

Revolutions

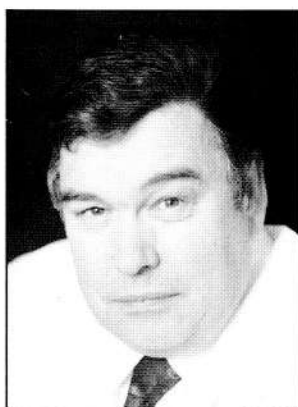
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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Chairmans Notes

Worshipful Company of Turners Competitions

It was disappointing to arrive at the Apothecaries Hall in London on June 28th to find only 26 entries for the Plain Turning competition. Some of the entries did not meet the criteria laid down in the rules and had to be withdrawn. I have seen on many occasions work from amateur club members that would have won high acclaim against some of the work that was entered. But how do we persuade such members that their work is of a high enough standard to be entered. I do not know the answer. We did everything we could to make entering as easy as possible – even down to arranging to take entries to London for you. If you have any ideas on how we can improve the situation for 2004 please write and let us know. The results and photos can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Editor Wanted

This situation is now getting very serious. John Wilson will not be able to produce any more issues after the one you are reading now. We have not yet had any firm offers from members to take on this job although we have had a couple of entries.

Let me briefly explain what the job entails. There are basically three areas of responsibility – to receive and, edit if necessary, all articles, to compose the newsletter using the computer and software that is provided by the Association and to canvass for, receive and layout, if required, all advertisements. Of course all of this takes time and you probably need to think about 10-12 hours a month. The composition usually takes 2 weeks from the copy deadline date to get it ready for the printers.

There may be members who are good

at Desk Top Publishing but do relish the idea of writing or editing. There may also be members who are good at the journalistic side but feel they cannot undertake the Desk Top Publishing. If this is the case please let us know and we can explore the possibilities of splitting the job.

Demonstration, Tuition and Commission Forms

With this issue of Revolutions you will also have received these. The information provided is published in the Branch Handbook and on the web site. The branches use the information when booking demonstrators for their clubs and when their members want tuition. Prospective buyers of woodturning as well as those requiring tuition often visit the pages on the web site. These lists are compiled from scratch every year IF YOU DO NOT FILL IN THE FORMS AND RETURN THEM YOU WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE LISTS.

Tony Boase Scholarships

The AWGB is pleased to be able to work with Mike Scott in arranging for several woodturners around the world to complete some of the pieces that Tony Boase had started on. These pieces will then be sold to provide funding for Scholarships. These scholarships will be a separate scheme to our Members Development Programme and will operate under a totally different set of rules. You will read elsewhere in this newsletter the fuller details of what is being proposed. The AWGB has agreed to administer the scheme and fuller details will be announced once they have been agreed.

Mike Dennis

Committee Reshuffle

In the last issue of Revolutions you were informed that Peter Brown was forced to curtail his activities for the Association as a result of health problems. Peter has been the driving force behind our Development programme as well as looking after the loan lathe scheme. He had also taken over the role of Branch Co-ordinator from Tony Witham as well as being Regional Representative for the Eastern side of the country. His approach to the work he did was methodical, efficient and well documented. We miss his input and hope he gets well quickly and is able to return to the committee in due course.

It was unfortunate that the week after he was taken ill an article appeared in the woodworking press reporting on the activities of the Members Development Programme and had given Peter details for as a contact. All enquiries from that article have been redirected to Tony Witham.

Since then Dave Grainger has taken on the role of Branch Co-ordinator, Tony Witham is looking after the Members Development Programme and the Loan Lathe Scheme. Tony Walton is now the Regional Representative for the East side of the country. Will branches and all members please make a note of these changes and not send any requests for anything to Peter Brown.

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 October 2002**

Editorial

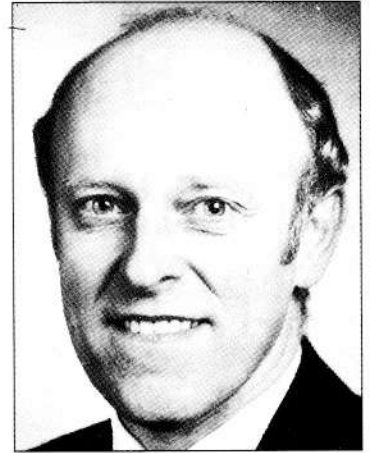
Successor required

It is with some sadness that I sit to write this my final editorial for *Revolutions*. I have enjoyed acting as your editor for the past three years but now have to move over because of work commitments. Unfortunately the clamour of members beating a path to lodge their claim to be my successor has not as yet managed to disturb the neighbours and the question of the editorship was a matter of serious discussion at the recent Executive Committee meeting.

It is disappointing that in a vibrant organisation the size of ours, with so many talented individuals that there have only been a couple of informal enquiries regarding the demands of the post. The situation is now

becoming critical. I cannot undertake to edit any further editions. If you feel you would like to be involved please contact Mike Dennis, our Chairman and my predecessor as editor to discuss the matter.

As editor I have dealt with both the journalistic and editorial tasks and the preparation of this copy for the printer on a DTP package called Pagemaker. Ideally the committee would like someone to take total responsibility for *Revolutions* but it may be that YOU would feel able to contribute to one but not both of these aspects of the newsletter. The Executive Committee would still be interested to hear from you and exploring the possibility of splitting the tasks between different people.



If you are interested and would like to discuss the demands of the job further please contact Mike Dennis or myself to discuss the matter.

Finally may I thank all of you for making my time as editor so enjoyable. The friendship and support you have given have been much appreciated - I wish you all good turning.

John Wilson

Chippings and Shavings AWGB News Briefings

were covered and I hope that answers I gave to individuals satisfied those concerned.

A very nice day, my thanks to all the members for their courtesy and friendliness.

