS LYNN WOODTURNERS		
Secretary: Nigel Hellon, Lacewood, 24 Church Road, Clenchwarton, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE34 4EA		
01553 762939 (Home) 01553 691215 (Work)		
	E-Mail: nigel.hellon@bt.com	
MIDDLESEX WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Secretary: David Harrop, 68 Burgess Road South, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. HP9 1EJ	01494 678201	david@harrop.co.uk
URL Address: www.harrop.co.uk		
MID STAFFS WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Secretary: Ted Webster, Rose Cottage, Norbury, Stafford. ST20 0PB	01785 284322	
NORFOLK WOODTURNERS SOCIETY		
Secretary: Bernard Rose, 63 Belmore Road, ThorpeStAndrew, Norwich, Norfolk. NR7 0PR.	01603 36990	
NORTH LONDON WOODTURNERS GROUP		
Secretary: Robert Craig, 55 Woodside Park Rd, Finchley, London. N12 8RX	0181446 0679	craig@argonet.co.uk
PLYMOUTH WOODTURNERS		
Secretary: Carol Robb, 3 Tor View, Princetown, Devon, PL20 6RN	01822 890641	carolrobb@princetown49.freemove.co.uk
SCOTSWOOD		
Secretary: Colin Grossart 11 Woodlands Drive, Brightons, Falkirk, FK2 0TF	01324 715454	
STAFFORDSHIRE & SOUTH CHESHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Secretary: Emma Brennan, 22 Russell Road, Sandyford, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 5LR	01782 257398	
SUFFOLK ESSEX CAMBRIDGE BORDERS		
Secretary: Brian Partridge, Homeside, Lady Lane, Hadleigh, Suffolk. IP7 6AF	01473 828489	brianpart@aol.com
URL Address: http://members.aol.com/brianpart/secbhome.html		
SUFFOLK MIDCOASTAL		
Secretary: Geoff Moss, 29 Barton Road, Woodbridge, Suffolk. IP12 1JQ	01394 383569	(via) andrew.galant@breathe.co.uk
TAYWOOD WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Secretary: Will Sang, Torridon Road, Broughty Ferry, Dundee. DD5 3JD	01382 477841	(via Chairman) anakali@bigfoot.com
THAMESIDE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION		
Secretary: Wally Hammond, 44 Casledon Road, Wickford, Essex. SS12 0EL	01268 734881	AHam287771@aol.com
THE VILLAGE TURNERS		
Secretary: Tony Plumstead, 3 School Lane, Bretton, Peterborough. Cambridgeshire PE3 9FS	01733 263202	
WAVENEY & DISTRICT WOODTURNERS		
Secretary: Colin Barber, 9 Newson Avenue, Mutford, Beccles, Suffolk. NR34 7UN	01502 476458	
WEST CUMBRIA		
Secretary: Enid Winterbottom, 23 Hycemoore Way, Bootle Station, Cumbria. LA19 5XE	01229 718622	
WEST MIDLANDS		
Secretary: Phil Stephenson, 1 Willoughby Drive, West Midlands, B91 3GB	0121 705 9794	phil@stevenson20.freemove.co.uk
URL Address: www.stevenson20.freemove.co.uk/awgb/		
WEST NORTHANTS WOODTURNERS		
Chairman: Ernie Potter, Copper Beech, Earls Barton Road, Mears Abbey, Northampton. NN6 0DR	01604 810434	
WORCESTERSHIRE WOODTURNERS		
Secretary: Pam Norris, 'Rowan Trees', Uphampton, Ombersley, Nr Droitwich, Worcestershire, WR9 0JP	01905 620633	

News from the Branches

Two New Branches

FURNESS WOODTURNING & WOODCRAFTS GROUP

Their Secretary is John Taylor,
11 Rusland Drive, Dalton-in-Furness,
Cumbria. LA15 8UJ
Telephone 01229 467030
They meet on the third Thursday each
month at 7.00pm at Furness College
Joiners' Shop.

PLYMOUTH WOODTURNERS

Their Secretary is Carol Robb, 3 Tor
View, Princetown, Devon, PL20 6RN
Telephone 01822 890641 or E-Mail
carolrobb@princetown49.freemove.co.uk
They meet on the last Friday of each
Month at the Methodist Church Hall,
Greenway Avenue, Woodford, Plyton,
Plymouth.



