



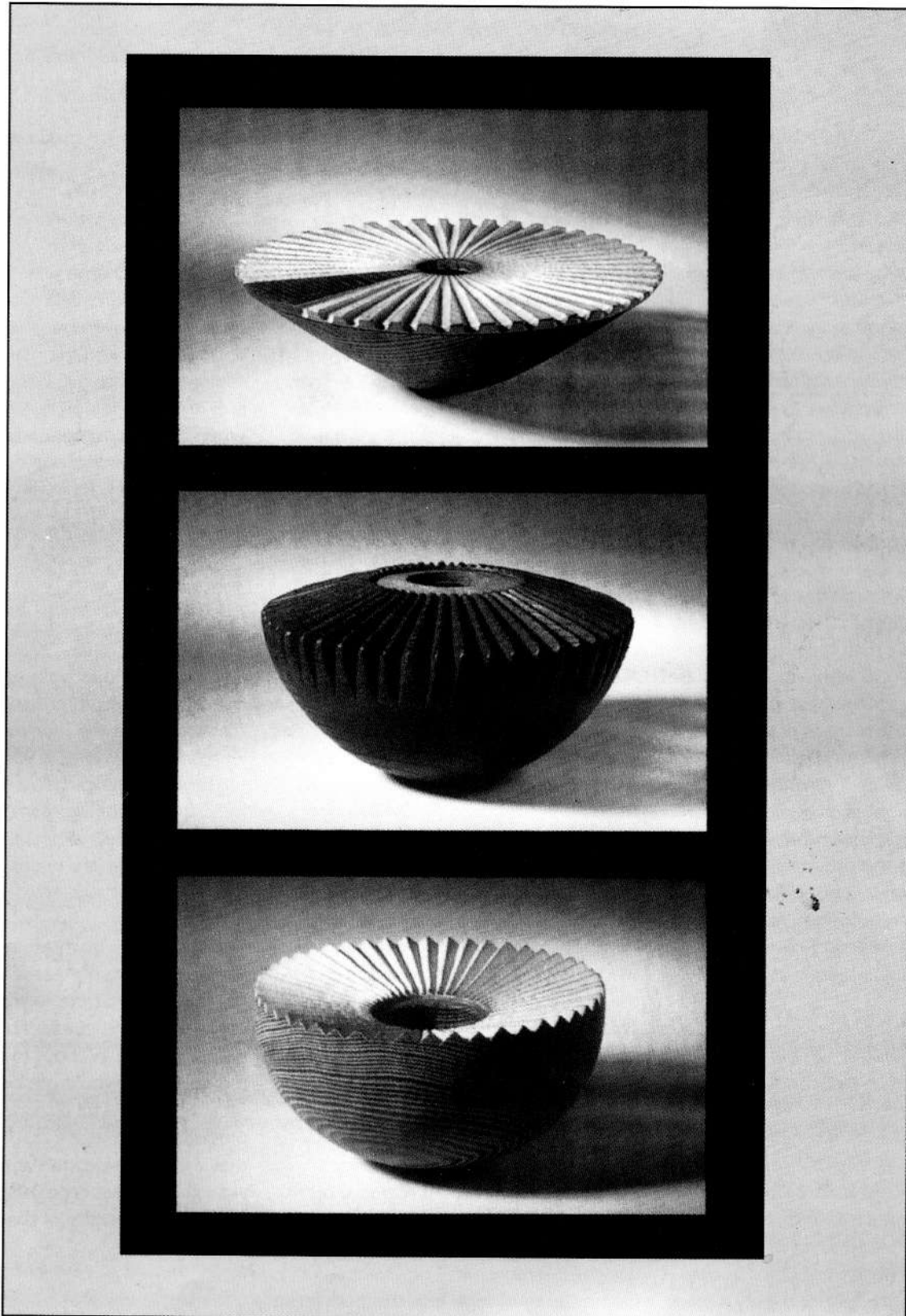
# *Revolutions*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 57

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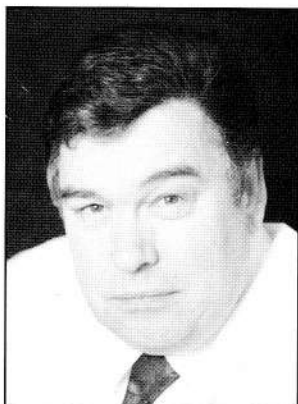
May 2001



Mike Scott - Fluted vessel forms, Ash and Elm, 10-12" diameter.

Photos by Tony Boase

# Chairmans Notes



Lionel Pringle, our secretary. (addresses on facing page).

## Seminar Scholarships

The closing date for nominations for these awards has now passed. We have received nine applications for an award and the committee will be making a final decision on these at their next meeting.

## Seminar Guest of Honour

For some time it has been recognised that the AWGB has no formal mechanisms, to give recognition to individuals who have given their time, commitment and knowledge to other woodturners. As a way of putting this situation right we have decided to honour such people by inviting them to be our guest of honour at the seminar. We know there are dozens of people out there who would fit the bill but as we can only do this for one person every two years it is going to take a while to catch up. After long, long deliberations we have invited Bill Jones if he would be the first recipient of this honour. I am pleased to tell you that he is delighted to accept.

## Annual General Meeting

Only the Branch Reps who had come for the morning Annual Branch Meeting and a few local members turned out for the AGM. The minutes and Statement of Account is contained elsewhere in this newsletter. There has been some confusion over the role of the Branch Reps. The members who were elected onto the Executive Committee were called Branch Reps but those branches who were sending representatives from their branch to the Annual Branch Meeting were also referred to as branch reps. To avoid this confusion the elected members will, in future, be known as Regional representatives.

To take this idea further the Branch representatives decided it would be prudent to explore the possibility of regional voting instead of the system we have at the moment. The Executive Committee will look into this during the course of this year and make a

recommendation in due course.

Since the AGM, Bob Gregory, one of the Regional Reps, has resigned.

## Insurance

This item has been a thorn in our side for some considerable time. Lionel has worked diligently over the last year to try and resolve the problems that we were having with McCalls. I reported in *Revolutions* last year that we thought we were getting somewhere but it seemed that every time we made contact we were given a different manager to deal with or the scheme was being pushed from one department to another. At our meeting in November we decided that we would look to the market place for a replacement broker. We were, and still are, in the middle of negotiations when McCalls wrote and told us they would not be renewing our branch policies on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

We have now taken out a policy with a new broker for the branch policies and all branches have been made aware of the situation.

As far as individual policies are concerned McCalls are still operating that scheme at the moment but who knows for how long. If your policy is due for renewal you can either continue with McCalls or switch to our new broker Ian Wallace. Full details of the scheme are available elsewhere in this newsletter.

## Work on loan

I want to thank all those members who loaned work to the Association for display at the various exhibitions at which we were represented over the winter period. Without the help of such members we would not be able to put on such wonderful displays of woodturning that we do. I can tell you that without exception at each venue we exhibited we received praise for the quality and diversity of the work on display.

**Mike Dennis**

How has this Foot and Mouth crisis effected you? It is amazing how these things affect a much wider spread of the population than just farming and tourism. I have heard from many woodturners who have been affected, through shows and craft fairs being cancelled, to members who cannot get to their timber supplies. Lets hope that the epidemic is over soon and we can all get on with our lives.

## Seminar

One event that the Foot and Mouth crisis has not effected, as far as we know, is our seminar this year. Bookings are not as high as we would have like to have seen at this time despite the price reduction if one paid before the end of April. We know that in comparison to other international seminars around the world that ours is the best value for money and the line up of presenters will stimulate even the most gifted of woodturners. Even if you are a raw beginner I guarantee that you will learn from attending this seminar. Apart from all that there is the opportunity to meet other woodturners and talk about your experiences. We know of many long standing friendships that have been achieved through meeting at seminars.

## Seminar Auction Appeal

In the last newsletter we ran an article about the Seminar Auction Appeal and what this fund is used for. What may not have come across as strongly as it could is the need for pieces of work to be donated to swell the funds for this worthwhile project. Obviously the pieces of work need to be of a standard that people will want to bid for at the auction. If you are able to supply a piece of work either send it direct to me or to

# The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

www.woodturners.co.uk

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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: David Grainger (Address Opposite)

### AWGB LAPEL BADGES

(Brass & Enamel)

COST £2.50 inclusive of post and packing

### CLOTH BADGES

For sewing on Smocks etc

£4.00 inc Post & Packing

Send Cheque etc, to Reg Hawthorne (Address Opposite)

MAKE ALL PAYMENTS TO AWGB

**Copy deadline for the next edition of  
Revolutions  
15 July 2001**



# Editorial

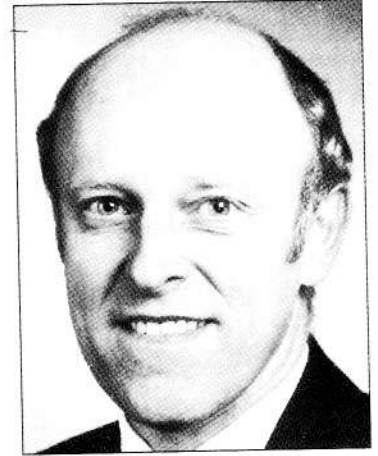
It has seemed a long winter. I have an innate dread of January and February, but the incessant rainfall and latterly the foot and mouth epidemic seem to have combined to make the British winter seem even more dire than usual. The flooding and latterly the foot and mouth outbreak have had wide ranging effects which have touched all areas of the country. My own area escaped the worst privations but the effects on tourism and those dependent upon it have been considerable. The effects seem to extend to all, with businesses with no apparent connection being adversely effected – the printer of this newsletter among them.

