



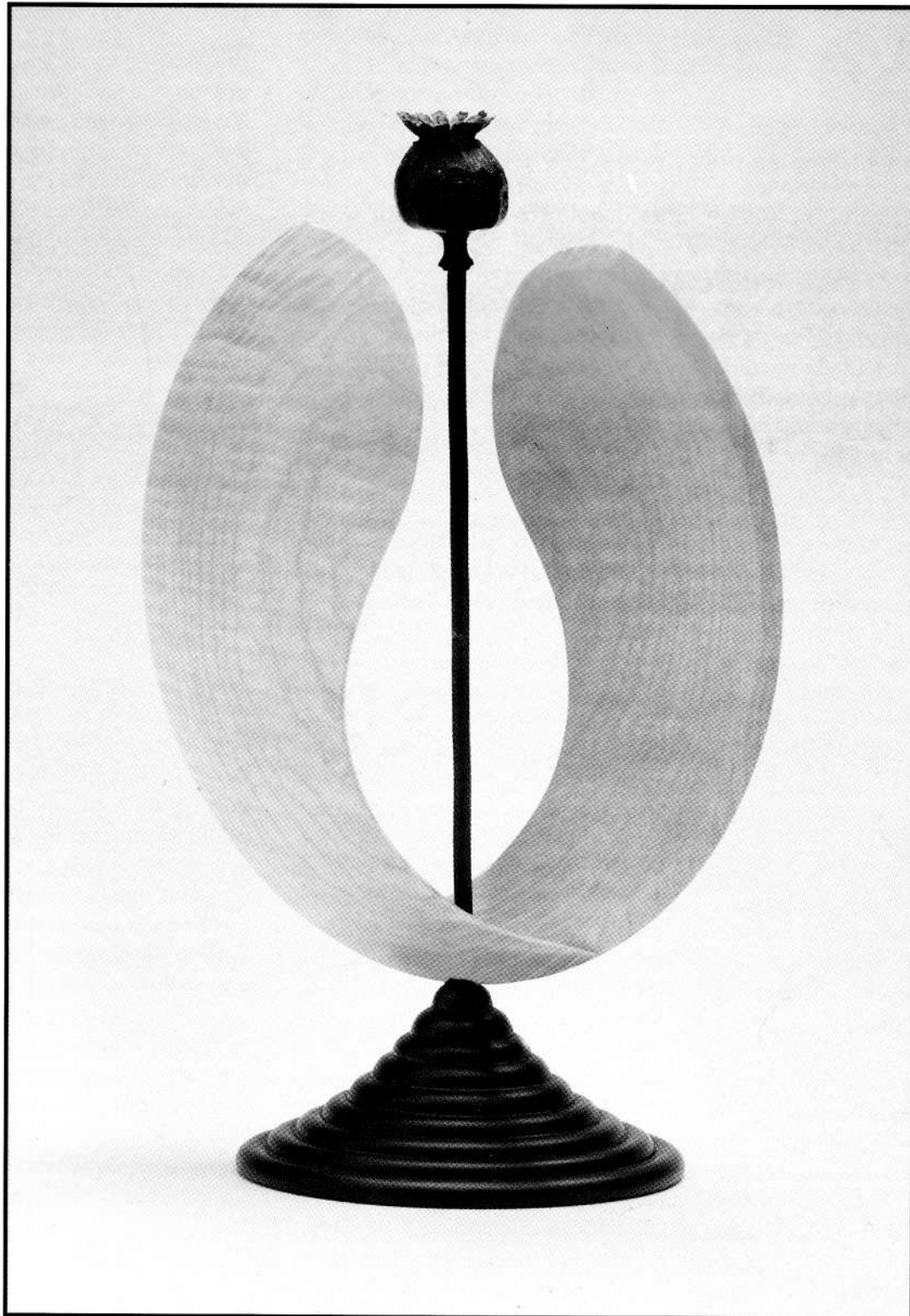
# *Revolutions*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

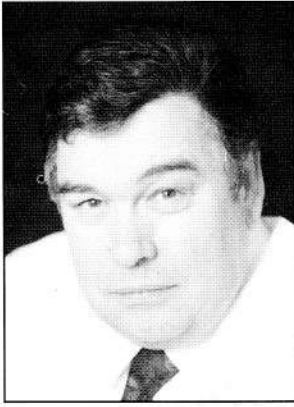
Issue No 59

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December 2001



# Chairmans Notes



With the onset of Autumn I expect many members will be heading for the warmth of their workshops in the coming months after the so called summer. At least this seems to be the tradition among most hobby turners from various surveys that have been conducted over the years. For my part it would be nice to get back to some serious turning after a year in which it seems that through one thing or another I have not had the opportunity.

The AWGB has not been so relaxed, I am pleased to say. We have had a very busy year moving the Association forward, most of the time devoted to the seminar, but also on formulating the Members Development Programme and, as you will read, some changes to the constitution.

## Changes to the Constitution

At the AGM last year it was proposed that changes in the way in which Regional Branch Representatives were elected would be reflected in a change to the constitution. To effect the changes an EGM would have to be called if we wanted the changes to be effective from the next AGM. Because of the Seminar and other matters we simply did not have enough time to reword the Constitution and hold an EGM ready for the calling of nominations for the retiring Regional Branch Representatives. Therefore the calling for nominations will be as it has been for the last few years and the changes for the constitution will be

balloted at the coming AGM.

I urge all branches to nominate one of their members to stand for one of the two posts that are up for re-election.

The other change to the constitution is to add a further class of membership – that of Corporate member. A corporate member is a company membership whose membership entitles them to be included as a trading company in the members handbook. The cost of which will be £20 per annum.

You will find the notice of the AGM elsewhere in this newsletter. With our policy of moving the AGM around the country we are this time holding it in the Cotswolds

## Charity Turn

I am disappointed by the charity turn and at the same time delighted at the result. Let me explain – at our committee meeting a week before the event we were thinking that we would have to cancel the whole thing through lack of donated work. We had three pieces from the membership and some from committee members which to say the least was a pathetic response. We had expected branches to participate by collecting items from their members and send them in as well as donations from individuals. We were not going to be beaten. We have always given a good account of ourselves over the years with these charity turns and we were not going to fail with this one. The committee members got their lathes going and raided their stock and with the help of one or two branches managed to get enough pieces to make the event worthwhile. In the end we managed to raise £1,082, donating £550 to the Devon Air Ambulance which is the charity that the Axminster Show was supporting and the remainder to the

British Heart Foundation. We also gave the Air Ambulance the items that were left over for them to put into their charity shops.

## Members Development Programme

I am pleased to tell you that this programme has been well received by the members and we have had some excellent press coverage. As well as the scholarships to the seminar that were awarded to four applicants we have now approved the first course scholarship and several membership applications. These awards are considered and made in October and April each year.

## US Honour for Ray Key

Congratulations to our President who has been awarded a life time membership of the American Association of Woodturners.

## Seminar 2003

The Executive Committee has agreed to hold a Seminar in 2003, once again at Loughborough University. Committee members have heard nothing but praise for the organisation of this years seminar so it seems appropriate that we go back to Loughborough. We have not booked the venue yet but it is likely to be the second weekend in August. More information in the next newsletter. For those who felt that there was too much walking this year we will try to get accommodation and eating facilities nearer the seminar venue.

I hope that you all have a very good Christmas and have a very happy New Year

**Mike Dennis**

# 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) £2.50 p&p inclusive  
**CLOTH BADGES** For sewing on Smocks etc £4.00 p&p inclusive  
**CAR STICKERS** £1 and sae (9"x6") or postage free with badge orders

Send Cheque etc, to Reg Hawthorne (Address Opposite)  
MAKE ALL PAYMENTS TO AWGB

**Copy deadline for the next edition of  
Revolutions  
15 January 2002**

# Editorial

## Shows

The show season is upon us and I have managed to spend sometime at both the NEC and Axminster shows – very different but both enjoyable. The Association was well represented at both with a stand featuring a demonstration and advice clinic and outstanding display of the variety of work currently being produced by members. The backbone of this display was provided by exhibits from the 50 pieces selected at the Loughborough seminar supplemented by additional pieces garnered by Reg Hawthorne and the local branches that provided stewards for the stand. Axminster, in particular, took some filling as we were given a very large stand. In both cases the stand did us proud and thanks are due to Reg and his helpers.

At Axminster we featured a charity turn, and despite some misgivings leading up to the show, of which you can read elsewhere this proved a very

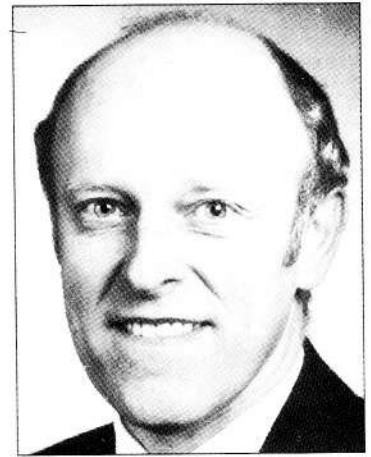
successful venture. Over £1000 was raised and in excess of £500 presented to both the Devon Air Ambulance, the show charity, and the British Heart Foundation in the name of the association

## Competitions

Details are beginning to filter through concerning forthcoming, 2002, competitions. The next edition will give details of these. May I encourage you to consider entering – don't be shy, if it will be a first for you treat it as a learning experience. The discipline required to plan and execute pieces to the competition brief can concentrate the mind and help your development as a turner. It is also fair recompense to the organisers who are sometimes disappointed by the volume of entries. Give it a go!

## Subscriptions

2002 is fast approaching and membership subscriptions become due at the end of December. Please



make your officer's tasks easier by paying promptly – if a branch member direct to your branch treasurer or direct to Derek Phillips if an individual member. A renewal form is mailed with this *Revolutions*.

Finally may I take this opportunity to bid the seasons greetings to you and yours. May we all have a Happy Christmas and the world experience a more peaceful and prosperous New Year.