We have a changed our venue.
We still meet on the first Thursday of
each month but it is now at
Dallinghoo Village Hall,
Nr Woodbridge, Suffolk.



The new secretary is Mrs Pam Norris,
'Rowan Trees', Uphampton,
Ombersley, Nr Droitwich,
Worcestershire, WR9 0JP
Telephone 01905 620633

We meet on the first and third
Monday's each month at the
Droitwich High School, Briar Mill,
Droitwich, Worcestershire

WEST NORTHANTS WOODTURNERS

West Northants Woodturners is a
relatively new club which began in
February 1997 with five individuals

getting together to form the club.
These members all donated cash to
purchase machines for club use and set
out to attract new members. The
original meetings were held in Long
Buckby Rugby Club and a great deal of
enthusiasm was put into attracting
members with the result that in only a
matter of a few months the
membership had increased to a point
where larger premises had to be
found. A move was instigated to Long
Buckby Village Hall, which soon
became too small and a further larger
venue was needed. We now meet in
the Village Hall at Watford in
Northampton.

The club meets on the first Monday
and the third Wednesday of each
month at 7.30pm. In April 1998 we
held the first AGM at which a formal
committee was elected to handle the
events and the growth of the club.
Throughout the year membership has
continued to grow and in spite of a
few resignations our membership now
stands at 65 with attendance at
evening meetings regularly in excess of
45.

This newly formed committee have
worked extremely hard to stabilise the
growth and to put the club on a
financially sound footing and we now
have a small bank account after
repaying all of the original founder
members donations. Further progress
has been made and a Tyme Cub lathe
was purchased following the sale of
one of the original Record DML 24's
that had originally been purchased. We
now own two Record DML's and the
Tyme Cub plus two sets of basic
turning tools, a grinder and a number
of accessories for the machines

With the formation of the new
committee in April 1998 our
Programme Secretary was given the
task together with two willing helpers
of formulating a programme for the
coming year. This was quite onerous
with meetings being held twice a

month? However the programme has
worked extremely well and full credit
must go to the Programme Secretary
and his helpers. Towards the end of
the club year the programme
secretary undertook to send out to all
members a questionnaire with some
21 questions requiring answers and
'marks out of 10' (this was considered
a very brave action). There was an
87% return of these forms and the
analysis showed very encouraging
comments from the respondents, with
only a few criticism.

A Library Officer was also elected at
the first AGM and through his good
management we now have a
considerable range of books and
videos which can be rented out by
members for a small charge that helps
to increase the stock.

In the past year we have had all day
demonstrations from Gary Rance, who
has agreed to become our Honorary
President. Bill Jones 'from the turning
shop' and Jimmy Clewes with the
Road Show. The final day long
demonstration for the current year
was on March 6th and we had Reg
Sherwin attending. These day events
have all been well attended and we are
lucky to have one of the committee
men in a position to provide the
refreshments (they are really banquets
and far better than my normal
Saturday beans on toast). In addition
to the demonstrations we had a visit
to Ashley Isles works to be shown
how they make their tools, and also to
Record in Sheffield for a day around
their factory. All of these events have
been well attended and the numbers
at each event is increasing.

As a Christmas special we held a fun
evening where we were all given a 2" x
2" x 6" long piece of beech and only on
the night were we told that we had 7
minutes to make a Christmas tree!!

Some 30 members took part with two
prizes being awarded for the best

effort. What a superb evening, with the result that the 'clever' winners were tasked to give a demonstration at a future evening of an article that they particularly like to make. Another superb evening, particularly when you consider that neither of the 'demonstrators' have ever stood before a crowd! Both the lads did a very professional job full of humour and entertained us all extremely well. One of the lads even managed to do his demo with his wrist in plaster! We shall have more of these events in the future.

Two of the original members started a club shop at the end of 1997 to provide a range of products at reasonable costs for the benefit of the members. The range of goods is ever increasing with plans to extend the range even further. Through good management by these two members the turnover increases steadily and 'purchasing power' grows.

Our AGM for 1999 was held on April 21st and one of the first items on the Agenda was to ask the members to adopt a Constitution which has been drawn up over the past year by the new committee. This was in fact adopted and no doubt over the coming years there will be a need to make adjustments. We also were able, with the benefit of a years experience, to re-assess the requirements of the committee membership and we have consolidated the numbers to six 'Officers' and two general committee members.