As woodturners we have in the main probably been only inconvenienced or disappointed by the cancellation of shows – Yandles show, one of the delights of early spring with its easygoing, carnival atmosphere, free

entry and parking being one of the victims. At the time it just seemed as though with its loss the dark gloomy days would never be at an end.

However, as I write, things have changed considerably for the better. The sun is shining - the prospect of warm sunny days stretches ahead and right in the heart of this period is the prospect of the association seminar. The anticipation certainly brightens my mood and brings a smile to my face. Elsewhere in this issue we publish details - don't miss it!

Lionel Pringle, our secretary, also has a smile back on his face and a spring in his step. The ongoing saga of Insurance packages has been an ever present item on the agenda of Executive Committee meetings and a constant source of frustration. Lionel has seen us through this with fortitude and good humour. The matter has now



been resolved and all members should read Lionel's report on page 7.

Finally, may I add my voice to that of Mike Dennis in his plea for the donation of work to be auctioned at the seminar. The auction has become quite a feature of the seminar dinner and the proceeds of this venture fund a vital part of the associations work and mission.

If you are able to donate a piece of work, please do.

**John Wilson**

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## Loughborough Update

Time is moving fast in our preparations for the AWGB International Seminar at Loughborough University in August. The first deadline imposed on the booking procedures was reached at the end of April when the priority given to AWGB members came to an end.

Applicants will now be dealt with strictly on a first come first served basis, and potential delegates should not waste any time in applying, because booking so far have exceeded expectations and whilst there are additional blocks of accommodation available a limit on numbers will be adhered to so that the seminar is not uncomfortably crowded.

This seminar promises to be one of the most exciting and enjoyable yet, which considering the high standard

that has always been associated with AWGB events, leads to the inevitable conclusion that to be interested in woodturning and to actually miss this event would be nothing short of folly.

In case any of our readers have been back-packing in the outback of Australia or exploring the foothills of the Himalayas the line up at this years seminar includes Dale Nish, one of the best known of American turners with a dry sense of humour and a penchant for completely failing to take himself too seriously. Also present will be Jean-Francois Escoulon an original and innovative turner from France in whose hands the eccentric chuck becomes an artists canvas. The other acts are all headliners of international stature themselves and would all be guaranteed to attract a ready audience in most parts of the world. The

names to conjure with are Alain Mailland, Willie Stedmond, Paul Coker, Mark Hancock, Stuart Mortimer, Mike Scott, Jules Tattersall and Robin Wood.

There will also be some additional presentations that are still being worked on. Last but far from least is the highly convivial social aspect for which AWGB seminars are justly famous, the phrase "I'm just going for a turn round the pub" is imbued with a completely fresh sense of importance.

For an application form or any additional information please visit the AWGB website at

**[www.woodturners.co.uk](http://www.woodturners.co.uk) or contact Mike Morley, Lyncombe House, 7 Deepwell Drive, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 2HF, telephone 01276 23424.**

# Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

## Holmer Green Village Hall, 25th March 2001, 2.00pm

**1 Apologies for absence** were received from Ray Key, Reg Sherwin, Graham Lovett, James Barker and Terry Jones.

**2 The minutes of the last AGM** held at Burcot Village Hall, Burcot, Worcestershire on Sunday March 12th 2000 and previously circulated in issue no. 53 of *Revolutions*, May 2000, were accepted by the meeting as a true record, proposed by John Wilson and seconded by Dave Grainger.

### **3 Chairmans Report**

Mike Dennis the Honorary Chairman presented his first report as Chairman to the meeting and this is attached to these minutes. Adrian Needham proposed acceptance of the report and Les Stott seconded, the motion was carried unanimously.

### **4 Treasurers Report**

Mike Morley presented his report as Treasurer to the association and explained the under-lying reasons for the methods used to arrive at the figures shown, particularly with regard to the review of fixed assets. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes. There were a couple of questions which Mike was able to answer to the satisfaction of the questioners, the Association was shown to be in satisfactory financial position. The report was unanimously accepted by the meeting with Brian Partridge proposing and Paul Howard seconding the motion. A recommendation to increase the subscription to a maximum of £15 if it was deemed to be necessary, (at the present time this would seem to be unlikely in the extreme), was passed unanimously.

### **5 The election of officers.**

As only one nomination per executive post had been received the following members are duly elected to the posts indicated.

Chairman                      Mike Dennis

Treasurer                      Mike Morley

Secretary                      Lionel Pringle

### **6 Election of executive committee member.**

There being only one nomination Derek Phillips was duly elected.

### **7 Election of Branch (Regional) representatives to the executive committee.**

There having been three nominations for the two vacant posts a postal ballot was held the result of which is as follows:

Dave Grainger                      25 votes

John Woodward                      20 votes

John Buckland                      11 votes

Dave Grainger and John Woodward were therefore duly elected.

### **8 Insurance**

A brief discussion was undertaken with regard to the matter of the insurance package, the Honorary Secretary, Lionel Pringle, brought members up to date as far as he was able, telling them that a new prospective broker was in place and discussions were on-going with a view to having an effective scheme in place before the 1st May renewal date when the current brokers McCalls would be pulling out of the scheme. It was envisaged that the new scheme would not be markedly different from that had preceded it except that the paperwork would be more readily available and dealings with the brokers more accessible.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked the members for attending and the meeting was closed at 2.30pm.

Reg Reed proposed a vote of thanks to the committee for their work during the year this was seconded by Desmond Dezelsky.

### **Honorary Chairman's report 2001**

This will be my first report as chairman of the AWGB at the end of my first year in the hot seat. I have to say that, because of the dedication, energy and generosity of my fellow officers and members of the committee, it has been an enjoyable experience.

Lionel Pringle has been a tower of strength to me and the AWGB. Apart from keeping the paperwork in order he has tirelessly, and with a great deal of patience, dealt with the traumas over dealings with the our insurance company and the constant queries from members. More on this later in my report.

Tony Witham has continued as Branch Co-ordinator as well as Vice Chairman and has kept Branches informed on what we were up to as well as liaising with the Branch representatives.

Reg Hawthorne took on the job of Trade liaison. In his calm and relaxed manner he has conquered the job and relationships between the trade and the Association are as good as they have ever been.

Derek Phillips continues to do an excellent job dealing with all matters concerning the members' subscriptions and many other queries that members put to him.

Mike Morley put his hand up to say that he would be willing to take on the job as Treasurer. As you know I did this job as well as Chairman until June when Mike was unanimously co-opted on to the committee. Since he has taken on the job he has confirmed our suspicions that he would make an excellent contributor to the running of the association.

John Wilson has continued doing an excellent job as editor of *Revolutions*. I am sure you will all agree that the quality and content of *Revolutions* improves with each issue.

Brian Partridge was co-opted to the committee at the beginning of the year to organise and run our web site. He has re-modelled the site and has plans to improve it still further. We thank him for the wonderful job he is doing and I know he spends many hours keeping the site up to date and relevant.

Finally to the Branch representatives Peter Brown, Bob Gregory, and David Grainger. Peter Garrison resigned from the job in November of last year due to poor health.

There has been confusion over the role of the branch reps who are voted onto the committee by branches and the branch reps who attend the annual branch meeting as representatives of their own branch. To make the situation clearer we have decided to call the nationally voted Reps, Regional representatives. Their task is to liaise between the Executive Committee and the branches that are allocated to them. During the course of this year we will be looking into changes to the constitution that will enable regional representatives to be voted onto the executive committee by the region in which they live.

And finally to the one person who has kept this organisation going since its inception our President Ray Key. Ray is always there to give advice and is unstinting with the time that he devotes to the AWGB whether that is attending committee meetings or dealing with matters from home. What would we do without him.

So with all these wonderful people on the committee what have we been doing in the last year.

#### *Membership and Branches*

4 more branches have started this year which brings the total to 37. We still have areas in which there are no branches and we are continually trying to plug these gaps.

Membership at the end of last year rose to 2716 with renewing so far this year.

#### *Subscriptions*

The committee are always conscious of costs and work diligently to keep these to a minimum. That diligence has paid off again this year we are able to keep subscriptions at the same level as the last 8 years.

#### *Development programme*

What used to be called the education fund has been renamed as the Members development programme. You will have seen in *Revolutions* and the woodturning press that we are offering four seminar places to deserving cases this year. The funding for this programme comes from work donated and auctioned at the seminar and we are looking into other imaginative ways to boost this fund. We will be making a positive statement at the Seminar on how this fund will work in helping member develop their woodturning skills.

As part of the development programme we have nine lathes and sets of tools out on loan to various members. The lathes are normally loaned out on a yearly cycle but due to the lack of nominations this year some of those members in receipt of a lathe will be able to keep them for a further year.

#### *International Seminar*

Planning is well advanced for the seminar this year. Ticket sales are going well and it is hoped that it will be sell out. The decision to move from Warwick to Loughborough was not an easy one given the facilities that were on offer at Warwick. That was until we visited Loughborough University and saw what they were offering. We think the facilities are better but you can judge that for yourself when you get there.

The programme is very interesting, exciting and well-balanced. The seminar sub-committee has spent many hours considering and planning the programme to offer something for everyone. We are offering for the first time other aspects of woodturning namely ornamental and pole lathe. There will be more demonstrations than before and changes to the programme to make it different from previous seminars. Whether you are a novice or experienced, whether a regular attender

or a first-timer, we are confident you will be stimulated and enthralled at this event.