My invitation to speak at Coombe Abbey was extended to me through their committee shortly after the AWGB AGM following an interesting discussion regarding contact between clubs and the committee of the AWGB. I believe it was our Chairman who made the valid point regarding communication being a two way process and felt that AWGB Committee members would be only too pleased to visit clubs if an invitation from clubs was extended. An offer quickly taken up by Coombe Abbey. It was a Saturday afternoon meeting; I gave myself plenty of time to get to the venue. As well that I did for within a couple of miles of my destination I was lost and travelling in ever decreasing circles trying to find their location. Coombe Abbey hold their meetings at a Baptist Hall. Their day was a

New Branch

We are happy to report the formation of another new branch.

Amerton Woodturners is now up and running in Staffordshire. The branch will meet at 7.30pm on the 4th Monday of the month at Hopton Village Hall (nr Stafford).

Further details can be obtained from the Secretary - Bill Fox, 9 Wolsey Road, Stafford, Staffs, ST16 3XU. Tel. no. 01785 248312
Email - amerton@care4free.net

Midlands Region

An interesting time I have to say. First an invitation to Black Country Turners on the 18th May and followed by an

invitation to address the Coombe Abbey Turners on the 29th June, two quite different venues and occasions. I was met at Black Country (Sandwell College) by Mrs Jackie Birch who introduced me to as many members as possible whilst at the same time trying to lay out the buffet for lunch. Their venue is the superb facility of Sandwell College that appeared to be a somewhat under utilised, but it was a Saturday and perhaps things are different during the week. It was a full day demonstration by Jimmy Clewes who always holds his audience spellbound with his skill, enthusiasm and humour.

Lunch was provided and a jolly good lunch it was too and the break provided ample opportunity to mingle with the members and many subjects

demonstration on segmented turning by club member John Bradbury, a very talented gentleman. I don't know if he does demonstrations for other clubs but if he doesn't, he should. John retained his composure and sense of humour even during some good-natured barracking.

I talked for a few minutes before the demonstration on aspects of the AWGB. I was well received and afforded full attention by all members and invited them to ask any questions they might want to put regarding the AWGB during the break but it appears that I must have covered everything to their satisfaction during my address.

I thought that one would be hard put to find a more enthusiastic group anywhere, the members appeared very cohesive, a lot of self help and unbounded enthusiasm for their charity work.

Although I am myself quite new to our craft and lack the experience really necessary to judge on turnery contributions, I found their work to be of a very good standard when Roy Nicholls, the club's Chairman, invited me to appraise the items on their display. It was a task I felt unprepared for but honoured at being invited.

It was a long drive for me to fulfil this engagement but pleased that I had been invited. My thanks to Roy, Geoff Astin and indeed to all the members who made my visit such a pleasure.

I believe that a mention should be made regarding the Midlands Wood Working Show that I took time to visit. What a treat to see so many clubs represented there and the club members appearing to enjoy their role of representing the craft as well as their own individual clubs. It was really good show – what a tonic.

John Buckland

Updates

The following revisions to information published in The Members Handbook have been advised.

1. Geoff Astin, Secretary of Coombe Abbey Woodturners advises that his email address is

grastin@tiscali.co.uk

2. Worcestershire Woodturners have a new Secretary. He is

Keith Brooks
Orchard Rise
Butts Bank
Bradwas on Teme
Worcestershire WR6 5NH

Tel. 01886 821292

Tony Boase Tribute

Reproduced below is the text of a press release that has been issued by that well known turner and AWGB member Mike Scott. Mike was a close friend of Tony and is organizing the tribute outlined.

The AWGB Committee has been involved in discussions with Mike and the development of the detailed planning for this initiative which will be a fitting tribute to a very good member and friend of the AWGB who gave so much of his time and expertise to the association.

Full details will be published when the planning of this tribute is complete. As a tribute to the memory of Tony Boase, a collaborative project is planned to create an international exhibition of turner's work, the proceeds of which will go to set up a scholarship fund to enable travel bursaries for suitable applicants, to attend seminars, training opportunities, etc.

Tony's untimely death meant that many part-turned pieces were left

roughed out in his workshop. It is proposed to sort through these and select suitable pieces to send to those colleagues and friends around the world that Tony came into contact with. These would then be worked on, decorated, added to, etc, and returned to the UK in February 2003 for exhibition at the 'From the Wood' gallery in Hay-on-Wye. We anticipate that the exhibition will take place during May, when the annual book fair comes to the town, bringing visitors from around the world. A web-site is also planned, so that collectors can be kept informed of the exhibition.

The exhibition will then travel to the AWGB seminar in Loughborough in August 2003.

Anyone interested in participating should first contact Mike Scott : email: chaiwood@hotmail.com

The Worshipful Company of Turners Bursary Competition 2002

The Worshipful Company is once again running a competition for the award of bursaries of up to a maximum value of £8000 to assist talented turners to achieve their professional aspirations and enhance their future career opportunities. The competition is open to UK resident turners of high ability whose work is well regarded.

Bursaries may be used for research, training, materials, travel for study, to demonstrate or display work, to produce an invention of turning-related equipment, to set up a turning-related business or, for any other purpose approved by the bursary committee that will assist the candidate in achieving recognition as an exceptional turner. Special consideration will be given to those candidates who are judged to be most

Continued overleaf....

Selling ourselves

by Lionel Pringle

Many of you will have read the article in the August edition of "Woodturning" about the collecting activities of Jonathan Cuff and Shirley Sinclair. Contained within that article was mention of the talk that Jonathan gave to the Craft Meeting of the Register of Professional Turners in April of this year. Whilst his remarks, suggesting that woodturners do not make it easy for the uninitiated to see examples of their work, were aimed at the individual woodturner, it struck me that the AWGB was as guilty as any in this respect.

Every year the Association has access to between forty and fifty examples of high class woodturning which we diligently cart around the country and show to other woodturners, now whilst this may encourage others to improve and take their skills along new paths, it does nothing to make the lay person aware of what is going on in our field.

In the United States and Australia gallery owners are more than willing to accept woodturning as an art form, why should that not be the case here? I know that there are a few enlightened people out there, Dave Woodward in Hay on Wye immediately springs to mind, but they are a minority. Many people will say that all this has been tried before and there is just no interest and I am sure that is true, but if we don't keep knocking on the doors no one will ever open them. It would only take one really successful show to make some money for a gallery owner and the word would begin to spread.