**John Wilson**

## *AWGB - Annual General Meeting*

The Annual General Meeting of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain will be held on

**March 10th 2002**

**at**

**Bradwell Village Hall, Nr Stow-on-the-Wold**

Agenda and full details will be published in the next edition of *Revolutions*.

The attendance of all members of the Association is requested.

## *Advance Notice*



# Chippings and Shavings AWGB News Briefings

## AWGB Merchandise

In the last edition of *Revolutions* we reported two new items available to members - Binders for *Revolutions* and Car Stickers of the AWGB logo.

The smart green leathercloth binders with gold blocking will hold 16 copies of *Revolutions* and are available from John Wilson for £6. See the advert in this edition and order yours now.

The Car Stickers are a neat and tasteful representation of the AWGB logo and provide a way of advertising your affiliation and making others aware of the association's existence. The stickers are available from Reg Hawthorne, contact details are to be found on page 3. Send £1 and a sae (9"x6") for yours.

Also available are cloth and metal lapel badges. These cost £4 and £2.50 respectively, postage & packing included and once again may be obtained from Reg Hawthorne. Ordering details may be found on page 3.

## Branch Updates

Notification has been received of changes of secretary for several branches. The new secretaries are

### Avon & Bristol Woodturners

Mr Mervyn Monks  
21 Willis Road  
Kingswood  
Bristol BS15 4ST  
Tel. 0117 961 0356

### Burcot Woodturners Club

Mr John Smith  
63 Heathleigh Road  
Kings Norton  
Birmingham  
Tel. 0121 458 5884

### Mid-Wales Woodturners

Mr Joe Catley  
Ty Derwen  
Llandinam  
Powys SY17 5BY  
Tel. 01686 689191  
E-mail. J.P.Catley@btinternet.com

## Development Programme

You will have read in the last issue of *Revolutions* details of the AWGB Development Programme. This initiative is designed to assist members and potential members in the development of their woodturning skills and was launched at the AWGB Seminar, held at Loughborough University in August.

During the presentation it was emphasised that only the funds raised by the Seminar Auction will be earmarked to finance the Programme. Coupled with the announcement was the release of a Booklet, available to all members, outlining the various grants available.

Subsequent to the Seminar the response to the scheme has been fairly encouraging and assistance is already being provided for applicants wishing to either join the AWGB, attend a course of tuition or take up the offer of the loan of a lathe. Funds for the continuation of assistance will be allocated on a yearly basis dependent

on the projected demand for support.

Limited funds remain in the current year's allocation so it is not too late to apply. If you would be interested in support from the programme you are invited to contact Peter Brown - AWGB Development Officer. Contact details may be found on Page 3. In addition, if you are a member of a Branch your Secretary is in possession of a Development Programme Booklet and should be able to provide any information you may require.

## Cheam

Notification has been received of the new officers of this branch. The principal points of contact are:

Chairman:  
Frank Clarke  
81 Knightwood Crescent  
New Malden  
Surrey, KT3 5JP.  
020-8942-5463  
frankclarke@btinternet.com

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David Buskell  
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83 Viney Bank, Courtwood Lane  
Addington, Surrey, CR0 9JU.  
020-8657-5565  
davidbuskell@yahoo.com

The branch also reports that from November 2001 it will have a change of evening and venue for its meetings. The branch will now meet on the third wednesday of the month at

North Cheam Sports & Social Club  
658 London Road (A24)  
North Cheam  
Surrey SM3 9BY

this is located next to Sainsbury's supermarket.

## Subscriptions.....

.....are due soon.

Don't forget to renew yours

..... PROMPTLY!

# Julie Heryet's Diary

*Julie was awarded a scholarship to the AWGB Seminar at Loughborough. All those awarded funds from the Development Fund are required, as part of the terms of the award, to provide a report on their experiences. The following is Julie's highly individual take on her experience.*

## 8 June 2001

Receive letter from Lionel Pringle informing me that my application for an AWGB Seminar Scholarship had been successful. Can't believe it of course. Immediately 'phoned husband.

"I've got one"

"What? A disease?"

"No, a scholarship to the seminar"

"This is where you will be able to talk about wood turning for three days eh?"

"Yep"

"Well you had better stop leaping around like a twit and get out in the garage and turn something for the instant gallery"

His pragmatic attitude will not spoil my excitement. The things I will do! Learn new techniques. Develop existing skills. Network with other turners. Learn demonstration skills. View other turners' works at close range. Share the ideas from the seminar with club members. Soak up the enthusiasm of fellow woodturners. Gain confidence. Talk and listen woodturning for 3 days .....

## 14 July 2001

Have spent two weeks planning what to make for the Instant Gallery. Why did I write on my application that I wanted to develop my hollowing and thread chasing techniques? Cos now I feel I need to make something along those lines.

## 20 July 2001

Umpteenth hollow pot bites the dust. Reflect on one of those little ironies of

woodturning that are engineered to scupper the planning of any woodturner. When one is hollowing, why is it that on beginning to hollow, the inside looks a lot deeper and therefore one goes through the bottom! Also reflect that it is a pity that my dust extractor doesn't deal with the blue air.

## 9 August 2001

Whilst packing away my items for the gallery I ask,

"Why have I bothered. Who is going to want to look at them anyway?"

## 10 August 2001

### 07.30

Arrive at Simon's house along with other delegates from Bristol sharing a lift.

### 07.35

We're off. Off to see the wonderful wizardry of woodturning! Wave bye-bye to husband and daughter. Briefly wonder whether they will manage without me. Even briefer thought as to whether they would miss me. Waste of valuable brainpower really knowing that they will have a riotous time with me out of the way!

### 09.55

Look at watch and am disappointed to find that lunchtime is yet two and a half hours away.

### 10.10

Arrive safely feeling grateful that I neither had to drive nor map read. Pretend to laugh as companions comment on same.

### 10.20

Have yet to find pedestrian exit from car park but have had the loveliest meeting with Mrs Llewelyn a revered needlework teacher from my school days. She is accompanying her woodturning husband. What a small world! Then spend fifteen minutes trying to find reception.

### 10.35

Still trying to find reception

### 10.40

Booked in at last and relieved to find that I have a bedroom all to myself. I had convinced myself that I would have to share a bedroom with a big hairy woodturner.

### 10.45

Realise disappointed at not sharing a room with a big hairy woodturner.

### 11.30

Return from a 5-minute walk taking half an hour, trying to find lecture theatres and the instant gallery. Eat packet of crisps as a reward for having the courage to submit work. Would have eaten two packets had I not been with someone.

### 11.35

Return to room to study the choices for the afternoon demonstrations and eat two packets of crisps.

### 12.30

At last ... lunch time. Fell to the fodder with relish (ha!) and fell into easy conversation with a gentleman who once worked in Bristol but has since escaped.

**14.00**

Chairman's welcome and introductions, which included an apology for the lack of shaving sockets in the rooms. Well that's that then – no smooth legs this weekend.

**14.25**

Hugely excited as I walk into the theatre in which Alain Mailland is to demonstrate 'Wooden Flower – dramatic and delicate'

**15.30**

Spent the last hour watching an exquisite flower bloom before my eyes. Now I believe in magic!

**16.00**

Over afternoon tea, chatted with Ian Wilkie who is wonderfully enthusiastic for fellow woodturners and particularly for encouraging more females into woodturning.

**16.30**

Enter Mike Scott's demo 'Fluted forms using a router and jig' in trepidation, as not overly enthused about watching and hearing a router in full swing.

**17.30**

Trepidation of MS demo greatly unnecessary. Witnessing how he went about developing his piece on the hoof was absorbing and got me thinking. The flame-thrower was fun too.

**18.10**

Return to room for a quick shower – only got lost twice. Then pore over Seminar timetable. I want to see it all but can't so tick those I really shouldn't miss.

**18.20**

Cross out ticks 'cos changed mind and this time mark with an asterisk.

**18.40**

Cross out asterisks 'cos have changed mind again. Realise that timetable is now unreadable and will be lucky to know where on earth I should be!

**18.55**

Scurry around trying to get dressed and get myself back to the lecture theatres for the buffet. Need at least an extra 15 minutes in order to get lost on the way over.

**19.15**

Get to buffet only to find that most other delegates had already arrived and were tucking in. Gannets! Eat some pasta and green bits and go back for more, twice. Consider that the extra mileage I walk in trying to find places is an adequate excuse for my greed!

**20.00**

Listen to Mr Bill Jones introduce and then open the instant gallery. He was speaking from a raised platform; fitting really. Consider this to be some kind of metaphor for the pedestal on which we woodturners place him.

**20.10**

Enter a world of make believe and spend the next hour or so being enchanted, captivated, challenged, amazed and totally enthralled at the work on display.

**21.30**

Chased out of gallery, so worked up a thirst by getting lost in the dark trying to find my way back to the dining area and bar. Follow three unlikely lads who appear to have been lost for longer than me as one of them leaps into the bushes for, and I quote, "a slash". How quaint. Nice one Mr Tattersall. Obviously warming to the customs of Anglesey. I hope you washed your hands!.

A car stops and occupant asks three intrepid explorers for direction to the bar (obviously another woodturner) All three of them pile into said car. No lift offered to me I note.

**21.40**

Finally make it to the bar for much needed juice. Sit down and smile smugly when my three intrepid explorers, plus chauffeur, enter the bar 10 minutes later. Ha, foot power wins

again.

**22.30**

Make it to bed to contemplate my turning and the dichotomy of feeling both elated and totally depressed at the same time.

**23.00**

Realise I have no alarm clock. Worry about being up in time for breakfast and missing Jean Francois Escoulen demonstrate his 'Trembleur'

**24.00**

I'm in for a long night of worry.

**11 August 2001**

**03.00**

Still no sleep.

**05.22**

I don't believe it! Having just managed to nod off, somebody's alarm went off!

**06.00**

Give in and get up.