#### *Insurance*

I said at the beginning of this report that I had more to say on this matter. At last years AGM we assured members that we would be reviewing our insurance package during the course of the year. This proved to be a very traumatic experience. As hard we tried to get co-operation from the insurance brokers on the issues that were causing us concern we were not getting anywhere. It seemed that every time we made contact we were given a different manager to deal with. At our meeting in November we decided that we would look to the marketplace for a replacement broker. We were, and still are, in the middle of negotiations when McCalls wrote and told us they would not be renewing our policies on May 1<sup>st</sup>. We have a meeting with our prospective new broker in a couple of weeks time when we hope to finalise our negotiations. A full report will be given in the next issue of *Revolutions*

#### *Shows/Exhibitions*

We continue to be represented at major shows such as NEC, Axminster and Alexandra Palace. 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.

I would like to say a big thank you to all those members who loaned us work to be exhibited at the various shows at which we attended.

#### *Communications*

I can remember not too many years ago the Executive Committee were concerned with the lack of communication, not only between the committee and the branches but also between committee members. All that has changed with the advent of the Internet. All members of the committee is available on e-mail and most of the officers of the committee get e-mails on a daily basis either from another



committee member or a member. This allows all members of the committee to be aware of what is going on.

Our main method for communicating with members is through *Revolutions* and John spends many many hours in putting the publication together and trying to make sure that all relevant information is included.

After a meeting with the woodturning press at the beginning of the year we have enjoyed a much higher profile in the woodturning magazines. This is due

to Lionel doing a remarkable job in keeping them informed of our activities through the numerous press releases he sends out.

Tony and Lionel are also responsible for keeping branches informed by sending regular bulletins on important issues.

Through the Internet we have also communicated with other National Woodturning organisations around the world. We accepted an invitation to send two delegates to the Irish Woodturners seminar last year. Myself

and Reg Hawthorne represented the AWGB although there were other members who had gone for themselves. The trip proved very successful and information and ideas have since been exchanged. We are to reciprocate by inviting two of their committee to our seminar this year.

Finally I would like to thank all those members who are not on the committee but give unstinting help whenever they can and to those who promote the Association at each and every opportunity they get.

# Insurance

## *Important information from the Honorary Secretary*

This is an announcement of importance to all members who have over the years availed themselves of the insurance package that has been negotiated on their behalf by the AWGB.

As many members will no doubt be aware the administration of this scheme has caused a great deal of trauma over the past 18 months, mainly due to the inability of the brokers, McCalls, to provide adequate paperwork for the branch aspect of the scheme, this has from time to time also occurred with members who have taken out policies on their own behalf as individuals. The camels back was finally broken at the beginning of this year when one members request for information was continually ignored by the brokers, the executive committee decided that the time had come to find another broker who was more able to deal efficiently with the requirements of the AWGB branches and it's individual members. Unfortunately, McCalls spiked our guns by advising us that they would be withdrawing from the area of business that included our own at the renewal date of all policies currently in place, so we were unable to derive pleasure from removing our business from them.

**All members with their own policies should be aware that McCalls will not be renewing that policy at the expiry of the term, and I am aware that they are not actually advising policyholders of the fact, one member found himself uninsured, fortunately he was not looking to make a claim at the point when he discovered his policy had run out. May I emphasise that all members should check their policies in order that they are aware of the date when cover will terminate.**

We have been successful in finding a replacement broker with a vast experience in the insurance business and with a particularly good knowledge of the requirements of craftspeople. His name is Ian Wallace and his address and other details are given at the end of this notice. Obviously those members who feel that their activities in the woodturning field require a degree of insurance, particularly with regard to public liability and equipment cover, will not necessarily be looking for identical types of cover and so it is recommended that each individual approach Ian with an explanation of what their activities actually entail and take matters from there. Ian will advise accordingly and

will not endeavour to cover items which he feels may already be adequately covered by a normal household contents policy. The costs are likely to be slightly higher than was the case with McCalls but obviously efficiency these days costs a little extra. The insurance package provided by Ian is actually placed with Norwich Union, a company that everybody has heard of unlike some of those that were being used by the previous brokers, and Ian has a very good working relationship with them. As far as costs are concerned it should be noted that the excess in the event of a claim being placed through NU is considerably lower than was the case previously making smaller claims a more realistic proposition.

If I can be of any assistance initially to any members with advice please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ian's details are as follows:

Ian Wallace Insurance Services  
4d Ringwood Road  
Verwood  
Dorset  
BH31 7AH  
0800 919359  
[www.craftinsurance.co.uk](http://www.craftinsurance.co.uk)  
[iww@btinternet.com](mailto:iww@btinternet.com)

# Branch Representatives Annual Meeting

## Holmer Green Village Hall, 25th March 2001, 11.00am

Tony Witham briefly opened the proceedings by welcoming all those members who had been able to attend the meeting, he announced that the AWGB now has 37 affiliated branches and he looked forward to breaking the 40 mark during the coming year.

**1 Apologies for absence** were received from Suffolk Mid-Coastal branch, Terry Jones, James Barker and Graham Lovett.

### **2 Ballot**

Tony Witham announced the results of the ballot for representatives to sit on the executive committee and formally welcomed Dave Grainger and John Woodward, Dave will be representing the north of England and Scotland and John will have responsibility for part of England. Tony thanked all those who had allowed their names to be put forward for the post.

### **3 Regional Representatives**

Tony announced the proposition from the executive committee that the members of the committee who represented the branches should in future be known as Regional Representatives in an effort to clarify their area of responsibility. This was accepted unanimously by the meeting with the proviso that additional Regional Reps. could be appointed if the spread of branches throughout the country made it more viable and necessary, a decision by the executive committee as to where the regional boundaries should fall will be taken in due course. It was also accepted that representatives in future would be more effective if they were elected by the members in the area in which they lived, and intended to operate, and not by the entire Association. It was stressed by some members that it was important that Regional Reps. should represent all members of the AWGB in their area and not just the branches.

As a result of this discussion it became apparent that there was doubt in some peoples minds as to whether all members who were also branch members were being accurately designated as such on the membership database, this is a matter that will be addressed by the executive committee in due course.

### **4 Branch Diaries**

The publishing of branch diaries as an incentive to more inter-branch collaboration had been brought up at previous ABM's but nothing positive ever seemed to come out of these discussions. John Wilson and Brian Partridge were keen that more information should be available for publishing in *Revolutions* and on the web-site respectively, although John was of the opinion that only matters of general interest and not those of a more parochial nature should be included. All branch programme secretaries are urged to pass on to both John and Brian all details of events which would be of interest to other members.

### **5 Revolutions**

John Wilson described the direction that he envisaged the newsletter taking in the future and once more appealed for members to advise him of anything that they felt needed a wider airing, or of any events etc. that needed publicising, John is always ready to welcome any articles for publication provided they are relevant to woodturning and the Association.

### **6 Insurance**

Lionel Pringle briefly outlined the position with regard to the insurance package now that McCall's have decided to pull out. Discussions with a new broker are at an advanced stage and it is anticipated that matters will be settled in good time for the May 1st renewal date.

It is not anticipated that the package will be significantly different to that which has preceded it. Lionel will advise all branch secretaries in due course when the package has been agreed to.

### **7 Web-site**

Brian Partridge gave the meeting a brief synopsis of the history of the web-site since his appointment as web-master last year. The site receives approximately 60 visits per day of which a majority are from the USA. The site has a quality of immediacy as it is up-dated on a very regular basis, occasionally twice a week but no less than once a fortnight. It is Brian's intention in the near future to re-vamp the site completely and he hopes to be able to introduce a chat page onto the site in an effort, amongst other things, to stimulate new branches in areas where they do not exist. Brian reiterated his appeal for details of events being organised by branches and also drew the attention of the meeting to the existence of the "For Sale" page.

**8** There being no further business Tony Witham thanked the members again for coming and the meeting was closed at 12.20pm

## Kwik Tips

Have you any tips to share with your fellow turners? Ideas that have made your life easier?