The logistics of taking on a task of this nature are immense and cannot be underestimated, it could not be undertaken by one individual alone, to begin with we would need a salesman with a real talent for selling the product, someone who could readily relate to the people they were talking to, definitely not a backwoodsman with shavings in their hair. There would be

a need for a dedicated team of people to house, transport and set up the work in an attractive way. I'm afraid that it could cost the Association a not inconsiderable amount of money to undertake a project of this nature but we are duty bound to promote woodturning, I do not see promoting as meaning preaching to the converted or solely attempting to increase the membership of the AWGB.

None of this can possibly be achieved without the active support of our members, but to my mind our constitution actually insists that this is something we should be doing. If you have any thoughts, are prepared to help in a practical way or can tell me of any galleries who you feel would be amenable to what I am suggesting, please get in touch.

A more effective and remunerative market place is in the interests of all woodturners in this country.

Chippings and Shavings AWGB News Briefings

Continued....

most capable of advancing the boundaries of the craft of turning.

Full details including copies of the rules and entry forms, to be returned not later than 31st October 2002, may be obtained on application to

The Clerk,
The Worshipful Company of Turners,
182 Temple Chambers,
Temple Avenue,
London
EC4Y 0HP

Development Programme & Branch Co-Ordination

It is with some sadness that we report the resignation of Peter Brown from the AWGB Committee because of his continuing health problems. We thank Peter for his sterling efforts particularly in relation to his work as Development Officer and in the administration of the Loan Lathe Scheme.

Please note that the following appointments have been made and

please direct all future enquiries to the appropriate person.

Tony Witham has taken on responsibility for the Development Programme

Dave Grainger has agreed to take on the role of Branch Co-ordinator

and finally, but not least,

Tony Walton has taken on the role of Regional Representative for the Eastern region.

Any items of Branch News, Changes of Officers, Meetings for inclusion in Revolutions should be sent to the Editor prior to the copy deadline published on page three.

Brendan's Scholarship

I found out about the AWGB Development Programme at the Suffolk woodturning weekend where I met Peter Brown and he told me all about the scheme. He said that the AWGB were particularly interested in getting young people turning. Anyway I filled in a form or two (maybe more!) and wrote about myself and took some pictures of some work that I had done.

A month later I had a phone call from Peter saying my course scholarship had been approved (out came the party poppers). I decided on a two-day course with Bill Care at Stonham Barns over the Easter holiday, perfect timing! We started off by going back to basics and sorting out any bad habits, (being self-taught up till now – easily done!) Of course there weren't many!

I attached a piece of maple to the lathe, using a 'Stebcentre' and a revolving centre. I had never used a Stebcentre before and was interested in how they work. The centre point pushes in on itself and the little teeth come into contact with the wood. I switched the lathe on...and off came the wood. Whoops...a bad start! But I was just testing the amount of pressure needed to hold the wood securely (honestly). I was turning at 2500 rpm but I've been accustomed to turning at 2000 rpm, the

maximum speed on my lathe, so I was a bit cautious and standing slightly to one side but my nerves soon settled. I then practiced cleaning up end grain, planning cuts, beads using the skew chisel and also coves with the spindle gouge. I watched Bill turn an egg and then it was my turn. My effort turned out 'egg shaped' to my delight and surprise. I went to the course determined to turn a hollow form, so that's what I did for the rest of the afternoon and following day.

Bill chose a dripping wet piece of sycamore, which I put between centres and turned down to a round cylinder with a 3.5" spigot at the tailstock end. I then fitted it to the chuck and had to decide on the shape to make. I settled for an egg shape. Bill taught me to make thin cuts because its good practice and when it comes down to making the final finishing cut you are able to do it (that's the theory!). I then drilled a hole with a sawtooth cutter, which also acted as a depth stop when hollowing started. I used various hollowing tools, but the only one I could really get on with was Hamlet's Big Brother. I hollowed to half-way down and then used a swan neck tool to get to the awkward bits. After I had hollowed out, I had to refine the outside shape and make sure I had even wall thickness. After that I sanded the

outside and as far inside as I could reach with my fingers – carefully! I then parted it off and used the remaining wood held by the chuck to turn down a suitable size spigot that would fit into the opening of the hollow form. I brought up the tailstock for support and cleaned up the base leaving a small stub, which Bill cut off with a knife. Bill said that because the wood is wet then you should leave it to dry for a couple of days before applying a finish.