**07.20**

Breakfast on bran flakes, strawberries and woodturning chat.

**10.30**

Emergence from theatre have been bewitched by watching 'Dances with Tools', a drama in fine French tradition, starring Jean Francois Escoulen. The plot revolved around our hero, who has been taught remarkable turning feats by his father and assisted by an ancient, magical encyclopaedia of turning, having to make a very long, very thin 'Trembleur' without it breaking. This of course is impossible to mere mortals. The love interest was supplied by a piece of pear, which wasn't very pretty, but solid and dependable with clean straight grain. However, the baddies – an international band of woodworm hidden deep within the pear – only came to light halfway through the show but gosh were they mean! Their

hideouts were positioned close to the centre line of the trembleur, However, with the help from his sidekick Bedane and a supporting cast of 'Steadies' our trusty hero won the day so that turner, timber and trembleur rode off into the sunset for a happy ending.

#### **10.40**

Over morning coffee, muse over attempting an investigation as to whether all French turners are left-handed.

#### **11.00**

Welcome the fresh air as I watch Laura Ponting bring a whole new meaning to the term wet turning. Laura uses scorching techniques to decorate some of her turnings, and amid fears that the flame would set off the fire alarms, she was sent outside to perform where it was, of course, raining! And we got wet. But it was worth it. Just to see how well she coped with the disruption was a lesson in itself and led me to wonder why it is I couldn't be cool and calm under such circumstances. Clever \*\*\*\*\*!

#### **12.30**

Congratulate myself on making it back to the dining area without getting lost.

#### **13.50**

Spent next hour flitting from one commercial break to another and looking forward to Stuart Mortimer's demo on 'Thin hollow forms with pierced decoration'.

#### **16.00**

I wasn't disappointed by Mr Mortimer. His session was full of energy, hustle and bustle and lots of tools. A world apart from the Escoulen demo in terms of approach and execution but just as stimulating. Takes all sorts.

#### **19.00**

Gosh it is hard writing up here. My notebook keeps sinking and my pen floats away. Passing angels and a lack of oxygen make it difficult to concentrate. I am currently on Cloud Nine! It's not the easiest place from

which to write but it is nice to get the opportunity. Make a mental note to thank Mr Dale Nish for sending me here when he said a couple of nice things about one of my items in the instant gallery critique. Even Mr Jones gave a nod of approval. Golly, what more could a girl want?

#### **19.30**

Enjoy the evening chatting, eating and then listening to Len Grantham auction some wonderful items. Sit in wonder at the fact that in a room full of Woodturners our auctioneer didn't have a block and gavel!

#### **22.45**

Retire to room yawning like mad but with a head simply buzzing like a beehive and so no chance of sleep. So much for yesterday's worry about not having an alarm clock.

### **12 August 2001**

#### **07.25**

Over breakfast I worry about being able to stay awake for the whole of the day but shouldn't, having planned a whole day with the French men!

#### **08.45**

I thought I had walked into a French festival with what looked like party poppers erupting and bonfire flames dancing around. It was in fact Alain Mailland with his swept back gouges producing wet shavings in creating a 'translucent lampshade'. The whole performance was beautiful to watch and with his gentle humour and his audible punctuation it was a sort of Victor Borge meets Tai Chi.

#### **10.50**

Marvel at the fact that his grace and beauty in movement of body right down to the breathing was continued in the second session. Using a root of a pistachio tree he turned a vessel ready for carving. I note the colour of the root – very flesh-like and biological. Using a Dremel and a few burrs he started to carve it. He did explain that he had to be responsive to the timber

and to do what it was telling him. I kept thinking of the film 'Fantastic Voyage'. Heart valves and gut linings. Not very poetic but one must get one's inspiration where one can.

#### **12.30**

Too tired and preoccupied to eat much. My fault for thinking about heart valves and gut linings.

#### **13.15**

Went to see second showing of 'Dances with Tools'. Beautiful.

#### **15.25**

If all that live turning wasn't enough, my mind was totally blown at the slide show. It comprised some truly remarkable artistry and craftsmanship from around the world. Such a diverse range of turned items, some big and beautiful, some small and beautiful, some absolutely stunning. Some weird and some contrived but all hugely inspiring.

#### **17.00**

Eek, it's time to go home. What already? Dizzily say my thanks and cheerios and seek out Mr and Mrs Llewelyn to wish them a safe journey.

#### **20.00**

Amazed to find that we are almost home, Spent journey deep in reverie, chatter about the weekend and mentally drafting a thank you letter to Lionel Pringle, AWGB and helpers for organising such a wonderfully stimulating seminar.

#### **20.10**

Kiss husband, hug daughter and foolishly ask,

"Did you miss me?"

to which they even more foolishly reply,

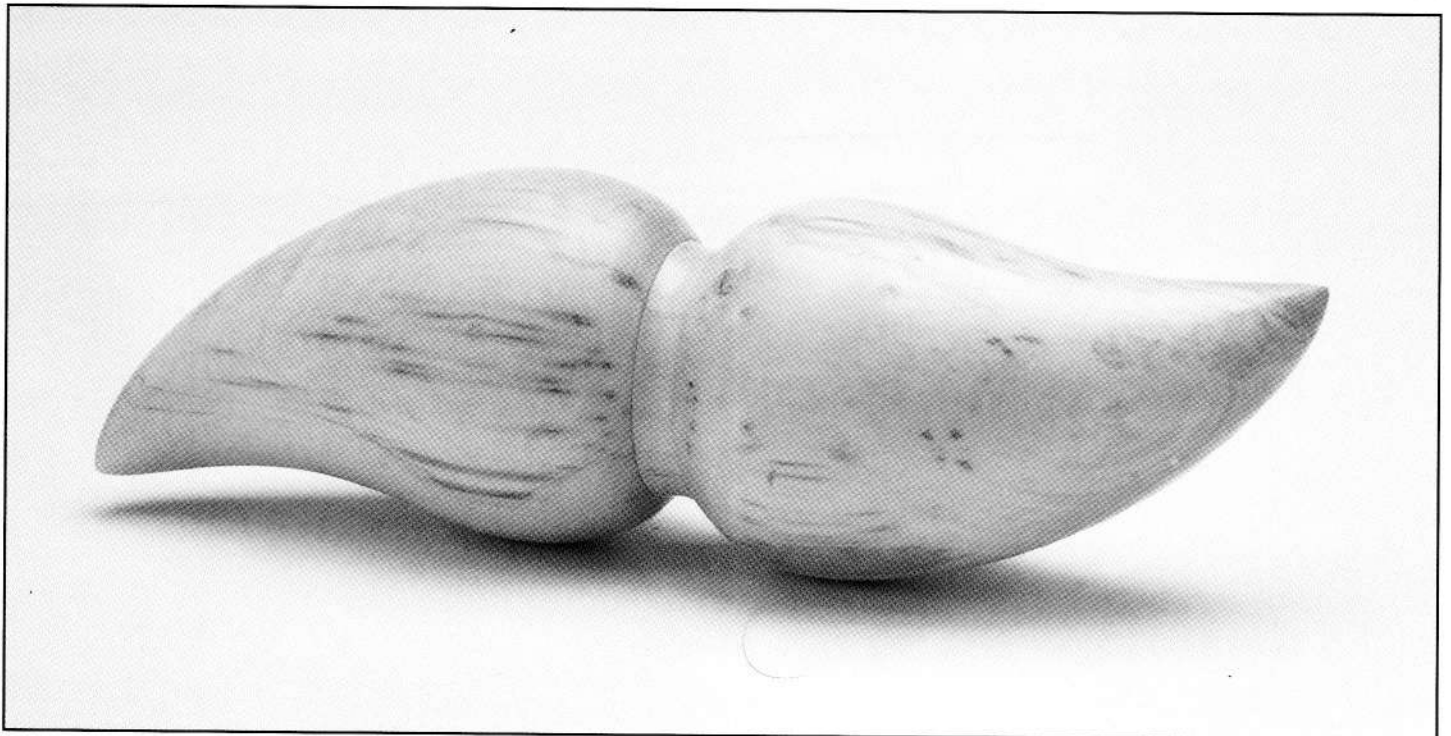
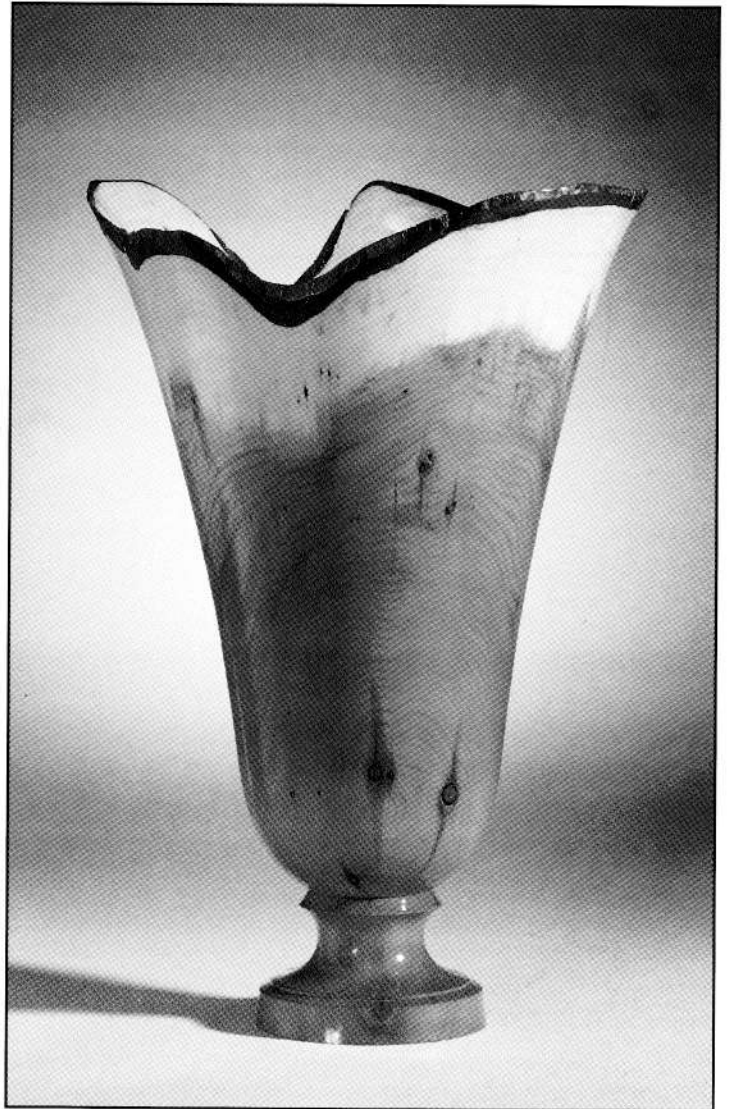
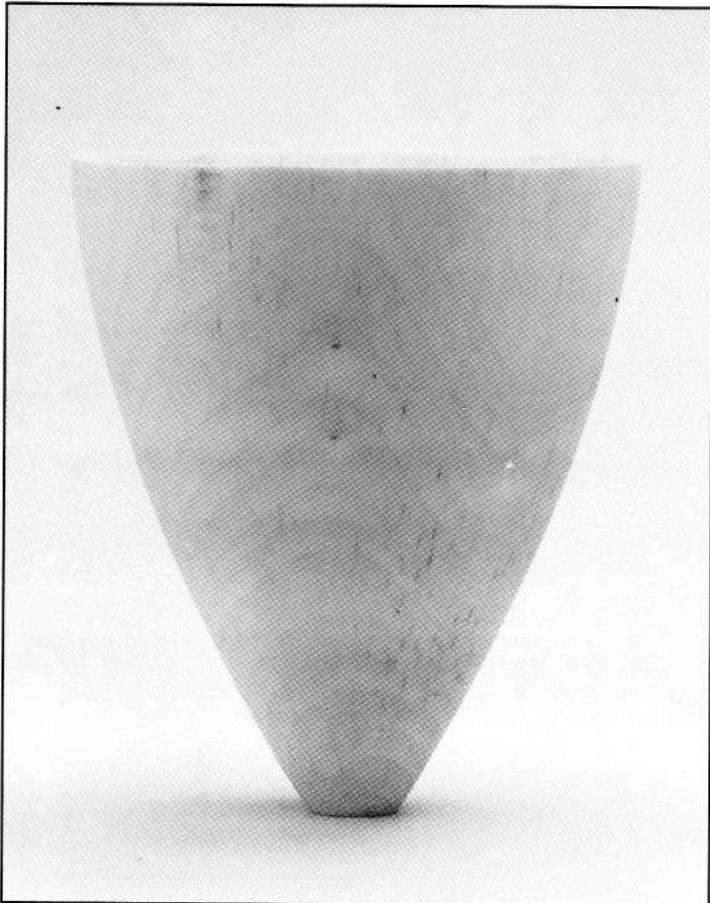
"Why, where have you been?"