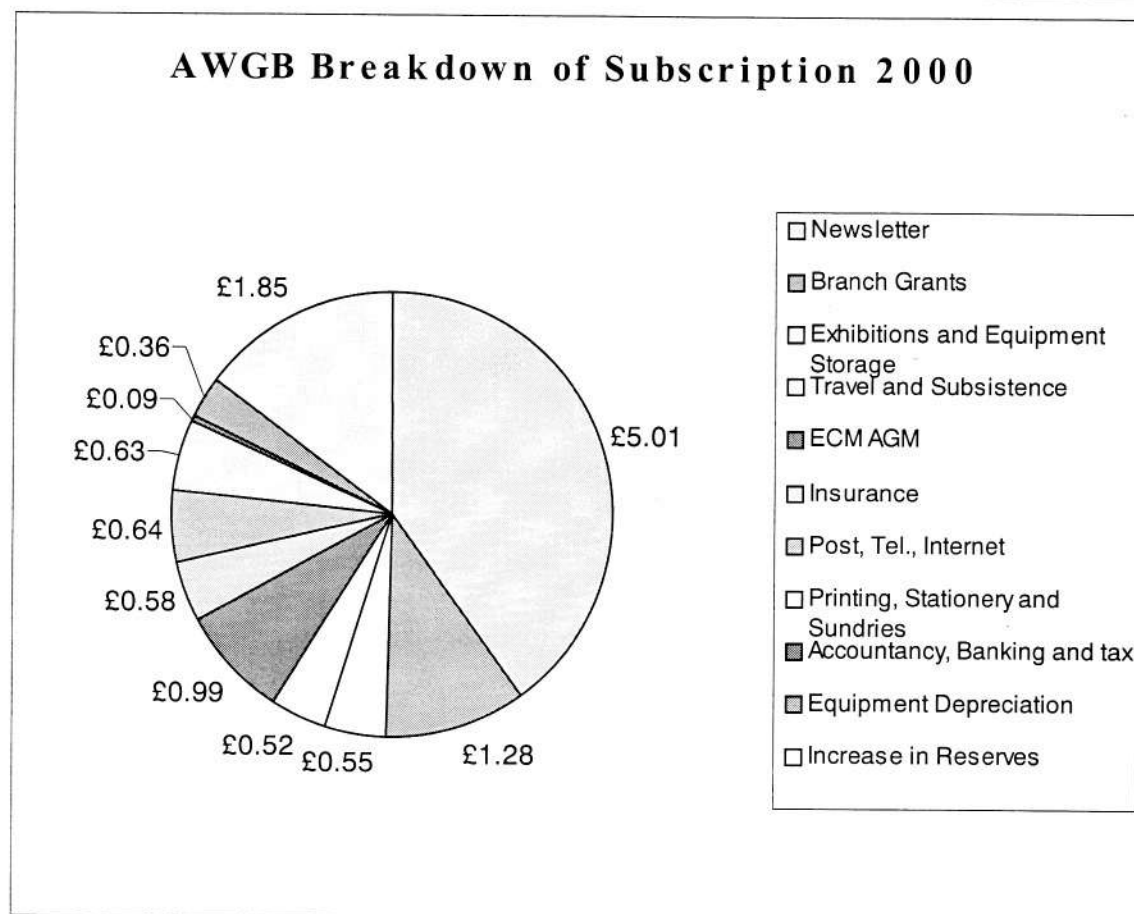
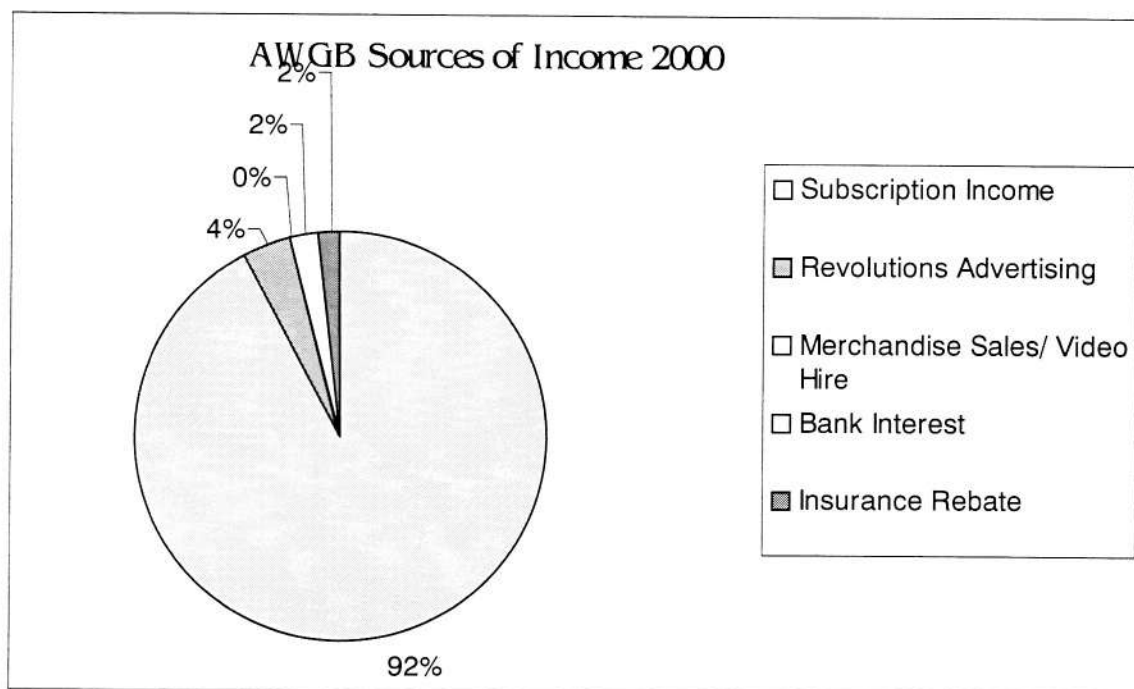
Contributions requested and gratefully received!



# A Different view of the Accounts

For those of you who prefer pictures rather than figures here is a different way of looking at the accounts. The first chart shows the breakdown of the income that the Association receives and makes it obvious that the really important element is your subscriptions. The other elements are a useful help but it is the membership fees that keep the Association in business.

In the second chart the expenditure of the Association has been related to the £12.50 subscription fee so that you can see how much goes where. Some note of caution is required with the figures as they will vary from year to year but the chart shows for 2000 where the Committee has been spending your money.



# A W G B

As approved at the Annual General Meeting

## Income and Expenditure for year *Income*

	2000 £	1999 £
MembersSubscriptions	28718	25522
Revolutions Advertising	1220	1647
Video Hire	50	205
Sales of Merchandise	850	3161
Commissions	0	17
Interest Received	358	618
Premier A/C	327	0
Insurance rebate	532	
Donation of equipment	0	1270
	<b>32055</b>	<b>32440</b>

## *Expenditure*

Branch Grants	3000	2760
Exhibition Expenses	886	1788
Newsletter	11767	10299
Internet Costs	157	201
Travelling	955	107
Subsistence	265	
Postage	969	1323
Telephone	383	492
Executive Meetings	1654	1388
AGM Expenses	665	452
Stationery	1107	478
Printing, Copying	309	830
Equipment Storage	416	400
Sundries	56	56
Accountancy Fee	160	160
Bank Charges	46	64
Insurance	1358	2403
Corporation Tax	2	10
Asset review 1999	2717	0
Depreciation (2000)	838	2500
	<b>27710</b>	<b>25711</b>

Net Income for period      **4345**      **6729**

## Notes and Statement of

### Basis of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention

### Fixed Assets

Following a major review of fixed assets covering the year 1999, fixed assets owned and purchased by the association are presented under four categories:

1. Computers and Software
2. Exhibition and display Equipment
3. Lathes and tools
4. Videos and Slides.

Values shown are of historical cost less depreciation, equipment given to the Association is not shown in the accounts. Depreciation rates used are 25% per annum of original cost for computers and software and 15% for all other items. A combined figure for depreciation for all groups is shown for 2000.

### Membership Subscriptions

Membership subscriptions are those relevant to year 2000 membership.

### Bank Interest

A separate Interest bearing account was established during the year. Interest from both this and the current account are an integral part of the Association's operations.

### Accruals

All known expenditure paid after 31/12/200 which is correctly attributed to 2000 has been included in the financial statements.

### Stock

Stock items comprising "Wonders in Wood" books and badges are valued at cost.

# Accounts 2000

held at Holmer Green on March 25th 2000

## Accounting Procedures

### Prepayments

Prepayments comprise the purchase of Membership cards for 2001, a credit note covering the hire of an exhibition cabinet and the deposit of £1000 for the 2001 seminar.

### Taxation

The Association is liable to Corporation Tax as it is a members club on the income arising from the temporary deposit of members' subscriptions. This has suffered tax at source and this is available to off-set the Corporation Tax. The net result is a small additional tax charge to the Association. (£1.91 for 2000).

### Seminar 2001

Advance booking fees received during 2000 are shown under Liabilities as "Seminar Income in Advance". A non-returnable deposit of £1000 is recorded as a Prepayment

### Trade Creditors

Trade creditors comprise an Accountant's fee of £160.

### Insurance

The Association has received a payment of £532.40 as the balance of its account with the brokers who are ceasing to offer this kind of insurance. This is shown as a debtor on the balance sheet. Arrangements are in hand to seek a new broker for continued insurance.

Mike Morley

Honorary Treasurer AWGB

## Balance Sheet at December 31st 2000

### Fixed Assets

	2000 £	1999 £
Figures for 1999 not comparable following review. See notes opposite.		
Computers and Software	754	
Exhibition and Display	723	
Lathes and Tools	519	
Videos and Slides	124	
Total Book Value (End 1999)	2120	

Additions 2000	703	
	<b>2823</b>	
Less Depreciation	838	
<b>Net Book Value</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>4,837</b>

### Current Assets

Stock	5236	7,804
Prepayments	1820	898
Debtor	532	
AWGB Premier Account	25327	
AWGB Current Account	5548	19,173
	<b>38463</b>	<b>27,875</b>

### Current Liabilities

Trade Creditors	160	177
Subscriptions in Advance	4593	5743
Seminar Income in Advance	4590	0
	<b>9343</b>	<b>5920</b>
<b>Net Current Assets</b>	<b>29120</b>	<b>21955</b>

### Total Assets

<b>less Current Liabilities.</b>	<b>31105</b>	<b>26792</b>
----------------------------------	--------------	--------------

### Funds

Accumulated Funds B/fwd	17489	10762
Net Profit for the Period	4345	6729
Development Account	4500	4530
Seminar Account	4771	4771
	<b>31105</b>	<b>26792</b>



# AWGB LOUGHBOROUGH SEMINAR

## Mike Scott

After a time spent in Australia, in which Mike studied eastern philosophy, he first took up woodturning while studying for an arts degree. Since 1986 he has shown his work around the world. He was a main presenter at the 1989 seminar. Mike has a unique style, exploiting a tribal, rather than a modernistic approach to his work.