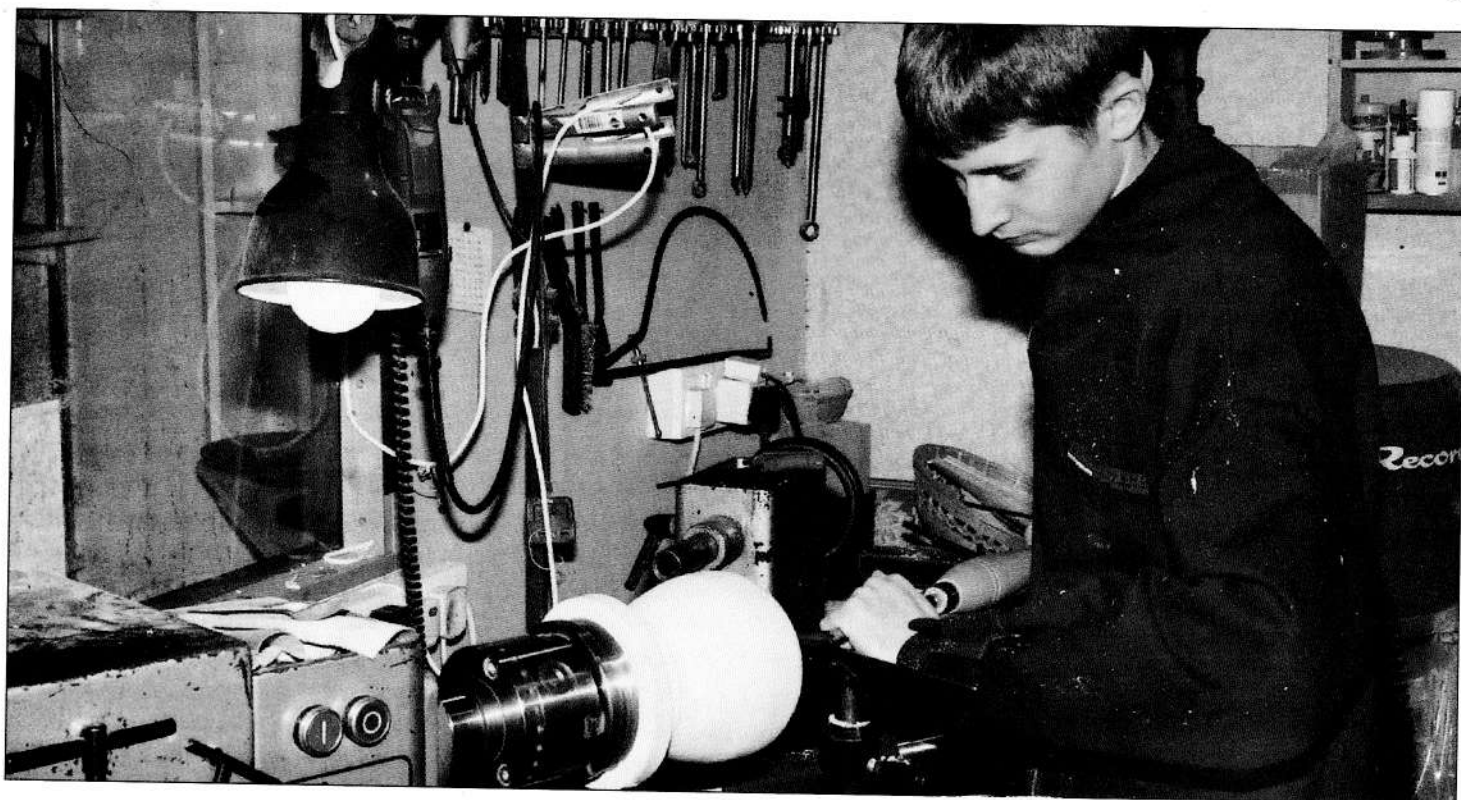
Bill showed me a very simple but effective way of reverse chucking bowls to clean up the base. He turned a small disc and glued some rubber onto the face then simply offered the inside of the bowl to the face and brought up the tailstock for support.

Another useful tip from Bill was hoe to clean up the inside of a bowl in one sweep, rub the bevel of the bowl gouge and roll the gouge to the left for inboard turning (and right for outboard turning) and aim to cut between the nose and the wing of the gouge.

All in all a very good course and I learnt a lot from Bill.

I would like to thank the AWGB for the course scholarship, which has improved my woodturning skills considerably, and Bill for his patience and tuition.

Brendan Worsley



Single Handed Woodturning

The following will, I hope, inspire both able and disabled turners / woodworkers, but more particularly the latter. It concerns a friend of mine Doug Johnston, who was unfortunately smitten by a stroke some twenty years ago. He was left with a paralysed arm and only limited movement in his 'good' hand.

Doug, who is 82 years young (and 60 years wed!) was born and bred in Liverpool. He has always had a love of wood and of working with it. Indeed, he was employed in the timber trade for 36 years, importing timber of all kinds into the Port of Liverpool. Amongst his many customers, he recalls, were the well-known 'Craft Supplies' of Miller's Dale, Derbyshire. Perhaps it was due to the salty air of his native city but Doug's main focus was on the making of scale model sailing ships (see photos).

Having retired from the timber trade, he left Liverpool and took a corner shop, just up the coast in Southport. From there he moved northwards

once more and in 1982 he bought his family to live in Storth, a small village near Milnthorpe in South Cumbria. He lives in a cottage circa 450 years old with oaken beams, reputedly salvaged from old sailing ships, which used to ply their trade along the estuary of the adjacent river Kent in and out of the then port of Milnthorpe. (For the historically inclined, Milnthorpe was the only port in the old County of Westmorland.)

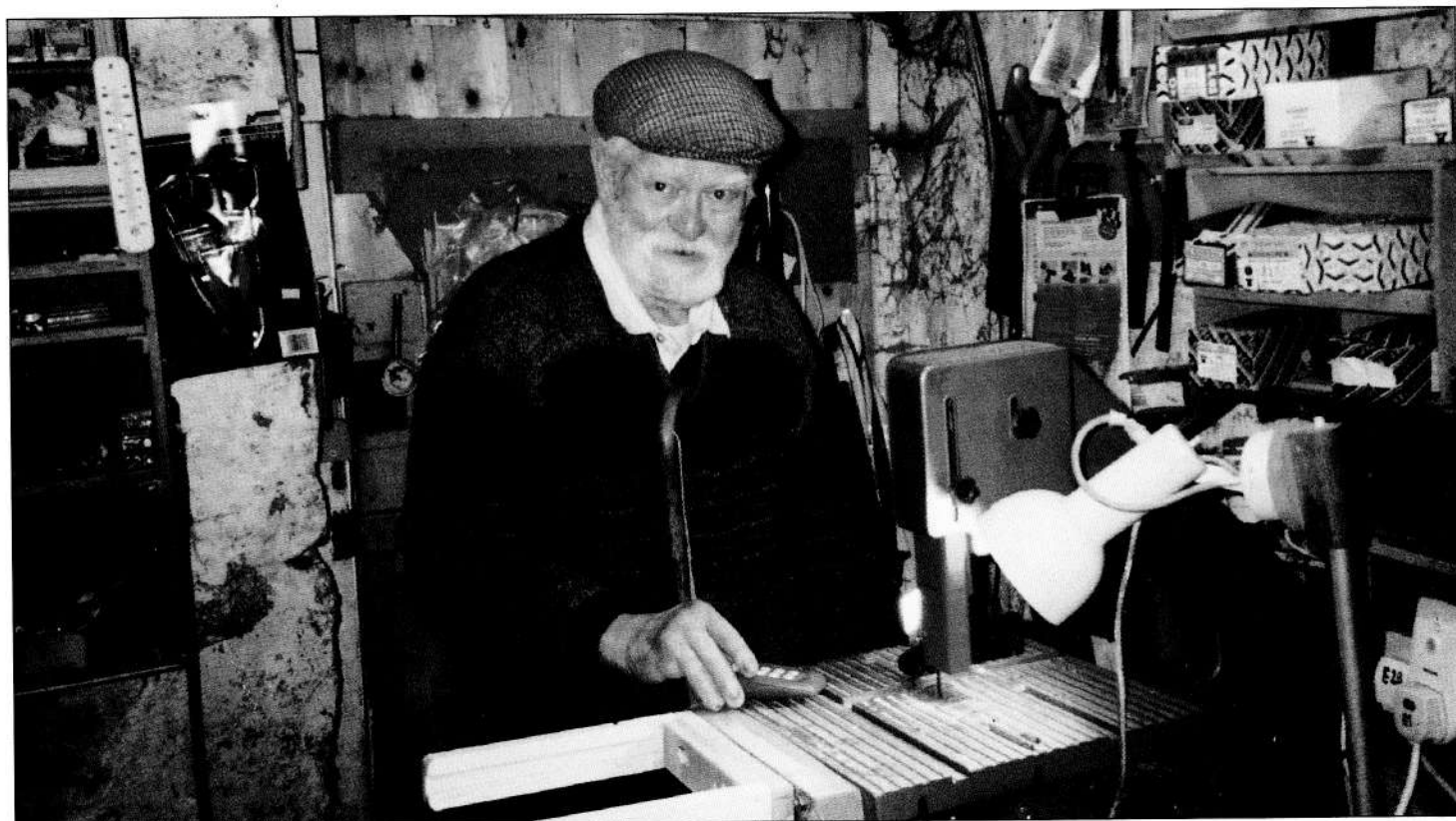
It was only shortly after arriving in Storth that Doug had his stroke and he has since borne his handicap with such great fortitude that one couldn't fail to be both humbled and inspired.