# *Gallery 1 - Loughborough 2001*

*Below:* Ian Clarkson Bowl/Vase in Sycamore  
*Right:* Brian Wooldridge Natural Edge Vase in Yew  
*Bottom:* Julie Heryet Threaded Lid Containers

Photographs by Tony Boase





# *Men at Work Loughborough 2001*

*Left: Phil Irons takes a French lesson from Alain Mailland*

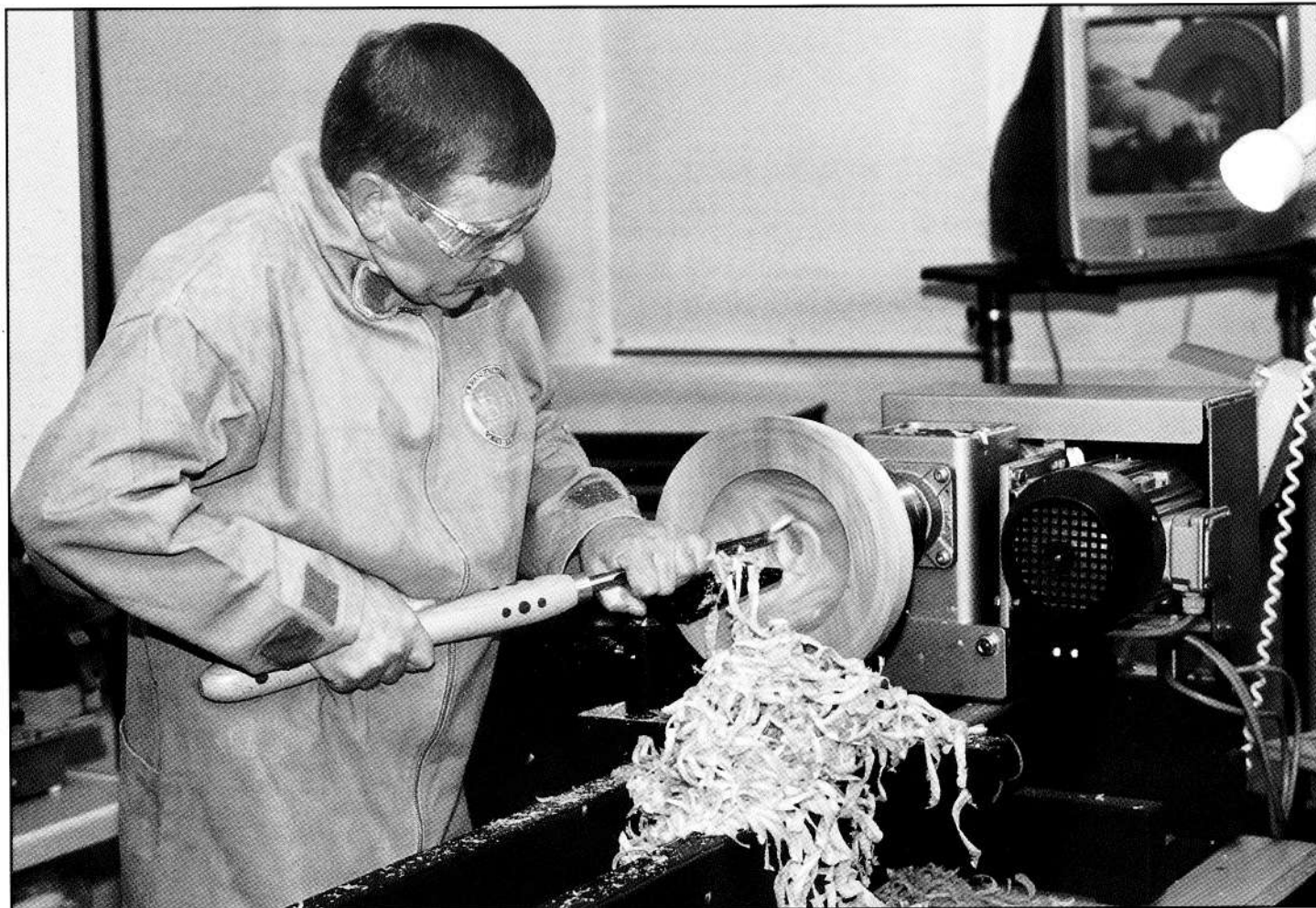
*Below: Rod Bonner at work during his well recieved demonstratarion of bowl turning*

*Facing Page - Anglesey takes on the world!*

*Top: Jules Tattersall during his demonstration*

*Bottom: Mike Scott demonstrating the use of his router system in the production of one of his trademark pieces*

Photographs by Tony Boase







# WOOD DUST

by Gerald Jones

*Gerald has spent many years as a medical practitioner, both in general practice and hospital appointments. He also has long experience as an enthusiastic cabinet maker and woodturner and won a silver medal at the Bristol Woodworkers Show. With his love of wood and background in medicine he is ideally placed to explore the hazards that may lurk for woodworkers. This paper, which will be presented in two parts, is the result of his study and was originally presented to the Worcestershire Woodturners Club.*

## INTRODUCTION

Those who take up woodturning today must face a daunting problem. Apart from the essential equipment which they are advised to get, including a lathe, there is a need for wood dust protection. This will entail extra expense and they must wonder how seriously to take this need. I have heard so much said concerning the dangers of dust that I have undertaken a study of the subject for my own peace of mind. Happily that blissful state of peace has been achieved; if I can do the same for others then so much the better. However, before you can make a judgement, you do have to know about the diseases which can result from wood dust so that you can consider the reasonable steps to take for protection.

Thanks to an excellent science library system in this country and after consulting the Health and Safety Executive for the references, I have been able to gather the necessary papers to complete the medical section which follows. Thanks to an equally excellent President of our Worcestershire Woodturners Club, Reg Sherwin, I have compiled the second section on dust protection, using mainly his ideas which he has generously made available to me (part two will appear in the next *Revolutions*).

Surprisingly it was not until 1940 that it was discovered that wood dust could be a medical hazard, I was completely ignorant on this subject, as on so many others, but with the justification that when I was a medical student in the

1940s it had not penetrated to the curriculum. It was a lecture in 1991 by a salesman for protection equipment who made greatly exaggerated claims for the dangers of dust which got me started. There are, however, definitely some dangers so it is necessary to know what to do to avoid these dangers and why.

## THE DISEASES INVOLVED

These are caused either by allergy or irritation. **Allergy** is a condition which affects some people causing them to respond to contact with substances which do not affect others. Regardless of the nature of the causative substance the response is always the same. The dust of a particular wood to which the person is sensitive has the same effect on the nose as, for example, grass pollen does in hay fever. **Irritation** on the other hand, means that everyone is affected as, for example, if you inhale pepper.

### Allergic Conditions

#### The Nose:

As in hay fever the nose will be blocked with swelling of its lining and discharge of a lot of fluid. Usually the eyes are affected as well. Sneezing is commonly very marked. There is usually a good response to Antihistamine drugs and this is a good test to show that the cause is allergic.