**Above :** Stuart Mortimer at work

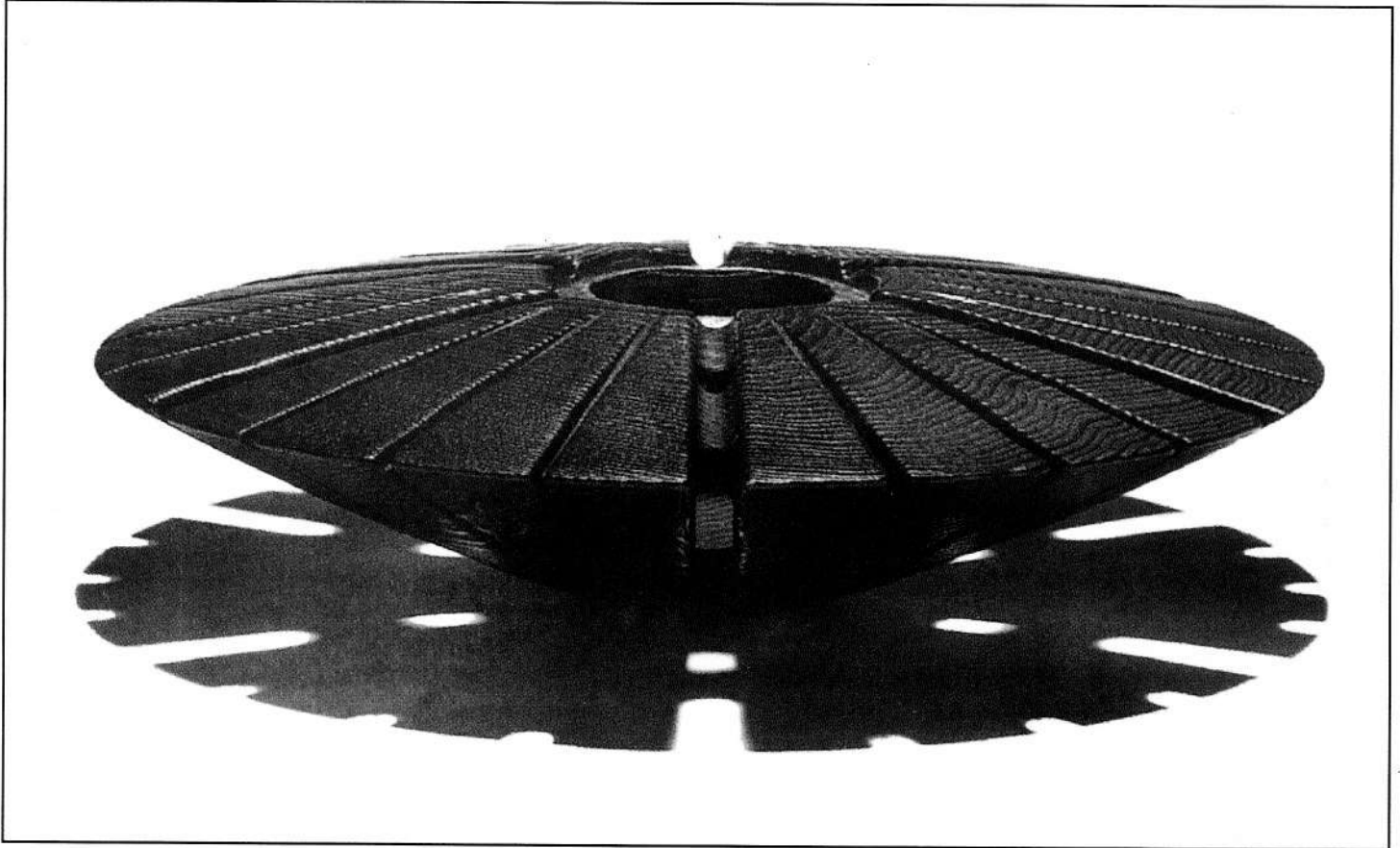
**Right :** Yew, natural edge vase by Stuart Mortimer

## Stuart Mortimer

Although well known through his appearances at National Woodworking Exhibitions few people get the opportunity to watch a full demonstration of this master turner applying decorative effects to turned work. Stuart is probably best known for reviving the twist in woodturning. Since then he has developed the 'open weave' technique which is applied to thin hollow forms.

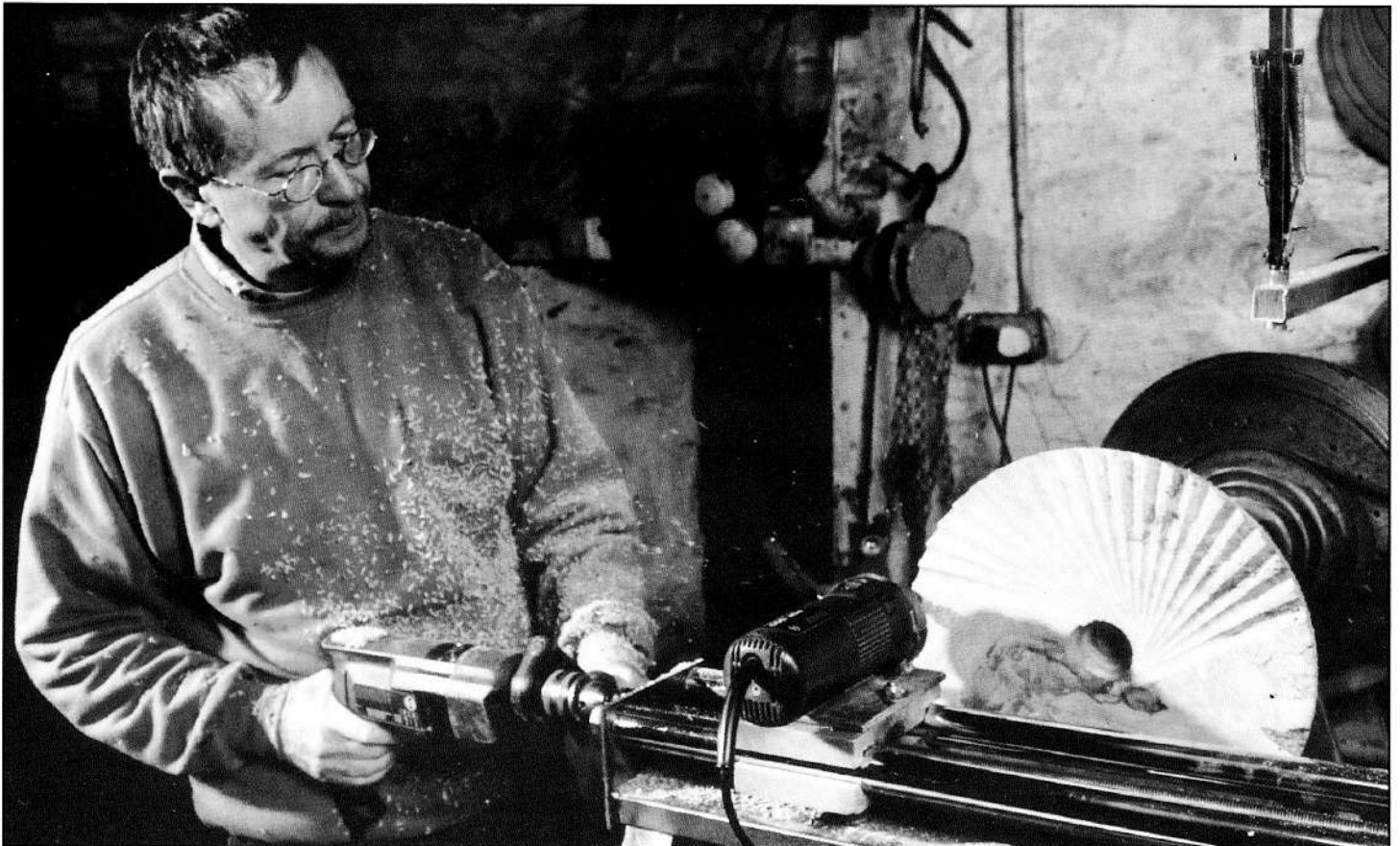


## 2001 - PRESENTERS GALLERY



**Above :** Segmented discus form, elm, scorched,  
gold leaf, 13" dia. by Mike Scott

**Below :** Mike Scott at work



# LOUGHBOROUGH SEMINAR

## 10TH - 12TH AUGUST 2001

### OUTLINE PROGRAMME

#### Friday August 10th

10.00 – 11.30      Arrival, registration, lunch.  
13.30 - 19.00      Opening of seminar,  
                         Demonstrations,  
                         Slide presentations and lectures.  
20.00 hrs              Buffet and opening of instant gallery

#### Saturday August 11th

08.00 hrs.              Breakfast  
09.00 - 18.00        Demonstrations,  
                         Slide presentations and lectures.  
20.00                    Banquet and auction

#### Sunday August 12th

08.00 hrs.              Breakfast  
09.00 - 17.00        Demonstrations,  
                         Slide presentations and lectures.  
17.00                    Close of seminar

### ACCESS

#### *Reaching the University is easy*

Loughborough University is close to Junction 23 of the M1, with easy access to nearby Derby, Leicester and Nottingham

(Map will be sent with final details).

#### *Access by rail/air*

Birmingham and its airport are easily reached via the M42. There is an excellent Inter-City rail service to London, and the University is just eight miles from East Midlands Airport.

## Presenters

Paul Coker (England)  
Jean-Francois Escoulon (France)  
Alain Maillard (France)  
Dale Nish (USA)  
Willie Stedmond (Ireland)  
Mark Hancock (Wales)  
Stuart Mortimer (England)  
Mike Scott (Wales)  
Jules Tattersall (Wales)  
Robin Wood (England)

## Book Now

*Preparations for the seminar are now in the final stages of completion. Both the venue and the talented and varied group of presenters promise to ensure that this event will uphold the high standards previously set.*

**There is still time to book your place**

To book contact  
Mike Morley, Lyncombe House, 7 Deepwell Drive,  
Camberley, Surrey, GU15 2HF

## *Don't Miss It !*



# WANTED - Articles (one-offs or series), Tips, Reports, Information

Since undertaking the editorship of *Revolutions* I have been encouraged by the response to my repeated requests for publication copy. Several members have responded to these entreaties. You and I have cause to thank them for their time and efforts.