Ten years ago when most people would be hanging up their chisels and planes, Doug decided to take up woodturning. If anyone is in doubt as to the bravery of this decision, then consider how you might go about fixing a piece of square section timber into the lathe for spindle work, with one hand! That's just for starters, then try sharpening your gouge / chisel and

reducing the piece to a round section. Not impossible, but not easy. Anyone with any imagination can empathise with Doug as he struggles cheerfully along. However, that is where his imagination comes in. He must be the most inventive person I know, and he has devised many jigs and accessories, which enable him to produce his pieces. OK – they may not be up to exhibition or competition standard but for sheer determination and willpower, they certainly take my prize.

After his stroke, Doug was asked by his occupational therapist to set out his thoughts on single-handed woodworking, which are enclosed with this article. From them emerges, I am sure you will agree, a picture of a man with a mischievous sense of humour and the most positive of minds.

Dave Green



Single-handed woodwork? Yes, with a modicum of patience and an abundance of cussedness, however, if you were all fingers and thumbs before disablement do not expect to develop into a one handed Chippendale! There will be frustration aplenty but it will be more than compensated for by the pleasure of completing a project to your own satisfaction. Furthermore it will get you off your behind and as the project proceeds you will be anxious to get along, an excellent therapy and cure for boredom. You will have to learn to negotiate the grey area between the difficult and the impossible. Finding ways over problems is a great stimulant for the brain.

Prior to stroke my main hobby was in the construction of scale ship models to accurate standards. I have had to accept that I can no longer work to these standards, nonetheless I am producing articles, which are generally admired and could only be faulted by the most fastidious.

If you are stroke disabled like me, you will probably make quite a few mistakes. The old adage 'measure twice, cut once' is very appropriate.

Following are some of the uses I have devised.

Firstly a warning regarding one-handed use of **power tools**. At the speed these operate you don't get a second chance if something goes amiss, make sure that drills are properly centred and tightened in the chuck. The object being worked upon must be **securely** clamped to the bench. I recall with apprehension an incident which occurred when drilling a large hole in a piece of plywood, the plywood was clamped to a bench hook, but the hook was not clamped to the bench and the drill must have somehow snagged. Drill bit, plywood and bench hook were twisted out of my hand and hurled at speed some six feet across the room. You have been warned! Having said that, judicious use can save a great deal of time and effort. Try

drilling a hole with a carpenter's brace one handed.

The most obvious and frequent cause of problems is gripping the work in hand.

Gripping

The more vices you can have located around the work area the better. The one I use frequently is the Black & Decker Jobber. This vice can be freestanding or fixed to a flat surface. It has the advantage that the jaws can be moved independently to form a wedge or to accommodate an asymmetrical shape. A Black & Decker Workmate can secure larger objects or be used simply as a bench.

Spring clamps with 2" jaws can be bought from B&Q and have a multitude of uses. I have about 10 crocodile clips for use on smallish objects. Masking tape is cheap, easy to use and can be used for a temporary hold. It is easier to use than sellotape, can be removed more easily and can be written on for identification if necessary. Some of the quicker setting wood adhesives can be used for a temporary task until screwing, nailing or dowselling can be completed.

Nailing

From my old modelling days I have a small 12v drill which I can power using a transformer from mains or a 12v car battery. I use this constantly for starter holes for nails and screws. Surprisingly, driving screws with one hand is not as simple as it sounds. I have found that mass-produced hardwood dowels make an easy and cheap fixing.

Lathe

I couldn't manage screw and slot on tailstock so modified to wheel drive – OK.

Bench Drill

Could not hold drill in chuck together, so fitted a small adjustable platform that could be moved up and under chuck to hold the drill. This is tricky but it works.

Hobby Mate (Black & Decker)

Can be adapted for various uses. Removing battery from 24v cordless drill – made two pegs that extended over the edge of cheeks of the drill. Drill is placed between cheeks supported to locate battery clips between pegs which are then tightened to release clips. Works a treat.

I am now engaged in constructing a wooden model of the 'Titanic' which will be 3ft 6 inches long when complete and is consequently difficult to handle. I have made two extended pegs faced with cork to avoid damage.