#### Asthma:

Only the nose may be involved but if the process goes to the lungs asthma will be the result. The same thing happens inside the small air tubes in

the lungs as in the nose, the lining swells, mucus is secreted and in addition the muscle lining contracts. All this leads to narrowing of the tubes and a wheezing sound is heard with breathing, breathing may be difficult in which case medical help may be required. Antihistamines do not work so well in asthma so the test is not reliable. Allergic asthma together with chronic bronchitis are the two diseases of greatest importance in this study as they are the most common and are preventable.

#### Skin:

Eczema (sometimes called Dermatitis) is the condition caused by contact if the patient is sensitive to the wood. Itchy red spots and a watery discharge occur. The exposed areas of skin are affected and this helps to indicate the nature of the condition.

#### Eyes:

The eyes become red and very watery and the lids swell up and itch. Often the skin elsewhere is involved as well.

#### Alveolitis:

This is a serious disease where the lung tissue is slowly destroyed. Here we are in uncharted waters as in most cases the cause is unknown. In one form of it, however, there is an allergic origin, and it is an allergy to the spores of certain fungi. These occur on some kinds of rotting vegetable matter such as mouldy hay in "Farmer's Lung" and in Sequoia bark among others. There is an acute form of the disease where sudden onset of a 'flu-like' illness occurs, and also a chronic (or slowly progressive) form which is only



diagnosed when a degree of damage has been done to the lungs. It is a very rare condition but there is a recent report that the variety of unknown cause is more common in woodturners than in the general public, but with an average exposure of 40 years. There is the possibility that spalted wood, which contains fungal spores, could be a cause but no such case has been recorded. These spores are very small, one micron or less, and a micron is one thousandth of a millimetre, and I give them the respect of taking full precautions rather more liberally when turning spalted woods. The rotting bark of both Sequoia and maple (Acer) is known to cause this disease and are best avoided. Without the bark you are safe.

### **Allergic Reaction**

The allergic reaction may be delayed by up to 12 hours so it may not be so obvious what is causing it, the fact that the same thing happens whenever one is exposed to a particular thing will eventually give the clue to the cause. The antihistamine test mentioned may help to clinch the diagnosis.

Allergy develops in people from contact with the cause; so it would be unlikely to happen the first time but people become sensitive to the cause, such as a particular wood, after varying degrees of exposure. It is only that one thing to which you become sensitive. It is also possible to become sensitive to something with which you have been in contact for many years. One such unfortunate is the humble writer with Iroko (*Chlorophora excelsa*).

In my opinion writing a list of woods which cause an allergic reaction in people is pointless, for although someone is sensitive to a wood others are not, and you do not know until you have tried. Little harm may be done if you become sensitive to a wood, and the obvious precaution then is to stop using the stuff in favour of something else, because subsequent reactions

may be more severe. With all the numerous exotic hard woods which are now available there may well be some which affect many people but I have no experience on the subject.

It was the prevalence of asthma among workers in the Canadian saw mills using Western Red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) which first brought the hazard of wood dust to the notice of the medical profession in 1941, in that case 70% of the workers were affected.

This is the only case I found where a wood can be said to be harmful to the majority of people. It is not generally used in woodturning and it might be best to leave it that way.

### **Conditions due to irritation**

#### **Cancer of the nose:**

This is the only form of cancer known to be caused by wood dust. A great deal of work has been done to see if other forms of cancer, particularly of the lungs, are associated with wood and no connection has as yet been found. This cancer of the nose is extremely rare and was discovered in the 1960s amongst workers in the furniture industry around High Wycombe. It was assumed to be caused by Oak (*Quercus*) and Beech (*Fagus*) as these are the woods most used there. Since then it has been reported from many parts of the world, so presumably other woods are involved. The average length of exposure to the dust before the cancer develops is 40 years, so modest precautions may be expected to reduce the incidence of this disease.

#### **Chronic Bronchitis:**

In this disease there is the excessive production of mucus in the lungs, coupled with long term coughing. Sufferers are prone to bouts of acute bronchitis during which they have a fever and severe cough. Chronic bronchitis is not immediately life threatening but is weakening and unpleasant and best avoided. It is very common in Britain due to our climate and air pollution in the last 200 years.

Wood dust would certainly help to cause it and undoubtedly make it worse in those who already have the condition. Along with allergic asthma chronic bronchitis is of major importance to us because of its frequency and that it can be prevented. Without suitable precautions the chance of developing it are high.

## **FACTORS AFFECTING HEALTH**

### **The nature of the dust:**

As far as the lungs are concerned it is the finer dust which matters because the coarser grades are filtered from the inhaled air in the nose and upper part of the airway. Those particles of a diameter below 5.0 microns remain suspended in the air and get down into the lungs, where the means of getting rid of them is much less effective than in the nose. Particles of less than 0.5 microns diameter do not matter so much as they stay in suspension and come out with the exhaled air.

It would be a mistake to conclude that the delay in first spotting the existence of a hazard from wood dust means that its effect is exaggerated, because there have been changes in the workshops in modern times which make comparison between the present and the past misleading. The use of very high speed tools and especially the sanding process produces a far greater amount of dust than formerly, and in particular the very fine grades of dust. This may help to account for the fact that disease from wood dust was not discovered until about 1940, it may not have existed to any extent before and, of course, there were so many other unpleasant diseases in the community that it may not have been noticed.

***You have to remember that this very fine dust is invisible and remains suspended in the air long after the coarse dust has settled.***

### **The nature of wood:**

It is often said that it is only the dust of

hardwoods which cause illness. With this I disagree, after all Western Red Cedar with its appalling record is a softwood, and Pine, also a softwood, contains turpentine which are known to cause allergic problems. The distinction is hardly relevant as taking protective measures can just as easily apply to both varieties. The only difference which I know is that a benevolent government has decreed that one should be measured in metres and the other in feet!

#### **Toxic woods:**

The word really means poisonous but it is taken to include those woods which cause allergy, which is not the same thing. It would be convenient if one could list a few woods and say that these are the ones to avoid but as already implied, it is possible that every wood has a few allergic victims. So the list tends to get extremely long. This is attempted in the Health and Safety Executive Woodworking Sheet No. 30 of July 1997 which gives a list of 52 woods, headed "The More Common Toxic Woods" and includes Ash, Beech, Iroko, Mahogany, Oak, Pine, Walnut and Yew. In other words, all the normal everyday woods. Nearly all the details given clearly refer to allergy but the muddle arises in the case of Yew (*Taxus bacata*) which is reported to cause heart problems. If so this is poisoning and quite a disturbing thought. After correspondence with the Health and Safety Executive I am satisfied that this is misleading. A report of 1965 stated that the wood is poisonous (a well known fact) and these poisons can be shown to cause irregularity of the heart. There has been no instance of this occurring from the dust in the subsequent 35 years, and the census statistics of 1995 showed no increase in the deaths from heart disease in woodworkers. Greenheart definitely has a poisonous effect in that splinters in the skin go septic. Poisoning does not appear to occur from wood dust.

Having said that there is an aspect where poisoning from wood could

affect woodturners, although not strictly under the heading of dust. Storing food or wine in vessels made of yew has caused death, and this was reported as long ago as Roman times. One should bear this in mind if making something for the kitchen, One can cling to experience, Elm bowls for salad were used, Norwegians making drinking bottles out of Ash and Oak casks for storing whiskey are beloved of whiskey lovers. There is no question of the side effects of the whiskey being due to the oak! Should a finish be used inside a storage vessel the manufacturers can be contacted for advice.

#### **Medium Density Fibreboard (MDF):**

This was claimed to be a danger in dust form but HSE Information Sheet Issue 16 date April 2000 states it is no more hazardous than its constituent softwoods. The presence of Formaldehyde from the glue is noted as being well below the danger level.

#### **The nature of applied chemicals:**

There are innumerable chemicals sprayed on trees whilst they are growing and on sawn planks as preservatives which appear to do no harm. However there are compounds of Formaldehyde and Isocyanates used in glues and surface finishes which are known to be harmful. Being ignorant, I have no idea if the varnish I am removing or the glue in some plywoods contain these, but as I hardly ever have this problem I do not worry. I would certainly take full precautions if I were working with them.

#### **Smoking:**

In every study it has been shown that smokers have appreciably worse results than non smokers when exposed to dusts, and it is a factor which has to be taken into consideration in all statistical analyses.

#### **NOTES**

You may come across some things which are not mentioned because they

are not relevant. These include:-

#### **1. Organic Dust Toxic Syndrome:**

It has the same cause as Allergic Alveolitis, fungal spores. It does not occur in woodturners and is mild and not progressive.

#### **2. Non Asthmatic Chronic Airflow Obstruction:**

This is the name given to a slight reduction in the lung function recorded in those exposed to dust.

#### **3. Woodworkers Lung:**

After correspondence with the Health and Safety Executive it is agreed that there is no such thing.

#### **4. Ramin (*Gonystylus bancanus*) is quoted among the causes of Alveolitis, it should be disregarded.**

Correspondence with the editors of a recent text book where this is mentioned has confirmed this.

#### **5. Medium Density Fibreboard: In view of the ban imposed in the schools on the use of MDF because of its alleged dangers, readers may be concerned that they would prefer to see the Information Sheet for themselves. It can be obtained from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6FS. Telephone 01787 881165. AND IT'S FREE!**

## *Wood Dust Part 2*

**Which will consider the question of prevention and the the filtration and extraction measures that may be employed will be published in the next edition of *Revolutions***

## *Gallery 2*

### *Two of a Kind -*

### *Pieces selected at*

### *Loughborough*

*Right:* Gordon Fradley Candle Holders in Snokeling  
Rosewood and Sycamore

*Bottom*

*Left:* Desmond Dezelsky Muffineers in Lignum Vitae

*Right:* Paul Howard Pair of Casters in Apple

Photographs by Tony Boase





# *So you want to be a Woodturner Part 11*

## *- How do I maintain my equipment ?*

By Chuck Turner

### **Lathes.**

In regular use most lathe bed bars begin to show an accumulation of debris from various finishes, dust and shavings, so there is a need at times to do some maintenance. General cleaning up of the lathe, and oiling bearings and running centres.