If you have thought about putting pen to paper - don't hesitate - do it.....**NOW!**

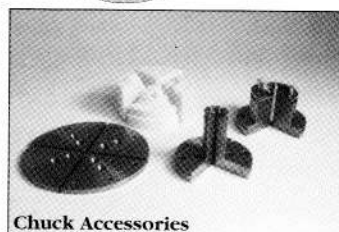
If you have an idea but want to discuss it first, then contact me, I am always pleased to hear from fellow members. If you have that idea - don't hesitate, contact me.....**NOW!**

If you have already contributed -  
Thank you - How about an encore!



## BCWA

(Bob Chapman Woodturning Accessories)



Chuck Accessories

Innovative tooling and work holding products designed by professional woodturners

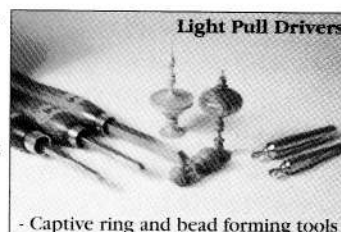


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### Post and Packaging;

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- 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 9 - Wood*

*By Chuck Turner*

### **Where and how can I get wood for turning?**

There are roughly 3 main sources of supply.

#### **1. Prepared wood**

Can be bought from woodturning suppliers, who advertise in most woodworking magazines.

Woodturning Suppliers hold a great variety of different woods, home grown and imported, in prepared bowl and spindle blanks. Some of which you may feel are a bit expensive, but you must remember that they have had to get the wood seasoned, cut to size, and the end grain sealed.

Costs of felling and transporting of imported woods must also be taken into account.

The blanks are often labelled individually with the type of wood and annotated as follows:-

PS = Part Seasoned. Which means that the blank requires further seasoning.

AD = Air Dried. Which means it has been stacked and dried naturally.

KD = Kiln Dried. The wood has been heated in a kiln to dry the wood comparatively quickly.

Without this information, one is not really sure if the wood is suitable for use immediately, unless you have a moisture meter or can put it into store for a while. Moisture meters can be rather expensive if you are just starting in woodturning, and are of greater use if you intend to season your own wood from the point of felling.

Prepared wood which is ready to use, in the case of bowl blanks, requires no further attention and wood for spindle turning will possibly only require cutting to length, which can easily be done with a band saw.

When purchasing prepared blanks one should examine each piece carefully and reject and badly cracked wood or that which has too many bark inclusion's. Unless you want to include these defects as a feature of the item planned.

Wood is a volatile material and suppliers cannot really be blamed, it after purchase it proves to be a bit unsatisfactory. However persistently occurring faults in prepared blanks can indicate that maybe you should change your supplier.

Some suppliers sell whole rough cut planks, but these would have to be cut to size by the purchaser.

Bags of wood can be purchased, which contain a variety of different woods, but I have not found these to be of much use, usually being odd sizes. Useful if you want to familiarize yourself with the way that different woods turn.

#### **2. Hard wood off cuts.**

Are increasingly available from local sawmills and joinery shops, so make enquiries in your local area. Rough cut planks can often be purchased from sawmills but will usually be much higher priced than off cuts.

Once you have obtained a reasonable piece of wood, it is then possible to cut it up for Bowl Blanks or spindle turning. Keep it in store and only do this as the need arises.

Most of the wood from these sources has been Kiln dried and all that is required is to seal the ends with Paraffin wax, although any old gloss or bitumen paint would be suitable, before putting it into store. Cutting up these hard wood off cuts by hand is of course very hard work, particularly when requiring longer lengths for spindle turning. The possession of a band saw is most desirable, and failing

that, some DIY shops will cut the wood to the sizes you require for a small fee.

If you are eventually able to purchase a band saw, try to avoid buying a small three wheel bench mounted band saw (a common mistake by first time buyers – including myself) as they are usually unable to cope with the thickness's of wood you will eventually require. A floor mounted two wheel band saw with at least a ¾ H.P. motor and capable of cutting at least 6-inch thick material is probably the minimum type one should purchase.

When this has been acquired it is essential to read up an instructions provided, get if possible a book from your local library on the subject, and try to make yourself fully conversant with all the safety requirements for use of these machines.

From the moment that you inform relatives and friends that you intend to take up wood turning, you will start to get offers of wood from all around. Some times you will be offered some well seasoned wood left over from the building of a wooden conservatory or installation of wooden window sills and frames.

Most people seem to have a block, plank or piece of something lurking in their shed or garage, and can't resist this heaven sent opportunity to dispose of it! Everyone at first, seems eager to get rid of their no longer required bits and pieces.

It is of course diplomatic to accept them all, one never knows what splendid offer could follow!.

#### **3. Seasoning your own wood.**

Quite often friends and relatives will offer you a small tree cut down in their own garden, again in this case it is diplomatic to accept it. It should be cut into 3 to 4 foot lengths which are then

cut in half down their length and the ends sealed with paraffin wax. Old gloss or bitumen paint. Care must be taken when melting paraffin wax to ensure it does not come into contact with any flame. A double pot technique with the wax in a container standing in hot water, and use if a controllable electric heater preferably in the open would seem to be appropriate. The pieces should then be stacked raised off the ground, with wooden spacers between them to allow the air to circulate freely, and covered to keep off the rain, rate of seasoning can be slow as 1 inch per year.

Home seasoning can produce quite a lot of waste wood, when it is eventually prepared for turning. If you expect to do much seasoning of your own, it is an advantage to have a wood burning stove, or an arrangement to pass on waste bits and pieces to someone who has.

For those who live in suburban houses with not a lot of garden space – apart from occasional small attempts to season wood, it is better in my opinion, to either, buy prepared wood or seasoned off cuts from your local saw mill.

However some woodturners do make up their own small kilns using, perhaps

a clean 50 gallon drum, heated by a light bulb, which allows them to shorten the seasoning period to about 3 or 4 weeks. To really be successful in seasoning your own wood there are a number of things, in my opinion, which are essential.

There needs to be plenty of space available to stack wood, preferably under some sort of cover, where the air can circulate freely around it. Length of seasoning depends on the thickness of the wood available, it can take a year or more, and as time passes each successive lot put down for seasoning, will require more storage space.

Good transport needs to be available, and a means of cutting tree trunks into thick planks before laying it down to season. There are specialist firms, individuals or Saw Mills who will plank a whole tree for you, and although you have been given it free, this may cost in excess of £100, depending on the size and the work involved.

A lot of turners rough turn unseasoned wood i.e. Bowls to about 1 inch thick and then put them away to season. This shortens the seasoning period considerably but the part turned items have to be put away into a dry place where the air can circulate freely around them.

### **Storage.**

As can be seen there is a need to plan some kind of storage space for your wood, preferably separate from your workshop if possible.

I have been in workshops where there has been so much wood stored that the woodturner was hardly able to operate his lathe or band saw. This can lead to a possible dangerous situation.

### **Practice Wood.**

At first you may find it best to buy a sack or two of fire wood logs. When I started woodturning I bought 7 sacks of logs, read a woodturning manual and practiced the use of each turning tool, with out much attempt to produce any particular item. Fire wood is often full of sap and turns beautifully although it will usually crack quickly when left for a short while. Some turners however specialize in turning wet wood very thin, which then dries very quickly and can produce some unusual twisted and wavy edged affects. Plenty of practice is the key to learning how to use your tools successfully.

---

## *Humpty Dumpty - the Poem*

*As promised in the last edition here follows the creative outpourings inspired by the creation of Humpty Dumpty - is there no end to our members creative talent ?*

A piece of Yew was on the lathe, turning very sweet.  
The gouge was cutting nicely, the vase was looking neat.  
I picked up the shearing scraper and used without finesse,  
There was a crack like thunder - I had a six star mess.

Jenny picked up the pieces and wiped away my tears.  
Her tender words of sympathy were music to my ears.  
Others weren't so helpful, they hadn't any graces.  
They muttered and they tittered, with smirks upon their faces.

A few looked really sorry, but some were really wicked,  
The professional advice of Doctor Will was how and where to stick it.

**Peter Taylor**



# TURNING WORLD

## - Around the Shows and Branches

Perhaps its the time of year, or the effects of Foot and Mouth, but reports of Club activities and shows have been notable by their absence. I have, however, been impressed by the content of some Branch Newsletters I have received. There is material appearing that is worthy of a wider readership. I hope to bring some of these features to you in due course. When I started out as a woodturner I can remember being somewhat concerned as to what constituted an appropriate lathe speed for different types of timber and work. I know that it is something which continues to perplex less experienced turners from time-to-time. The table which appears below, culled from Counter Revolutions, edited by Keith Donald for the Kent Branch may be of assistance.

Dia. Of Work	Roughing	General Cutting	Finishing
Under 2"	900-1300	2400-2800	3000-4000
2-4"	600-1000	1800-2400	2400-3000
4-6"	600-800	1200-1800	1800-2400
6-8"	400-600	800-1200	1200-1800
8-10"	300-400	600-800	900-1200
Over 10"	300	300-600	600-900

This table should prove at least a useful starting point- if you are unsure as to what is safe erron the slow side.