All in all 1998/99 has been a very eventful year and despite losing the Secretary at the end of 1998 the remainder of the committee have pulled hard together and have put this club onto a firm footing for the future. This could not have been achieved without the support of the membership, and the committee are very grateful for the patience and support of the membership during these early stages in club development

Ernie Potter



Our winter programme was completed in March with the Brownhills Show. The exhibition of members work was of the usual high standard. Demonstrations by club members again proved very successful, attracting much interest and discussion from the visiting public. The charity stall was well stocked by the members and as usual was generously supported by the visitors.

Reg Slack provided the demo in April reminding us how important the basics are in woodturning.

Ian Wilkie fascinated us with his miniature work which ranges from the one twelfth scale for architectural and doll's house work down to the one forty eighth scale, for among other things, naval modelling. This latter included pieces for a miniature chess set on that scale for the captain's cabin!

A visit to Record Power at Sheffield was a most interesting event. Record do all the manufacturing operations for their wide product range on site, and we spent an informative day following the manufacture of cast products from the smelting of iron in the cupola, casting in the foundry and machining, to final assembly. The edged tools mainly involve traditional metal bashing and we witnessed the fearsome drop forging that is done to make chisels, secateurs and so on, then the heat treatment to harden the metal and final grinding to provide the cutting edges. There is still a great deal of handwork involved in the tool trade. Many thanks to Record for a good day out.

The month of June saw Peter Murphy demonstrating the finishing techniques using the main types of surface coatings that are commonly used by woodturners.

We sadly have to report the death of one of our members; Ray Lawrence, of Lichfield. Ray was a very active member of the Club, and his enthusiasm and club work over the years is greatly appreciated by the members and he will be sadly missed by his many friends.



On the 1st, 2nd, & 3rd, of October 1999, the Heart of England Woodturners are presenting a Gallery Exhibition and Woodturning Show with continuous demonstrations at Coxs Yard, Bridge Foot, Stratford upon Avon, Warks. The event is open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. each day and admission is free. For further information please contact Desmond Dezelsky on 01789 292557.

Coxs Yard has been, for many years, large timber business and is now a visitor centre with exhibition rooms, restaurant, tea rooms, pub and gift shop. It is the intention of the present owners that the theme of wood will continue and this is echoed in the furnishings and decor.

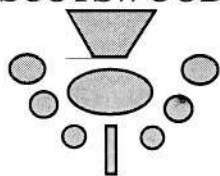
The Heart of England Woodturners are based in Strafford upon Avon and has a membership of 60 plus. Meetings are held at the Scout Hut in Tiddington, Stratford upon Avon and full calendar of events with all day demonstrations are organised throughout the year.

Turning for Children.

Suffolk Mid Coastal Woodturners are pleased to announce that the event was a huge success. A great number of people attended and obviously purchased woodturnings.

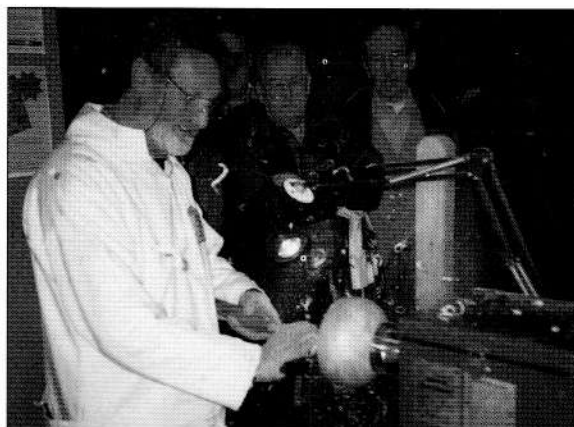
The grand total of £10,020.00 was raised. A fuller report with photographs will appear in Issue No.51.

SCOTSWOOD



In March, Scotswood ran a stand at the Scottish National Woodworking Show, to promote Woodturning, the AWGB and, of course, ourselves. This was a great success and judging by the amount of interest, there are a lot of potential woodturners out there. Demonstrations are always crowd pullers and we were always popular. Thanks must go to our Glasgow group who set up and ran the stand. Charlie Anderson for the organisation, Jim Pearson for the use of his lathe and to Jim Boulton, Wilson Howie and Neil Lyndsay for their support. The high quality of everyone's demonstration skills helped to make the stand a great success.