Sanding small workpieces

Various grades of paper have been attached to self-adhesive cork tile and cut to convenient sizes, then clamped to bench and sanding is performed by rubbing the workpiece.

Cheapest and most useful aid

A 6-inch piece of dowel inserted in workshop doorknob enabled door to be opened with one finger.

D R (Doug) Johnston

FOR SALE

WARCO WMT300

Engineers Lathe and accessories

Centre Height 6" Between Centres 21 1/2" 6 Speeds, 3/4hp Single phase motor

5" 3 Jaw Chuck, 8" Faceplate, 1/2" Drill Chuck, Travelling steady, Tail Stock Die Holder, Oil tray
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Mike Dennis 01923 829844
(Northwood, Middlesex)

Your New Health and Safety Advisor

My name is Peter Hockley and I have been co-opted onto the committee of the AWGB to advise on Health and Safety matters, mainly because I happened to be at the AGM.

I have recently taken early retirement at 55 from a multinational company which supports both the automotive and aerospace industries through parts and system manufacturing. I worked in a factory producing electronics for aerospace.

I have been involved in Health and Safety in an electronics factory, modifying systems to meet the new requirements for assessment of risk and local responsibility for worker safety.

What, I can hear you ask, has this to do with woodworking in general and woodturning in particular?

In truth apart from the experience with understanding a bit about the requirements of the HSE (Health and Safety Executive) and the direction the legislation is headed, very little. On the other hand my father was a wood machinist and had worked with wood all his life. He was also a member of the St Johns Ambulance and was the first aider at work for most of the time I lived with my parents. I still remember some of the stories of him searching through the wood chips looking for severed thumbs or fingers. This impressed me with an awareness

of the possible results of not paying attention to Health and Safety and I have carried this through my professional life. I have been turning for only about five to six years so still consider myself a novice in the skills of shaping wood but it is not necessary to be a master turner to understand the hazards which abound in a workshop.

I will be putting short articles in *Revolutions* with notes on things to be aware of in the workshop and hope I do not bore you all.

Peter Hockley

The Basics of Health and Safety

As you probably already know the HSE is a government organisation set up to safeguard the health and safety of workers in all industries

If we follow their advice to industry then we are taking a responsible attitude to our own safety.

Those of you who had anything to do with Safety at work in the past will remember that the HSE set down rules on machine guards had to be set, times for checking, levels of training required etc. That is to say Safety was based on the basis of 'we know better than you'. Now this has changed and Health and Safety is based on Risk Assessment. This is a method of self assessment, which for any company employing 5 or more employees, must be documented so that the results can be reviewed. Do not be put off by the jargon because it is really quite simple and is based on the old saying

'forewarned is forearmed'. For those to whom this is a new concept it really means that if you have thought about what can go wrong you can be prepared to prevent it and minimise the effects.

Risk Assessment

I will try to give some guidance on how to carry out a risk assessment in your own workshop.

First some definitions:

Hazard – anything which can cause harm (eg. Chemicals, rotating parts etc.)

Risk – is the chance that somebody will be harmed.

First: Look at the workshop and list all the hazards. I would suggest doing this in an organised way e.g. what hazards are due to general layout, then take each operation carried out separately (spindle turning, bowl turning, sanding, assembly etc. and

identify hazards associated with each operation. Consider hazards which may arise from unexpected noises, electrical equipment etc.

Second: Decide who could be harmed (for each hazard) and how this could occur.

Third: Think about how you prevent harm and whether your present precautions are good enough and how they should be improved. This is referred to as the control, as it controls the risk associated with the hazard.

Fourth: Record the information from the above three steps. This is mandatory for any employer of 5 or more workers. It is useful but not necessary for individuals who do not have employees.

Fifth: Periodically review the assessment and revise as necessary.

Do not be over complicated. This should be simple to do and you are probably aware of all the hazards in your workshop already but this exercise can bring into focus things you had not considered before.

A sample table is below to give the general idea.

The result of this exercise carried out with an open mind will be a better understanding of what can cause harm and precautions necessary to avoid unhappy outcomes. There also may be some changes to layout, equipment safety and ways of working.

The HSE produce a lot of free and easy to read guides to cover different

aspects of safety. The easiest way to access this information is through their web site www.open.gov.uk/hse. They are also very helpful if anyone has concerns about health and safety, they also have a lot of research information. They may be contacted through the website, the HSE Infoline 0541 545500 or write to HSE Information Centre, Broad Lane, Sheffield S3 7HQ.

Hazard	Risk	Control
Handsanding rotating work	High -My Hand	Use tool to hold sanding paper for small diameter work
Electric shock	Medium – myself and visitors	Check quality of leads frequently. Ensure no leads are trapped or damaged before use.
Trap between work and toolrest	Low – my fingers	Keep toolrest at sufficient distance to minimise risk. Remove for sanding etc.

Peter Hockley

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So you want to be a Woodturner Part 14

- Can I use Oil finishes?

By Chuck Turner

Can I use Oil finishes?

For centuries linseed oil was used as a finish for furniture, and other vegetable oils in use were poppy, Walnut, Olive and Nut oil. These are still quite valuable finishes for the Woodworker but are inclined to be time consuming in their application.

These days there are proprietary products available specially formulated to be easy to apply, which can be quickly absorbed by the wood, and dry much faster. The vegetable oil base contains at least two ingredients a solvent and a drier, which allows a shorter drying time between coats. Proprietary oil finishes blend Danish oil, Tung Oil and Teak Oil all of which have advantages over Raw Linseed Oil.

Manufacturers have their own special formulas, and it is up to woodturners to try out various brands to find the one that they think, is most suitable for them. Having said that, there is not very much to choose between most brands in my opinion.

Oil finishes are durable and help to reduce cracking and drying out of the wood. An oil finish on many Burrs brings out some quite wonderful grain patterns.

Raw Linseed Oil.

I have seen this used on turned items, and in particular on a spinning wheel made by an old friend, the finish was excellent and produced a deep satin shine. However it is a slow process, taking a number of slow drying coats over a period of time to obtain the best results.

It should be noted that raw Linseed Oil is best, giving a better penetration.