It is a good idea to place a sheet of paper on the bed bars when putting on most finishes. However never use a rag for this purpose, as it could get caught up if the work is allowed to revolve. Wax finishes can be removed with a white spirit soaked paper towel – shellac with metholated spirit, and Cellulose finishes with Cellulose thinners. Some bed bars are chromium plated, in which case a cleaning agent which will not damage the chrome should be used. Where the bed bars are of plain machined steel or cast iron an occasional rub over with fine grade abrasive should keep them clean and bright. This should be followed by the application of a non-greasy lubricant, WD40 is suitable and should be sprayed on and allowed to dry without wiping off the excess. Spray cans of PTFE dry lubricant or Silicon will provide easy movement of the saddle and tailstock over the bed bars, and have the advantage that they resist accumulations of dust. Oil or grease will of course have quite the opposite effect.

Running tailstock centres need to be oiled from time to time, and the tail stock barrel removed, cleaned and oiled occasionally. Where there are grease nipples or oiling points, these should be kept topped up – they are usually found on lathes which have tapered Phosphor-Bronze bearings. These bearings should be checked

from time to time to see if wear has occurred, in which case the retaining collars need to be tightened. When oiling anywhere around the headstock try to keep oil off the drive belt as it will soften the rubber content of the belt, which can become rather messy, and in extreme cases become completely unserviceable.

As mentioned in an earlier chapter the tool rest should also be examined for any deep nicks or other damage to its top edge, which could cause some turning tools to catch while traversing the rest.

A light draw filing with a fine file will cure this problem and the application of a candle rubbed along the rest will improve the smooth movement of your turning tools.

### **Chucks**

Most Chucks need maintenance from time to time, the threads in particular can get choked up with dust, which makes the chuck difficult to tighten. Old toothbrushes are quite good for removing this.

In the case of Scroll chucks it may be necessary to wash the various parts out in paraffin or white spirit. I usually manage this clean up with white spirit and a short stiff bristle brush and follow up after cleaning with WD40 or Silicon Spray. It is usually necessary to remove the chuck jaws and slides to allow access to the inner parts of the mechanism.

A fine brass wire brush can be use for more badly affected threads, but care should be taken to avoid any violent cleaning methods which could cause

wear or damage to the threads.

Bright steel chucks can be protected from rust by applications of WD40, PTFE or Silicon sprays.

### **Turning tools**

Can be protected from rust by WD40, PTFE, Silicon Sprays or Lubo (a Liberon product) which imparts a very thin coating of protective wax on all woodworking and woodturning tools and is very good for the protection of the metal work tables of Bandsaws. Planers, Fretsaws etc during the winter. The coating properly applied is so thin that it does not require wiping off before the tool is used.

Other Ways of Avoiding Rust. Cold damp conditions that we get during the wintertime, are the primary cause of rust affecting our tools and machinery. When I built my workshop I laid a builders plastic membrane on a bed of sand under the concrete floor which has made the workshop completely free of rising damp.

However in cold weather moisture in the air can condense onto the cold metal surfaces which will then start the rusting process. To overcome this, in addition to using the anti rust sprays and coatings, I keep my Lathe, Bandsaw, Fretsaw, Plane and Belt and Disc Sander under cloth covers when not in use. An old curtain folded down the centre with both ends sewn up makes a fine cover for the lathe, even an old dressing gown cut across the body below the armpits and sewn up each end provides a good cover for the planer. There is no doubt that using covers during the winter months is a great help in stopping rust from getting a hold.



Bitumous based floor paints, when used on the concrete floors, can provide a fairly good resistance to rising damp.

### Belt and Disc Sanders

A belt cleaning block can be purchased from most Woodturning suppliers, which when held on the moving disc or belt will remove the accumulated wood particles and improve the cutting qualities of what appears to be a worn out abrasive.

Try to get into a regular habit of protecting your tools and equipment with a half-hour of maintenance from time to time, they will last longer and be a pleasure to work with.

### Kwik Tips

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

## There's a funny thing.....

Extracted from Middlesex Woodturners Association Newsletter,  
May 2001

I rarely turn lace bobbins, but this time a friend asked me specially to turn and inscribe a batch of bobbins to mark an anniversary. It was some time since I had turned bobbins, so I made a few practice pieces. I was a bit slow, but they turned out O.K., so I decided to turn a batch of blanks before I turned the finer details. Imagine my astonishment when I discovered they

were all too small in diameter! The practice ones had been correct, so what went wrong? Well, I am getting older, and I found the small details a bit trying on the eyes, so I borrowed my wife's magnifying specs, and as I am good at judging sizes by eye, I didn't measure the blanks!.....Work it out for yourself!