For the belated spring meeting at Inver, some 35 members welcomed Stuart Batty as the guest demonstrator. Stuart, as usual, gave a great performance. He has an excellent way of explaining what he is doing (and why!). The highlight was definitely how he did his square edge bowls.



Jim Pearson - Making shavings

Scotswood covers the whole of Scotland and with the widespread geographic locations, it's very difficult to get together more than twice a year. To help to get turners together we have formed local groups. These have different levels of activity, the level primarily being dependent of the availability of accommodation (who has a workshop that can take more than three people!) One group that has managed to be more active is the Fife Woodturners. They have just had a successful exhibition at the Fife Fringe Arts Festival in Kirkcaldy.

Our next meeting will be the Autumn one. This will be at Jean Burhouse, Inver on the 16th October and will feature Reg Sherwin.

Colin Grossart



Jim Boulton - Seeing how small he could make it



When Roger Warren-Finding, of Coombe Abbey Woodturners, first suggested the idea of a get together for woodturners, it was to be called a 'fun day'. This, however, considered to be giving the wrong impression of what the day was all about. So a 'woodturners rally' it became, with a number of other clubs invited to take part. It was agreed that anyone who wished could bring their caravan and stay the night, about a dozen people said that they would do this.

A sub-committee was formed and the planning began. The use of a field at Coombe Abbey was arranged, car parking, litter collection, toilets and refreshments became the responsibility of club members and lots of meetings held. (I personally, began to think that this is getting too ambitious for a first venture) Marquees for demonstrators and displays were needed, this is where the Scouts came into the picture, the T.A. also promised to provide some tents.

Friday 2nd July arrived bright and sunny (alas by about 8 o'clock in the evening it began to rain with a thunderstorm during the night) The site was marked out and the marquees were erected. Where were all the caravans of the people who said that they would be attending?

The T.A. promised to be at Coombe with their tents at 8.30am on Saturday morning, the Sergeant Major must have overslept, they arrived shortly after 10 o'clock, and quickly erected the tents. Sadly, because of absentee clubs, some of them stood empty all day.

Despite all the problems it was a great day. There were some folks from Staffs. and the West Northants had a display of turned pieces, as did the Coombe Abbey members. There were two trade stands selling tools, wood and various other accessories.

A number of turning demonstrations were held in the awnings of caravans. An opportunity was given for anyone who wanted, to have a try on a pole lathe. Roger Warren-Finding gave a special demonstration, using a garden spade, not to be recommended for everyone. A turning competition using some very tatty wood proved to be popular. There were also other small competitions.

The day finished with a barbecue for those of us who were still around at 8 o'clock.

Plans are already being made to repeat the rally next year, but it will be for two days. I have no doubt that it will be a great success. Be there or you'll miss out.

Irene Stretton



Visit from Ray Jones - June 10th 1999.

Being a relatively new member of our club I had never had the chance to see Ray Jones demonstrate even though he has visited us a number of times. However, I was anticipating his visit as I am aware of his reputation in the woodturning field. I can definitely say that I was not disappointed.

A few minutes after my arrival I could tell that Ray was a man who liked to have a laugh! He commenced his demonstration with a joke, ended with a joke and amused us with his tales and anecdotes throughout.

But what of his teaching skills? Well, they were very effective. Ray took us through the process of making a small

table/stand. He took the time to break down the whole process including explaining marking out techniques, the ideal tool to use, correct tool rest position, correct stance, and movements of the hand. All these are little details that come naturally to experienced turners but can make the world of difference to amateurs like myself. What was particularly helpful was his description of the cuts, which he also broke down into stages so that we could comprehend exactly what he was doing. Ray was full of tips and advice - I was certainly glad that I had my notepad and pen at the ready.

Ray was also keen to emphasise the importance of visually pleasing designs and gave a constructive analysis of the designs of our competition pieces. Judging from his own work he clearly knows what he is talking about.

Although he did choke the front half of the audience whilst sanding his work, scold some late comers, and complain about our lathe, we would welcome him back anytime. I think the committee would agree that his fee was money well spent. He gave us a very entertaining evening and for some reason I'm sure Ray enjoyed the evening as much as we did!