Boiled linseed oil is much more thick and viscous and difficult to apply, for a good finish to be obtained.

Pure Tung Oil (Chinese Wood Oil).

Highly resistant to water, food acids and alcohol. It forms a hardwearing weather resistant finish suitable for interior and exterior use.

Pure Tung Oil with no dryers added is natural non-toxic oil that can be used on toys and articles in contact with food such as salad bowls. Tung oil is penetrating oil that allows the wood to age slowly and develop a natural patina.

Danish Oil.

Suitable for interior and exterior use. It forms a tough water resistant finish that will not shrink or crack. It can be used on bare or dyed woods. Work is prepared and sanded as required. A liberal coat of Danish Oil can be applied by brush or cloth, with the work stationary. It is allowed to dry for a few moments then the excess wiped off. Up to 6 hours of drying time is required between coats, which can be repeated providing the surface is clean and dry. It can be polished to soft shine on the lathe.

Teak Oil.

This is suitable for interior or exterior use and is applied in a similar manner to Danish Oil. It can be used on wood furniture and turned articles with good results.

Salad Oils.

Articles intended for use with foods should be left unfinished or an edible vegetable oil can be used. Lighter oils are probably the best and will have

better penetration. Sunflower or Rapeseed oils bought at your local supermarket are suitable and being pale will have no appreciable effect on the colour of the wood. If the article is to be washed regularly it will of course require a fairly frequent renewal of the finish.

Proprietary Oils should not be used on objects that are to be in contact with foods, as some of their ingredients can contaminate.

Other finishes.

Woodturners are always looking for new types of finish and Manufacturers seeking ways of reducing the amount of solvents in their products.

There are quite a lot of finishes not mentioned in this article which the newcomer to Woodturning will discover with more experience, some of which, such as spraying require a safe environment set up for their use.

Clean Area.

It is evident that the use of oil finishes really requires a dust free atmosphere, separate from the average workshop, which if not available, will make the use of oil finishes difficult. The initial odour from oil finishes is not generally appreciated, in the living areas of the home.

Safety.

Health and Safety regulations cover all aspects of modern wood finishes, as to whether they are toxic, harmful, corrosive, irritant, highly inflammable or oxidizing. Any finish which comes under these headings should have the appropriate internationally recognised hazard symbol on an orange background on the packaging.

• **TOXIC** (skull and cross bones on an orange background) = where serious, acute and chronic health risks and possible death may be involved (I have never yet seen this on any product sold for woodturners).

• **HARMFUL** (black cross on an orange background) = where limited health risks may be involved.

• **CORROSIVE** (phials dripping liquids onto objects below them on an orange background) = where contact with living tissues may destroy them (I have never seen this symbol on any finish sold for woodturning).

• **IRRITANT** (black cross on an orange background) = where inflammation may be caused following contact with skin or mucous membranes.

• **HIGHLY INFLAMMABLE** (black flame on an orange background) = where the product has a flash point below 22 degrees Celsius.

• **OXIDISING** (black flame on a black circle on an orange background) = where oxygen is released during chemical reaction.

These symbols can be used in combination with each other. It is always important to carefully read the instructions on the packaging of all finishing products.

There are quite a number of these products that must also be protected from frost, which will be ruined by unwitting exposure to low temperatures.

Chuck Turner

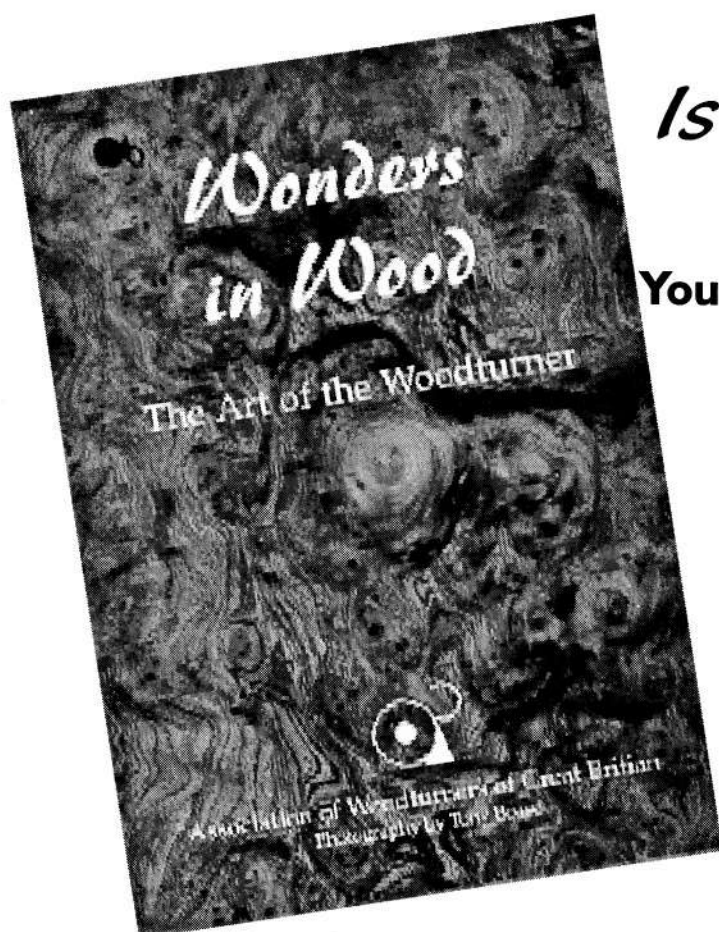
is the pseudonym of
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who is a member of the Kent Branch

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The Worshipful Company of Turners Competition Results

The Master's Competition for a Condiment Set

First	Paul Coker	
Second	Tom Pockley	Ebony, boxwood, red Malee Burr
Third	Paul Fletcher	Blackwood & Boxwood
Commended	Philip John Holden	Kingwood

The Felix Levy Freestyle Turning Competition

Paul Fletcher	Dish on pierced foot with scallops	Mopane
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The Anniversary Gift Competition