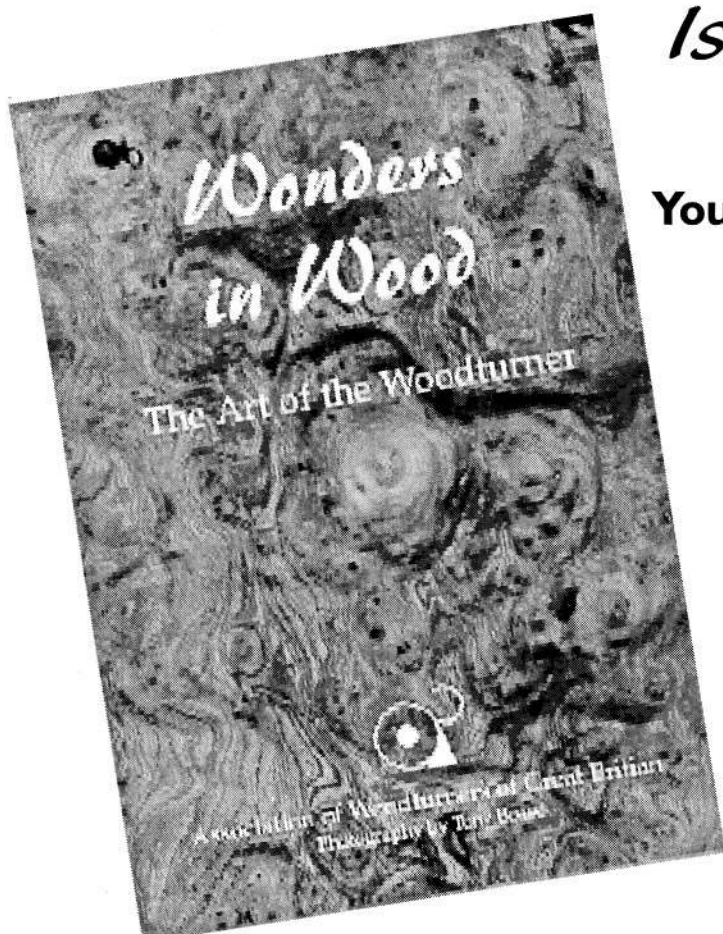
Alan Spargo

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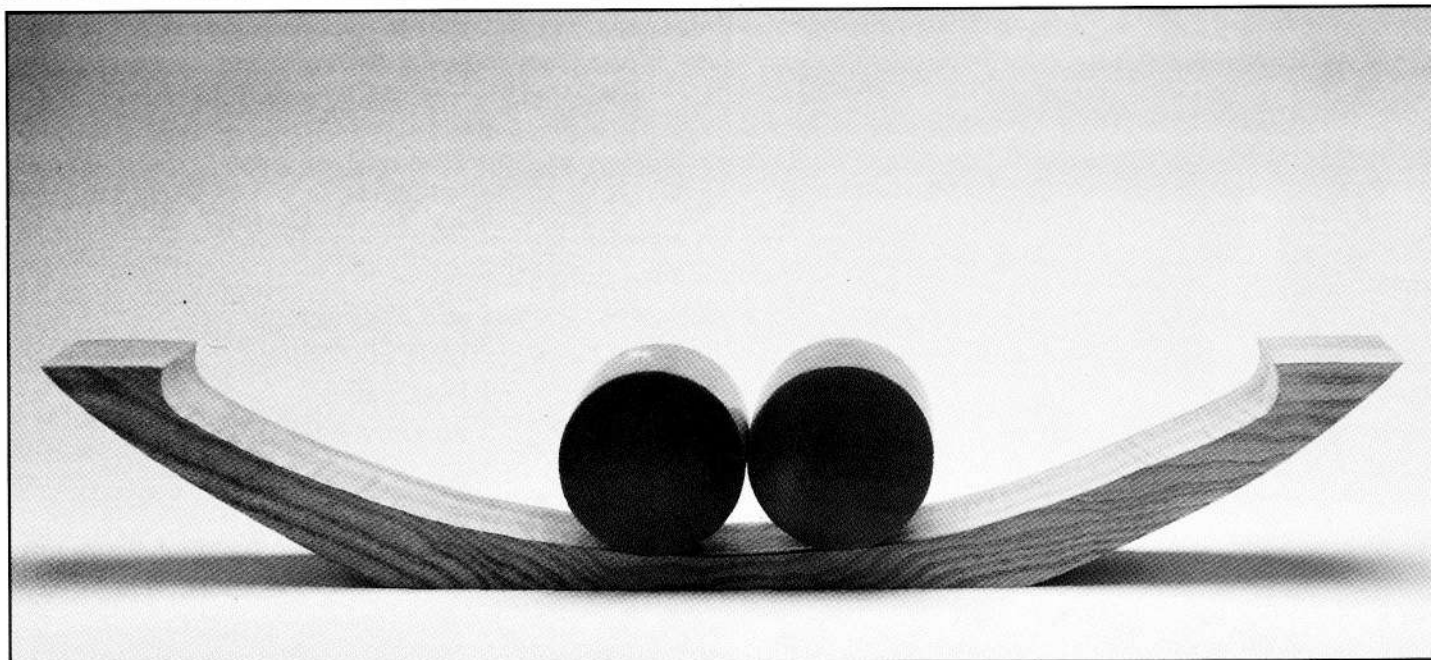
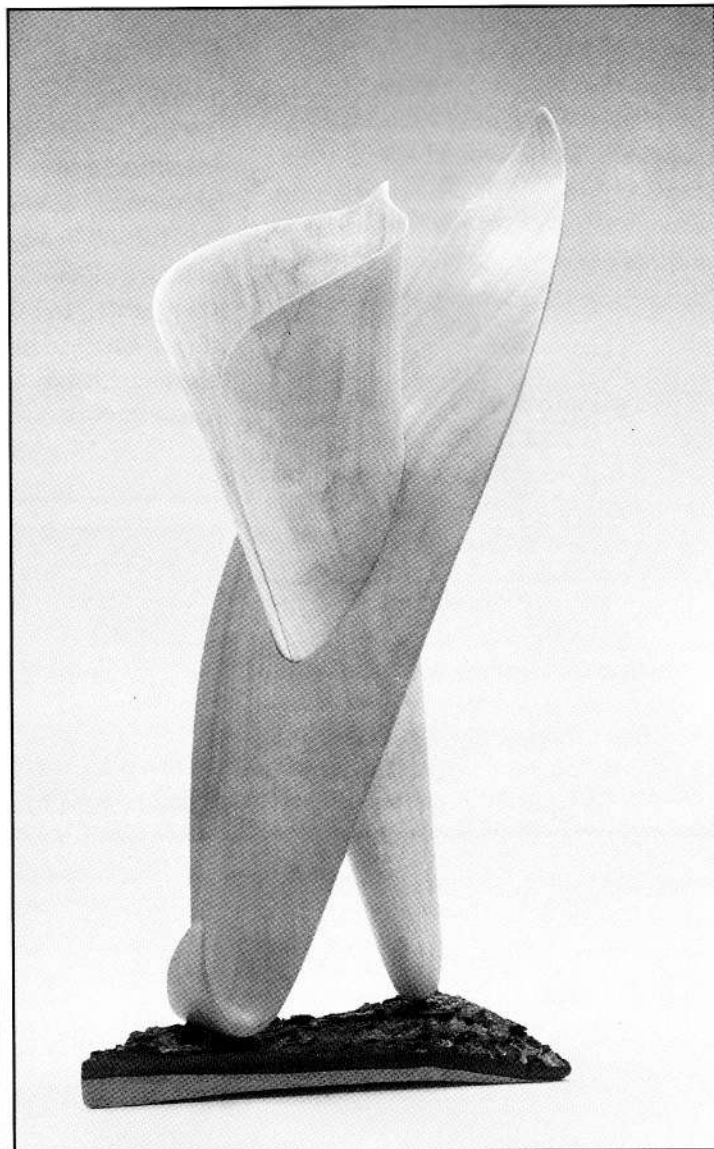
# *Gallery 3 - Loughborough 2001*

*Right:* Colin Fulbrook Lily in Sycamore and Cherry

*Below:* Jim Johnston Square Hollow Form  
in Sycamore and Pink Ivory

*Bottom:* Martin Whitby CD Rack in Ash and Jarrah

Photographs by Tony Boase



# TURNING WORLD

## - Around the Shows and Branches

### *Bob's Diary*

What is black and white and there were over 100? Do you remember those trips to the Craft Supplies Shows at the farm? – all those cows to avoid.....well.....for the last 2 years the show has moved to a much better venue at the Lady Manners School, Bakewell.

This year's show at the beginning of September was very successful with large crowds, especially on the Friday.... Looking for those bargains! I just wish they would put some of the demonstrators in a classroom with chairs – it is very difficult to see or hear in the main hall.

My next show was at Yandles in Somerset. This is a very popular show with a good variety of demonstrators – this was very busy on both days. They have the added attraction of the Hobbies Shop and excellent craft galleries, including that of the Somerset Guild of Craftsmen, showing some of the best work from the area.

.....Onwards to Sandown Park, which has everything going for it – good location, good parking, good road communications etc. – but for most of the trade people this was a disappointing show – numbers were down on previous years.....perhaps this was due to the events of September 11. The added attraction of this show is the involvement of the woodturning and woodcarving clubs. There were excellent displays of work.....well worth the visit.

Next stop..... High Wycombe, for the Isaac Lord show, held at the local

Bucks College with a large hall and outside area. This was a new venue – many thousands were expected, but again the attendance was disappointing. I felt that an opportunity was missed here – the college has a large craft and design department, why not involve them?

A quick trip across on the ferry and a short journey along the coast to Belgium was my next show – at Willy van Houttes Craft Shop in Beernem. This was a very well stocked shop, well laid out with plenty of space to view everything. There were two large workshops for the demonstrators – an international gathering including Jimmy Clewes, Peter Hemsley, Stuart Mortimer and Bob Neill from the UK. This was a very busy show, with good attendance on all days.

That was just September – what's next....NEC on Thursday.....I'd better get the car packed....don't forget the sandwiches.....let's hope for a cracking show!

**Bob Neill**

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## *N. E. C.*

Another show at the N.E.C. has closed and it is time to look back at a successful three days for the Association's involvement at the International Woodworking and Turning Exhibition organised by Nexus. This year was the ninth at which the AWGB had been represented at the Birmingham venue, and having assisted in the Association's presence since 1992, I have seen the progress made

by the members, both in the quality and variety of the exhibits displayed at the N.E.C. over this period. This year was no exception, with the display being made up of exhibits from those selected at this year's International Seminar held earlier at Loughborough University.

Of course before any exhibition can take place, much hard work has to be done behind the scenes, and this starts fairly early in the year, and is usually down to one person, and once again this fell to Reg Hawthorne, AWGB Trade and Business Liaison representative, who has to arrange for a stand site, and all the sundries that go to make up a presentable area for our exhibits, arrange for members to man the Advice Clinic, lathes and timber for them to use, and a hundred and one other things required. By comparison my part in the plot is easy. I only have to correspond with the local Branch Secretaries requesting volunteer stewards for the period of the show, sending out the necessary passes in due course.

Set up day at the N.E.C. is always on the Thursday prior to the opening on the Friday, and it is quite an eye-opener to go into the exhibition hall, and amid what appears to be uncontrolled chaos, to see the birth of a show taking shape. On arrival the first test is to locate the stand allocated to the AWGB, and at eleven o'clock in the morning very few of the stands are named. However, once the location is determined, with the co-operation of the stand builders, we soon have a display area and advice clinic established. Then the exciting part (for me at least), the exhibits arrive. It is one of the perks of the job to handle and take a close look at the variety of items to be displayed. As mentioned earlier



the quality and variety of this year's work was most impressive. By teatime on Thursday, the stand was completed and ready for the opening day.

Over the next three days the stewards and clinicians were kept busy in their dealings with the many visitors to the stand, and many compliments were paid by them, and indeed by demonstrators and trades people, to the work on display. Sales of AWGB merchandise was also brisk, in particular 'Wonders in Wood', badges and car stickers. It was also satisfying to have been able to recruit several new members. The stewards all worked hard, and the membership can be justly proud of such a willing and professional group of men and women who cheerfully promote the AWGB and its aims. All in all a successful ninth year in Birmingham.

Although this particular show seems not to attract the number of trade stands it once used to, this years show did have one or two new faces, and I understand that attendance figures, certainly on the first day, were up on last year, and that trading on Sunday was particularly good. Hopefully we will be able to make the tenth anniversary next year!

Finally, thanks to Reg Hawthorne, and all the stewards who worked so hard over the three day. A great team effort.....!!

**Graham Lovett**

*Graham underplays his role - the Executive Committee, and I am sure the rest of the membership, are grateful to Graham and all his team for their efforts on behalf of the AWGB.*

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## *Axminster 1 The Show*

The AWGB had its usual presence at the Axminster Show held in the spacious accommodation provided by the halls at the Royal Bath & West Showground.

This show must now be the largest of them all and the size of the stand

allocated for the Association's use reflected that fact. It was some fortyfive feet long and caused Reg Hawthorne some sleepless nights as he contemplated the challenge of marshalling sufficient high quality display pieces to do the AWGB and its members justice.

We need not have worried. The display was of the highest order, incorporating the pieces from Loughborough and a variety of other work. Again the AWGB was well-served by its members, this yime in the shape of members of the Bristol branch. They provided stewards and demonstrators for the clinic area and did us proud.

## *Axminster 2 Charity Turn*

The more assiduous reader of this newsletter will recall the plea for small turned items to be sold for charity on the AWGB stand at the Axminster Show that appeared in the last edition.

It is to be regretted that this plea seems to have fallen on stony ground - with a couple of notable exceptions the volume of offerings coming forward was lamentable for an association our size.. Given the kindly nature of those participants of our craft that I have met I cannot believe that it is a lack of charity in our membership - more a case of everybody thinking that somebody will do it but nobody did.

At one time, a week before the show Reg Hawthorne was considering abandoning the scheme. However due to his efforts and those of the branches and members on whom he was able to call for supplies at the eleventh hour what seemed a likely damp squib proved a real success.

The 'bran tub' which was the basis of this scheme raised over £1000 for charity. This has been split between the Devon Air Ambulance, the Axminster Show charity and the British Heart

Foundation. Both charities have been presented with cheques in excess of £500 in the name of the Association.

Our thanks are due to Reg and all his helpers for their efforts on our and the charities behalf. Lets all make a mental note to help next time!