Colchester Branch

of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Demonstration Day

Saturday 27th November 1999

Present

Ray Jones

at

Colchester Woodturning Centre

New Quay, Haven Road, The Hythe, Colchester, Essex, C02 8HT

Tickets available from Tony Witham 39 Horsey Road, Kirby-le-soken, Frinton-on-sea, Essex, C013 0DZ Telephone 01255 671697

Demonstration starts at 09.30am and will end approximately 4.30pm

Drinks only available so bring your own lunch or visit local pub.

Cost per ticket £7 Members £8.50 Non-Members

Please make cheques payable to Colchester Branch. Please enclose S.A.E.



**CUMBRIA
WOODTURNERS
ASSOCIATION**

Revolutions 8

All records were broken again at this our eighth successive annual show.

The outstanding event which pales all others into insignificance was the success of our charity table which generated in excess of £850. This year "Cancer Care" will benefit from this marvellous result. Thanks go to all who so generously donated to this cause and to the public who were willing to pay cash for our work. Such a response could not have been envisaged when the idea was first originated.

This year we were able to present an attractive display which brought favourable comments from our many visitors. In excess of 70 pieces were shown on the exhibition tables and each one clearly labelled, thanks to Greg Mott's cards. As usual there was a good variation of turned pieces on show ranging from a giant multi-centre turned 'wall hanging' by John Grimshaw to delicate lace-bobbins by Brian Thomson. The various competitions that we held during the year were well represented with

Emma Brennan

examples of the candlesticks, Christmas decorations, crackers and Easter eggs on show. John White's 'egg' raised considerable interest when it's make up and design was explained to the many enquiring visitors. Ron Green's collection of pears illustrating 30 of the various timbers available to turners promoted much interest and it was difficult to keep the collection intact as many visitors wanted to buy individual pears! Various pieces were shown with decorative texturing such as the giant sculptured and ebonised bowls by Malcolm Waddington and the massive burrs by Bob Brennan. Walking sticks of a contrasting nature were shown by Bill Ross and Eddie King - all showing the extreme variety of articles that are produced by our members. Top of the class must surely be the one and only entry by our lady members - a most beautifully finished bowl by Jennie Foster. The finish and *smooth bottom* achieved on this piece was admired by quite a few lady turners from many parts of the globe - you're not alone! Arthur Houghton again showed his Chinese Balls, his chess set and some new decorative turning which never fails to impress on the fine limits that he works to. A few other exceptional pieces from last year were also included such as Bill Pakeman's vase and Fred Singleton's Spinning Wheel. There were so many exceptional pieces that to list them all here is not possible. Interest was generated with our demonstrations, two or three lathes were in use at most times. Donald Brookes did a fine line in decorated badges and tops!

Following our appeal for tops, 500 were produced in advance by you to give to children *in addition to those made during the week*. At least it did allow time to demonstrate other simple turning, at a cup of tea each day as their reward, Roger and Arthur thought they were underpaid!! Next year we shall have to find a method of assessing the number of nationalities looking at our exhibits. We had extremely complementary comments from visitors from all over the world. The response seems to grow each year.

COMING SOON

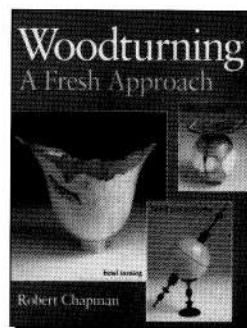
Woodturning: A Fresh Approach

By Robert Chapman

is a book that no serious woodturner will want to be without. It concentrates on the quality of turning designs, while retaining the element of sheer joy that is the heart of the craft.

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- ♦ Over one hundred and fifty examples of the authors designs.
- ♦ In-depth studies into hollow turning, box making and bowl turning techniques, combining *new ideas with fresh applications*.

"A truly inspiring insight into contemporary woodturning design"



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The Thoughts of "CHUCK TURNER"

A funny thing happened to me on, the way to the dustbin !!

Recently clearing out our shoe cleaning box, I came across several old "KIWI" Instant shoe shine sponges. Just about to dump them in the dustbin the thought occurred, maybe they would be of use in the workshop. So they were retrieved.

But for what use?

Well the thought finally evolved - if these pads polish wax on one's shoes, they should polish wax on turned work.