As Keith Donald adds by way of qualification -

"From the above, the advantage of a variable speed lathe is evident. You may find other published tables at aslight variance to the above, hence these figures should be taken as a guide only. Choice of speed is largely governed by the size, shape, soundness and method of securing the wood on the lathe, the tooling finish required and, most important of all, safety.

"For the best results, I generally turn as fast as conditions will allow. However, as already stated, this is subject to the condition, shape and dynamic balance of the timber, coupled with the chosen method of holding the work, **being mindful of safety at all times**. If this caution is ignored then, I fear, you are in for a quick lesson in ballistics and learning how to duck rapidly wouldn't come amiss either! Are your insurance premiums up to date?"

### Cheapotools

Do not send money! This cautionary note is necessary following an experience at my local club. I displayed several 'Cheapotools' to show what could be made on a shoestring budget... folks thought they were for sale!

I don't believe in spending good money on a class tool that I may rarely use after the novelty has worn off. A £1

wood chisel from the local market can be ground up to form all manner of shape of scraper... the last one had dedicated angles to suit the internal/ external angle for the favourite chuck.

If and only if, you find that latest design profile gets used frequently then it's time to buy the expensive version... knowing that it will be good value and perhaps more important, it will be used.

A metre length of 6mm drawn steel from B & Q plus a little help from 'Bill Jones' Further Notes from the Turning Shop' (1997) GMC Publications provided a couple of hours of fun making an arm rest complete with shiny 450mm beech handle and 22mm copper ferrule. At less than £2 it's a satisfying tool to own. I forgot to mention, the beech (*Arboreus chuktoutii*) handle used to be a leg on an old desk.

**A Woodspinner**

# The Window Box

*I am indebted to Charles Berry, a Swanage based member, for the following ditty. He may have been spurred by my admissions of schoolboy incompetence in the profile published last time. Or perhaps it comes from fellow feeling - I noticed a little article in Axminsters latest review which seems to echo my childhood experiences (Ed.)*

I have a tale of carpentry, the story's very sad  
For the hero of our saga went well and truly mad.  
A woodworking fanatic, he was doing very well,  
Until that fateful day he made The Window Box from Hell.

He wanted it for daffodils; he liked their golden hue,  
And he had some planks in pinewood that, at a pinch, would do.  
A six-foot box was adequate to house his floral heaven,  
But one plank measured six feet one, the other five-eleven.

Undaunted he began to saw two inches off the pine,  
But one still measured six feet one, the other, five feet nine.  
Three inches more were added to the growing pile of sticks,  
But yes, you guessed, one plank became useless five feet six.

In growing rage he tried again to make the side parts fit.  
They did, but as he cut the base, the seasoned timber split.  
He fought all day in vain to tame the errant lumps of trees,  
But stubbornly each corner measured ninety-three degrees.

Near desperate, he attacked it with a set-square and a plane,  
But forty knots in every plank soon rendered him insane.  
His bulbs still wait the window box the poor man had desired.  
Heartbroken by the wretched thing, the carpenter expired.

This story must confirm the thing long spoken of in rumour.  
If you ever have cause to doubt, Fate has a sense of humour.  
For until Judgement Day shall dawn our hero will recline,

## Coombe Abbey Country Park Turners' Weekend Saturday & Sunday 7th & 8th July 2001

This event will be directed by Coombe Abbey Woodturners in conjunction with the staff of Coombe Abbey. It is expected that several woodturning clubs may be involved and that woodcrafts other than turning will be represented. There will be opportunities to see craftsmen at work. Admission on the Saturday is restricted but on Sunday the event is open to the public with no admission charge - Geoff Astin, Coombe Abbey Woodturners Secretary can advise - 01788 810431

## Press Release

The AWGB and Revolutions maintains an editorial policy of not giving publicity to commercial organisations seeking to promote their products or services.

Occasionally, and very rarely, however something comes along that we cannot ignore, and we break with our usual conventions.

One such occasion occurred at the beginning of April when the following Press Release was received. Realising the value and impact this product may have for many members we take the opportunity to publish the release in its entirety.

*Watch this space for future updates!*

### Streamly Abrasive Co Introduces Programmable Sandpaper

Streamly Abrasive Company is distributing a beta version of a revolutionary sandpaper system called **AdjustaGrit** that changes grits automatically, eliminating the labour of switching from one piece of sandpaper to another piece of a different grit.

The voice-activated **AdjustaGrit** changes its own grit size, ranging from 40 to 600, in response to voice commands. The changeover from one grit to another takes only 2 seconds.

Pavel Anthonius, Director of Development at Streamly Abrasive, says that the **AdjustaGrit** also features an auto-response mechanism that enables it to respond to inflections in the user's voice with appropriate verbal acknowledgements and repartees.

"The prototype we are testing can say 'Aye aye sir', 'You da boss' and 'Change the freakin' grit yourself, Bucko', says Anthonius, "Users will be able to program their own auto-responses when we roll out the production model."

# Thoughts from a Wood-turning Widow

By Jean Westerman

*Jean's husband John submitted this article - I trust with her permission! It reflects sentiments that my wife certainly identified with - and I guess that others may also nod sagely if allowed to read our newsletter.*

One hour. In one hour my husband would be in bearing his latest woodturning. Please let it not be another mushroom. I must get my smiling muscles working, just in case, as well as my response

"Oh, Henry. How lovely!"  
- no, I used that last time.

"Another mushroom. How delightful!"  
- hard to keep the sarcasm out of that one.

It's not that I have anything against the fungi, you understand. They are quite attractive, in moderation, but take a look round my sitting room.

Mushrooms adorn every flat surface; they peer out through flowering plants and shyly round vases. Both high and low. There they are. Tall ones, short ones, fat ones, thin ones. There are more than enough to supply seats to all the elves and sprites in Fairyland. Unfortunately they all suffer from the same complaint - cracking, a large enough split in each one to engulf all but the stoutest pixies.

Don't get me wrong, they look fine when Henry first brings them in. Well, except for the odd chip out of a rim and a base which is not quite flat. But all develop a crack within a few days. It's the fault of the wood being wet, I am told. The warmth of the house makes them dry unevenly. Unfortunately all the wood he collects is 'wet'. We can't afford the dry variety. That was to come at some

time in the future apparently.

Henry retired six months ago at the same time as George, his old friend. Together they had a plan. They were going to sell their wood-turned projects at boot fairs and suchlike. Then, with the money, they would buy kiln-dried exotic wood to make expensive articles. Until then they had to get wood from whatever free source they could find.

I hadn't minded selling my car when Henry finished work; after all we no longer needed two. I had no objection to him using the money to buy his lathe and sundry things such as tools and grinders and things. I didn't moan when all the money went, after all, he'd always wanted to try his hand at woodturning and being retired he had to have a hobby of some sort. I even tolerate the long hours he spends in his workshop at the bottom of the garden.

But what I do get cross about is the way he acquires his wood. Standing outside a neighbour's house, watching a cherry tree being sawn down and then being so particular as to which pieces he wanted had proved most embarrassing. It was worse when we held up the traffic on a country road whilst he negotiated with some workmen who were cutting down and old chestnut tree. The biggest crime of all was when Henry got designs on the trees in our garden. The poor things only had to produce a branch more than three inches across and there it was - gone! And look at my laburnum tree. 'Quaint', he calls it. 'Lop-sided' is nearer to the truth. And I'm still not convinced the branch was diseased.

He didn't only make mushrooms, of course. There was the bud vase he made for his mother. It never saw a

flower though. She insisted on putting it on her mantelpiece - upside down, she said it looked better that way. Henry had excused her. After all she was nearly ninety and her eyes were not very good.

Then there was the fancy candlestick he made for me. Unfortunately the measurements were not quite right and when a candle was inserted into it the whole lot fell over. A real fire hazard.

My husband was once very clever and actually made a pot with a lid. Sadly, after it had been in the house for a few days, it warped and the lid became impossible to remove. I'm not quite sure what you would call it now.

The door burst open and there was Henry, shaking equal amounts of wood chips and rainwater from his shoulders. Puffing sawdust from his whiskers, he offered me his latest project.

"How nice, dear. A saucer, is it?"

"Well, actually, it started out as a bowl but the gouge would insist on shooting out of the bowl, instead of inwards, where I was directing it. It clipped chunks of wood off the edge each time". He looked a little shamefaced. "I'd got the hang of it by the time it got down to this size"

Suddenly the phone rang and it was George, for Henry of course. After a while, he bellowed

"Mary, Mary. Quick. Come here!"

Imagining heart pains, mini strokes, cramped muscles, I ran into the sitting room to see my husband, eyes gleaming through his wet sawdust coated glasses. He seized me round



the waist and began to twirl us excitedly round the room, shedding his toupee of wood shavings in the process. I pulled myself away and looked at him.

"What on earth is it? Have you gone mad?"

"Guess what. The college down the road is starting a woodturning course next month. It lasts for ten weeks and I'll get concessions so it won't cost

much. Oh Mary, I can learn, at last, how to turn properly. Isn't that great?"

I felt delighted for him, just what he needed but it meant that I would see even less of him in the future. What do they say? -

'If you can't beat 'em, join 'em.'

Perhaps.... Are there such people as female turners?

## Kwik Tips

from

**Chuck Turner**

### The Old Ways to the rescue

When preparing a fresh cut branch or tree trunk for seasoning, it is advised by some, that the wood should be cut into 3 to 4 foot lengths. Then cut down the length, before the ends of the two parts are painted with, "End Seal", Wax, Old bitumen or Gloss Paint, or PVA Glue. Then laid down, supported off the ground with "Stick" spacers between the half logs to allow air to circulate, and covered to keep off the rain.