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## *Wet Woodturning*

With my experience of Ireland I should surely have known better than to even have considered "making a week of it" whilst attending the Irish Woodturning Guild's annual seminar in Gort, Co. Galway, in October of all months. Having got severely water-logged whilst walking in Co. Kerry on two occasions during the earlier part of the week, I found myself on the Friday travelling through Ireland in conditions that could only be described as torrential, the biggest problem with driving on some of the lesser Irish roads when they are covered in water is that you can never be sure what's under the surface it could be a 12" deep pothole for all you know. As I didn't feel confident that my little hire car would take kindly to such shocks evasive action was constantly being called for. However my trials and tribulations eventually came to an end when I arrived at my destination, the rather plush Lady Gregory Hotel in Gort, at around midday, a little early for registration which wasn't due to get under way until five o'clock.

I was too early for the room allocations as well so I left my gear in the car and went through to the bar for a bit of lunch and a pint or two. Despite my early arrival there were one or two faces I knew in evidence and the numbers kept increasing as time went by. Eventually enough time had been whiled away that it was possible to go to my room and freshen up. I think the rain must have effected the shower because it was just like I imagine being hosed down by your local fire brigade to



be, certainly no shortage of water there.

That done it was back to the bar, a few more beers and some jolly repartee with friends old and new and then the starting gates were up and we were into the registration process. As soon as that was completed successfully the assembled masses were shepherded into the banqueting suite for the shortest opening ceremony in woodturning history, this was completed in about two minutes flat by means of a piece of computerised wizardry put together by IWG secretary, and mainstay of these events, Ambrose O'Halloran. It's not often that you see woodturners all go quiet in one fell swoop and with such rapidity but it happened this year in Gort. Any announcements after that would have been superfluous, so it was a case of tucking into the buffet and some more beer. As soon as everybody had had their fill a short presentation of slides was given by the main presenters to give a flavour of what was to be on offer over the coming two days.

The presenters included Alain Mailland, Jean-Francois Escoulen, Andre Martel, Tobias Kaye, Willy Stedmond, Emmet Kane and Tony Rea. The main draw should have been John Jordan but unfortunately he pulled out at the last moment and his place was more than ably filled by the AWGB's own Tony Witham, who I understand actually got a round of applause on one occasion.

Woodturning having temporarily got in the way of the socialising, which in my opinion is the real reason for these events, it was back to the bar for more beer and more chat which I have to say did occasionally centre around turning, and with the exception of a few mentally demanding demonstrations over the weekend that is pretty much how it carried on.

I, of course, missed the highlight of the weekend because I'm always in the wrong place at the wrong time and this weekend was no exception. To my chagrin I totally failed to witness the vision of a slightly hung over professional demonstrator seriously perplexed as to why he was totally unable to get his blank up to speed with a revolving

centre in the headstock! Legends have sprung up around lesser events.

Woodturning seminars are of course intended to inspire and re-invigorate the flagging parts of the brain that are always saying "what can I attempt next", and no mere words can hope to put over a small fraction of what a delegate will take away from a seminar in this respect. I have no intention of attempting to do so, I just wish to give a flavour of the good comradeship and enjoyment that always surrounds these events, particularly in Ireland with their reputation for hospitality. I have suggested to the IWG that their seminar would do better if it were staged during a more amenable time of the year, when the sun might shine, but I think they're used to the rain and happy to continue as they are.

As far as seminars go the organisation of the AWGB version and the Irish one could not be more different but they are both in their own way totally brilliant and I think that we can and will pinch ideas from one another in the future.

In closing may I say that if you are really enthusiastic about your woodturning don't let life come to an end with a woodturning seminar being one of those things that you never got round to, the Irish will be in Gort again in 2002 and the AWGB will be in Loughborough in 2003, I hope to see some new faces at either or both.

Lionel Pringle

## *A Fishy Tate*

Usually woodturners have enough trouble getting people to buy their work so an offer to purchase their shavings has got to be good news. The following paragraph is the text of an e-mail received by your editor.

Hi John.

*I am actually a very small fish smoker based in the Shetland Islands and have*

*recently been in touch with a gentleman suggesting I try smoking my fish in olive wood and almond wood. If you fancy taking a look at my web site it is [www.handmadefish.co.uk](http://www.handmadefish.co.uk) You will notice I work with all sorts of different woods but locating olive and almond in the UK may prove a little tricky, so I thought some of your members may like to sell me their shavings? The only problem is that the shavings/sawdust must be pure as a lot of hardwoods produce very disgusting flavours if used for smoking fish. Any quantity no matter how small would be of use, perhaps surprisingly, the fill of a pint mug is enough for me to smoke 20lb of fish!... even a half pint is enough to do some samples. I would buy the shavings or sawdust and pay more than enough extra to cover packing and postage...or I could swap shavings for smoked fish? If you feel any of your members may be interested I would love to hear from them.*

*Thank you very much.*

*David Parham.*

This is an interesting example of potential collaboration between one trade and another and also of the value of the Association as a point of contact. If any member can help in the supply of the specified woods David Parham would be pleased to hear from them.

The Hand-Made Fish Co., Bigton, Shetland, ZE2 9JF,  
Tel: 01950 422214, Fax: 01950 422238,

E-mail: [david@handmadefish.co.uk](mailto:david@handmadefish.co.uk),  
Web: [www.handmadefish.co.uk](http://www.handmadefish.co.uk)

If you cannot help but enjoy good fish visit their website. I have had the pleasure of trying the beech smoked kippers – delicious!

## **AWGB Merchandise**

*Have you ordered your.....*

*Badges, Car Sticker & Binder*

**available now**

# *The Woodturning Cruise Norway - August 2001*

*A Report from Bob Neill*

*Bob Neill reports on the Woodturning Cruise, which took place in Norway during August. The event was staffed by a veritable who's who from the turning world, besides the Scandinavians including Petter Herud and Asmund Vignes there were representatives from both the UK and the USA including Allan Batty, Jimmy Clewes, Stuart Mortimer and Dale Nish. Imagine having people of this stature and expertise as shipmates for 10 days – a veritable turners heaven!*

This was the second woodturning cruise organised by Odd-Erik Thjomoe and his assistant, Mette Fjermestad with some assistance in promoting it from yours truly.

The journey began in Stavanger and called in at over 12 towns along the coast as far as Tromsø (far north of the Arctic Circle) and back. This was a working holiday – with 110 passengers and about 20 demonstrators – all

interested in woodturning, woodcarving, pyrography and the like.

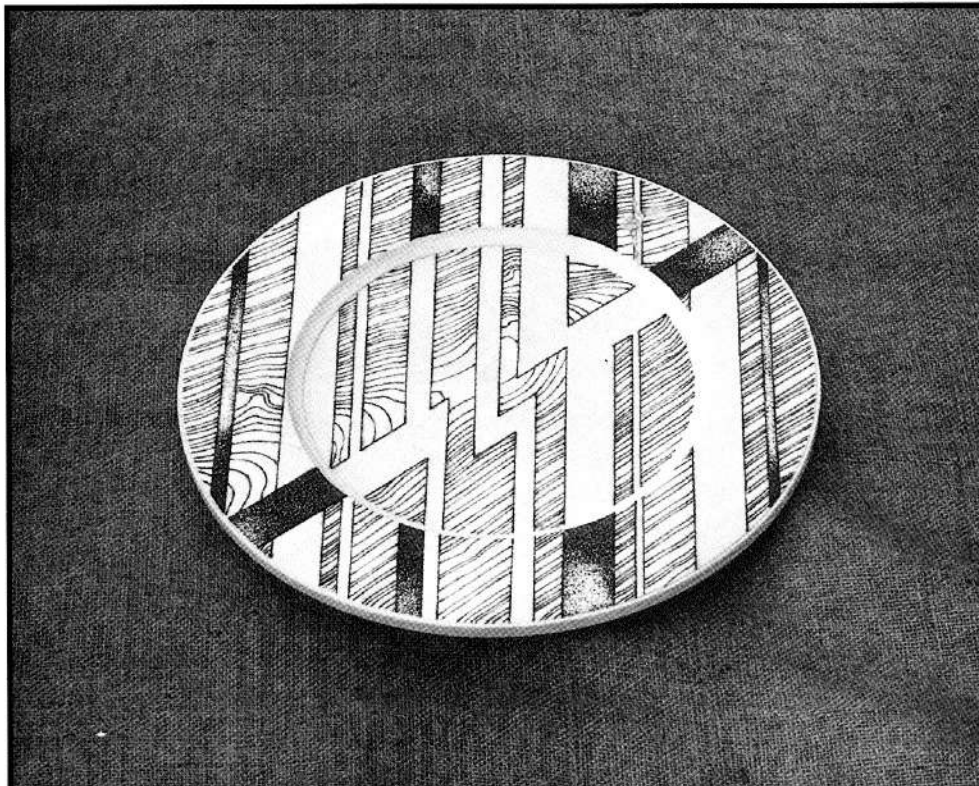
At each port of call the M S Gann, our ship, was open to visitors, who arrived in large numbers. They were all appreciative that the event had been brought to them. During these sessions the visitors and passengers could watch a whole group of internationally famous craftsmen at work.

During the passage between ports of call the demonstrators gave instruction and more 'one-to-one' assistance to the passengers. We had a few wet days but on the whole the weather was good with the fjords and mountains providing an ever-changing dramatic backdrop to our activities. At most of our stops visits to places of interest were organised and conducted by knowledgeable local guides.

Although I was working most of the time I did make the effort to join some of the trips – along the spectacular Atlantic Ocean Road, which is built on islands with connecting bridges. At Tromsø I was able to visit the Polar Exhibition with many artefacts associated with the famous explorers, including Amundsen who beat Scott to the South Pole in 1911.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner was included – there was an excellent choice meeting the demands of the most exacting palate. From the point of view of the organisers the trip proved a great success both in promoting woodturning and as a commercial venture – sales in the shop exceeded expectations.

For me this was 'a trip and opportunity of a lifetime' – I just hope it happens again very soon.....watch this space.....Skal!



**Left : Pyrography. A typical piece of Bob Neill's monochrome work**

**Facing Page : Men at Work!**

**Top : Petter Herud (Norway)**

**Bottom : Allan Batty**