Getting out a number of bowls, and

other so called masterpieces, which are still languishing in store, I gave them a very quick rub over with these pads. The result was quite remarkable, a very quick and bright shine. The articles themselves also became so smooth and slippery that care had to be taken in handling them! Even the dullest surfaces were greatly improved.

Up to now there has been no dulling off and the results have been most pleasing. But some how in the back of

my mind is a little memory of being told "Dont use Silicone based polishes they are photo synthetic". Which I understand to mean - that if an orange is placed in a bowl, in the sun shine, it will produce a dark patch in a short time on the bottom of the bowl. But is this really true?

Experiments will continue, in the mean time perhaps other members may like to comment, or advise the results of their own experiences with this "Quick Bowl Shine" phenomena!

NEC COMPETITION

Take your turn

Sponsored by
Craft Supplies
Hegner UK
Draper Tools

Once again here is an opportunity for you to take your turn and show just what you can do on the lathe, and by entering this competition, with some great prizes, you can participate in a fine display of woodturning at the International Woodworking and Turning Exhibition at the NEC.

MEDALS

This year in addition to the prizes from the sponsors, Nexus are introducing Medal awards for quality craftsmanship. There will be Gold, Silver and Bronze awards for work which is deemed to be of an appropriate high standard. So make it your best work yet and you could be rewarded with a Gold Medal to keep as a lasting tribute to your woodturning skills and creativity. There will also be a trophy provided by The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain for the Visitors' Choice of Best of Show. The winner will be determined on the basis of the largest numbers of votes cast for a particular piece of work.

REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT AN ENTRY FORM

To be sent to:

TAKE YOUR TURN Woodturning Competition,
Woodworking Titles, Nexus House Azalea Drive, Swanley, Kent BR8 8HY

Name _____
Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel. No. _____

Category entered _____

(Please attach a separate sheet of paper giving separate details if more than one item and more than one category is entered)

Description of piece _____

Wood(s) used _____

If a member of a club, please state which: _____

Date _____ Signature _____

Estimated value for insurance _____

This form should be completed and sent to the address shown above to arrive not later than 30th September 1999

THE PRIZES

Best overall turned item from both categories:

Hegner HDB 200E lathe worth over £1000!

Category A

Predominantly faceplate turning

1st prize items from Craft Supplies to the value of £350

2nd prize items from Craft Supplies to the value of £225

3rd prize items from Craft Supplies to the value of £125

5 runner-up prizes items from Craft Supplies to the value of £70

Category B

Predominantly between centres turning

1st prize items from Draper to the value of £350

2nd prize items from Draper to the value of £225

3rd prize items from Draper Supplies to the value of £125

5 runner-up prizes items from Craft Supplies to the value of £70

What you can enter

There are two categories of entry: Category A is for work exclusively or predominantly turned as 'faceplate' work (i.e. single fixing and remounting from the headstock) and Category B which is exclusively or predominantly between centres or spindle turned work. You can enter any piece of work which has been predominantly created on the lathe and which clearly demonstrates the use of hand woodturning skills. Any item of your own work will be accepted so long as it has not been featured in a competition at another national woodworking show. You may enter one or more items into either of the categories, but no entrant may win more than one prize in each category of the competition.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

All accepted entries will be examined by the judging panel and assessment will be on the basis of the following qualities:

- Craftsmanship: skill in using tools and the quality of finish.
- Design: whether the item performs its function well and is visually pleasing.
- Originality: is the design of the item original or copied from an existing design.
- Good use of materials and general appeal.

RULES

1. The competition is open to readers resident in Great Britain, Channel Islands, Eire and the Isle of Man.
2. All items entered for the competition must be the entrant's own work.
3. Entries must be in the form of an object or set of objects, practical functional or decorative, and should principally be made on a woodturning lathe.
4. The judges' decision is final.
5. In the event of there being insufficient entries of sufficiently high standard, we reserve the right not to award all the prizes.

ENTRY COUPON

'TAKE YOUR TURN' WOODTURNING
COMPETITION

CATEGORY 'A' FACEPLATE

tick

A

CATEGORY 'B' BETWEEN CENTRES

B

Please tick which category you wish to enter. When entering more than one item please indicate on a separate sheet of paper which item is entered into which category

Name _____
Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel. No. _____