All fairly straight forward you may say up to now, but the great draw back to all this is the cutting down the centre of the 3 to 4 foot length. If you can't do it on your band saw, or are like me frightened to death at the thought of using a chain saw. What a mighty hand-sawing job now confronts one!

However help is at hand, in the shape of the steel wedge in common use in my Grandfathers day, when so many of the population had to cut wood for the family fire and there were quite often not enough hands to lift heavy trunks on the saw horse.

Just after World War 2 I inherited my grandfathers wedges, all three about 10 to 11 inches long each one thicker than the next and accompanied by a huge wooden mallet with a handle that would

fit a pickaxe.

They were most useful in those days of fuel rationing and I did a lot of free timber trimming locally for various properties, the wedges quickly turning the heavy timbers into manageable sections.

Then I loaned them to a friend, who in spite of being told to use the wooden mallet, hit the wedges with a sledgehammer – just to prove I suppose that they were cast iron. They shattered!

So when a few weeks ago I was asked by who is near and dear, what I wanted for Christmas I couldn't give an answer, until a friend bought me a large length of Eucalyptus. I was confronted by that big sawing job and the penny dropped!

Wedges but steel this time. Yes they are still available from a good agricultural supplier, but forged steel these days. They are apparently available in different lengths for log or trunk.

All you have to do is lay out your log on a firm supporting surface and start at one end knocking the first wedge into the trunk to start splitting it into two, then follow the resulting crack down the length, leap frogging each wedge as it is released. Three wedges are usually sufficient used in this way.

Often the two halves are still tied together with strips of wood which still connect both parts after splitting – for this Grandfather also left me a deep bladed tie cutting axe!

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### Bowls and Platters

Most woodturners have no doubt experienced coming into a room, with the latest bowl or platter, laying on a table or work top, and observed that light from the window has highlighted the rippled surface in its bottom.

What disappointment comes over us, just when we had been convinced that this was the best thing we had ever made! Do not despair! Remount the item onto the lathe – take a length of squared off wood, to suit the radius of the bowl or platter bottom, wrap abrasive of your choice around it, and use it to flatten the offending surface.

You will be, as I was – most pleased with the result.

### Kwik Tips

**Have you any tips to share with your fellow turners? Ideas that have made your life easier? Contributions requested and gratefully received!**

# *To Sell Or Not to Sell - That is the question - but what is the answer?*

*by Peter Charles Fagg Member*

*(No longer the Isle of Wight's only member - membership has increased 100%!)*

Some months ago I decided to accept redundancy, 7th. December 2000 to be exact. I accepted this situation on the grounds that I had been employed by the same company for the last 17 years and had grown more disillusioned with industry as the years passed. Like many others I had always wanted to put into practice that which I had been pursuing for 6 years previous, namely woodturning.

I felt that the experience I had gained over the years would stand me in good stead for the future. I was not totally naïve but must admit that the idea of being "The Good Life" self-sufficient was high on my list. I am not going into a morbid listing of the problems that are involved, more along the lines of helping others be aware of the wonderful experiences that can be had by putting oneself on the market so to speak!

My initial intention was to invest the redundancy money; it wasn't much, into the business and improve my lot with a bigger lathe. But instead I reasoned that my present lathe was quite capable of producing worthwhile objects that had in the past been very saleable items. Instead I used the monies to pay deposits for various shows, little realising quite how much was needed to satisfy the demands of show organisers and coupled with the fact that the majority require the deposit during the months of February, March and April. This year unfortunately being the bleakest time for any income countrywide because of the Foot and Mouth cancelling so many venues! I had joined the Isle of Wight Farmers and Producers Market in December 2000 but had no chance of earning anything until late April 2001. Gallery space on the island is at a premium, 2 have offered me space but at the cost of 40% and 60% commission respectively which

I understand is the norm of the gallery scene.

Income is nil from the galleries but on asking they readily admit that visitor numbers are down by about 50%, which accounts for much.

To try and alleviate the inevitable worries of cash flow, tax and all the other variables I did undertake a course with the local Business-Link office called "Make it Happen!" recommended to me by Alan Green in Weymouth. It was an intensive 2 days, but worth the hassle, it opened my blinkered vision to the necessities when surviving on a much-reduced income plus reduced the worry of self-assessment with the taxman! It was an encouraging session with a local tax officer who could relate to local needs and questions, although the big test will be March next year as to how much I understood and remember! The Business-Link have an excellent back-up system for those who attend and no problem is too small, which is a great relief when the postman delivers those brown envelopes. The course also opened the doors to the County Planning Office, The Health and Safety Officer, The Inland Revenue and other august bodies that previously had been considered too awful to contemplate. In turn it led to another course on "Advertising and Promoting Your Business" which although it could be considered a little OTT had many relevant points connected to the one man band. Even if the ideas did verge on the expensive!

To take the venture out into the world needed not only hard cash but also a lot of determination. There have been days when I have been totally bereft of interest and inclination to replace the stock sold at a previous market or show, but the rallying cry of "Would you like a cup of tea" from my dear wife usually

opens the floodgates. Without my wife's support the whole deal would not be possible, after all she is the one who volunteered to stand in at shows and markets so that I can take a break. Allows me to fill the house and garden with wood without complaining and is always ready to sew display cloths or advise on the inevitable paperwork!

Never be afraid to ask another's opinion, even another woodturner will see your problem differently, and often an inspiration is only a question away. One thing that must be faced and is usually not considered is the fact of working totally on your own. When you start, your safety, your ideas and when you stop are the things that you alone must decide. The days amid the camaraderie of your work colleagues has passed and it can hit very hard usually when you least expect it and usually when you least want it! Even if they were the world's biggest bores or had problems stringing two words together the friendly banter can be sorely missed.

The rewards. Having attended 5 Markets and 3 shows has resulted in 5 commissions, 2 tutorials and wood from all corners of the island and a healthier though not expanding bank balance! I have a peace of mind that I had searched for in too many years, I am relaxed and I look forward to the future.

Are YOU going to be a full time woodturner, if the answer is yes, then go for it, if the answer is that you are unsure, don't do it, you must believe in yourself and in your product. The rewards are many but..

*To be continued.....*

## Roger Grant Warren-Finding

We are sad to report the death, just before Christmas, of Roger Warren-Finding, the founder and President of the Coombe Abbey Woodturners Club. He was a man who was a great inspiration to so many people and he played a major role in making the club what it is today. Roger was born in Bedford in 1944 and he was a very gifted and creative man who made good use of his skills.

Apart from his integrity as a skilled man, his genuine concern and interest in other people was one of his great strengths. He was sensitive to what was going on around him and his straightforward manner and gift for communication inspired confidence. Roger was always the first to offer help if someone was in a spot of bother. He had a wonderful sense of humour and his boundless energy was truly remarkable. He was always a step ahead of himself

and two steps ahead of everyone else, but was always a team player. He never saw barriers, only possibilities, and was totally committed to whatever he put his mind to. He challenged convention with his creative and inventive mind. He became a Freeman of the City of London in 1994 and he was admitted to the livery of the Worshipful Company of Turners a year later. He was currently teaching woodturning at the North Warwickshire and Hinckley College where his skill, good humour and willingness to help and support his students will certainly be missed. His students were inspired by the ease with which Roger was able to demonstrate a method and talk it through at the same time. He gave his students difficult pieces to work on from the start and with his encouragement they were able to gain their NVQ level 2 certificates.

Roger was a master showman who seemed to come to life with a chisel in his hand, a lathe in front and an audience; he was much in demand at shows. He could do one thing that many other very good turners cannot, that is talk about what he was doing without stopping and without anyone losing interest. He presented the art of woodturning in such a manner that it became an entertainment. He always drew a big crowd with his ability to turn some very intricate pieces that most of us would be loathe to try even in the privacy of our own workshop. He would keep up a very informative and entertaining commentary at the same time.

He will be long remembered by the members of the Coombe Abbey Woodturners for his enormous personality and the guidance he willingly gave on all matters.

## *Revolutions.....*

### *the next edition & last word (maybe!)*

Publication of the next edition of *Revolutions* will be delayed until after the Loughborough Seminar that is to be held in mid-August. This will allow early reports on this important event in the life of the Association to reach the membership.

And.....

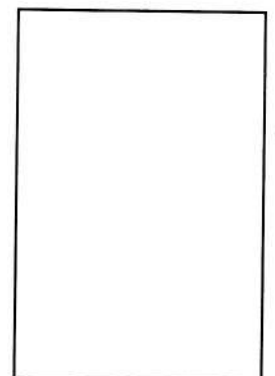
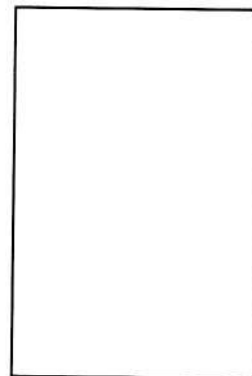
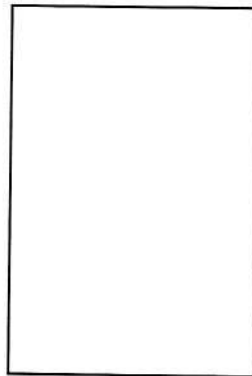
I discovered the shared experience of we Newsletter editors whilst reading the latest edition of 'Counter Revolutions', newsletter of the Kent branch. To the right I reproduce an item penned by Keith Donald, the editor, that struck a chord with me.

I won't bore you with my pleas.....

This couldn't be *Revolutions*.....  
.....could it?

## A Less Than Subtle Hint

I thought you would appreciate a preview of next month's *Counter Revolutions*.



How can I draw articles out of you for publication? We really do love to read of each other's experiences, good or bad.....

In the meantime.....over to you.