First	Paul Fletcher	A Lidded Box	Mopane
Second	Paul Coker	A Box	African blackwood
Third	John Edwards	Ring Stand ornamentally turned	
Commended	Paul Coker	Bowl	

The Plain Turning Competition

First	Sandy Henderson	Gavel & anvil	Lignum Vitae/Burr elm
Second	Reg Hawthorne	Miniature Chess set in triple box	Blackwood, box, walnut
Third	Richard Haselden	Evolution	Rosewood
Commended	'Lofty' Marshall	Greek vase with aluminium inserts	Blackwood
Commended	Charles Sharpe	Fall vase in yew/sonokeling neck	Yew
Commended	Brian Wright	Grasstree Vase	Grasstree, Rosewood, Ash

Junior Plain Turning Competition

Brenden Worsley	Box of oak with gem insert
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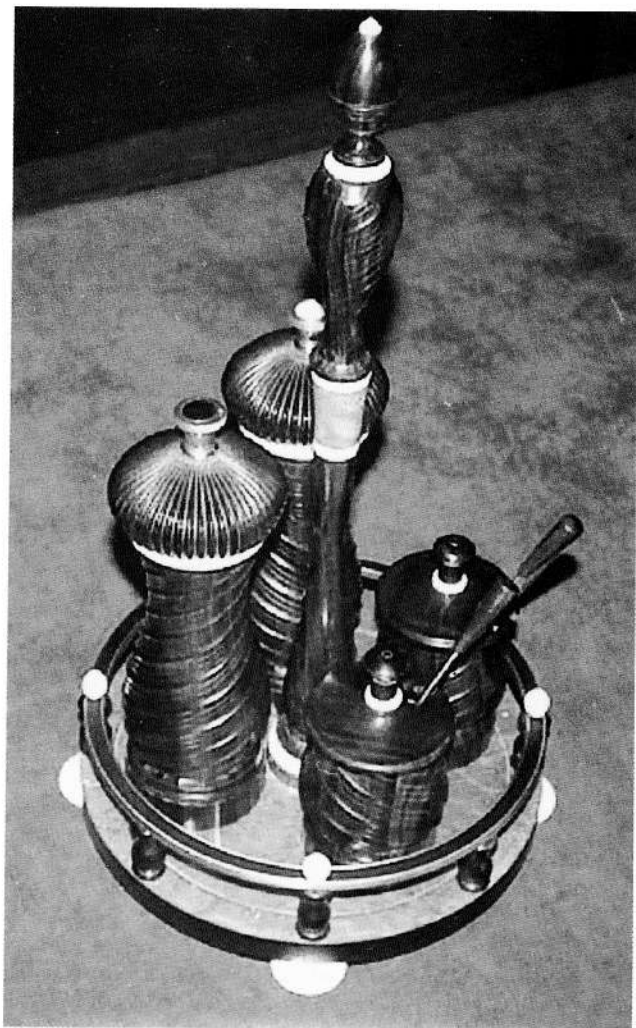
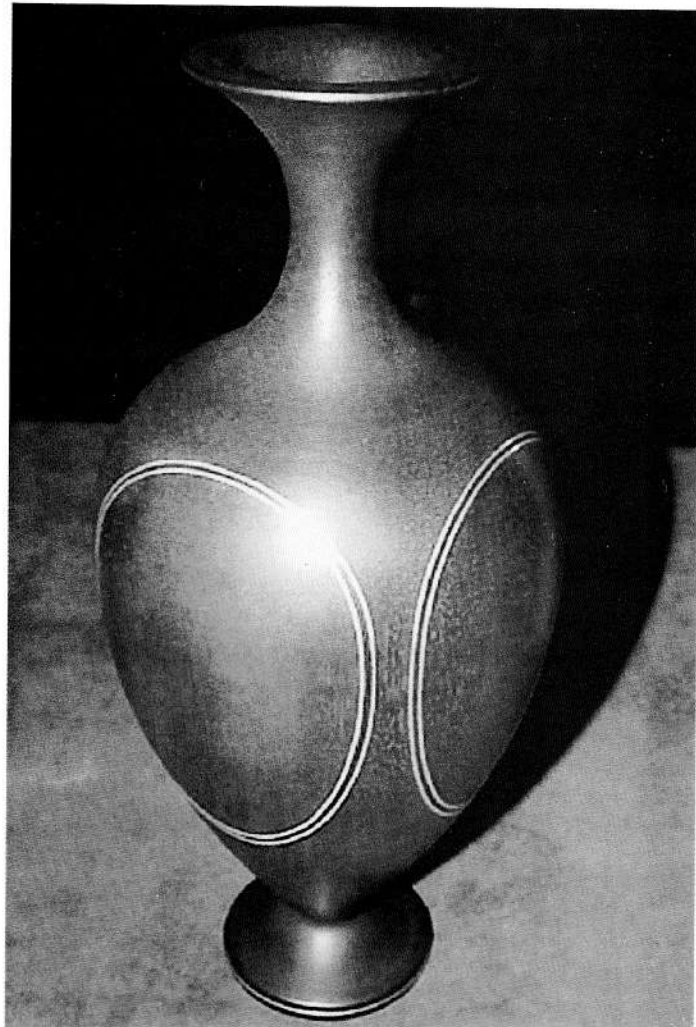
Opposite Page

Top left: Richard Haselden Evolution Third Plain Turning Competition

Top right: Brian Wright Grasstree Vase Commended Plain Turning Competition

Bottom left: 'Lofty' Marshall Greek Vase with Aluminium Inserts Commended Plain Turning Competition

Bottom right: Paul Coker Condiment Set First Condiment Set Competition



A Day in the City

By Mike Morley

This year, probably as a result of being more closely involved with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain I decided to enter the Worshipful Company of Turners' June woodturning competition. This year the AWGB had also decided to sponsor one of the four competitions being run.

At the time, and fresh from success in 2001 with a segmented vase using the bright lustre that can be obtained on sycamore timber cut and shaped at the right orientation, I decided to try to apply the same principles to a different timber and some different shapes. After a bit of experimentation I decided to go for a tall shape using utile as the main timber (it is possible that sapele might have been better). As the design evolved the aim was to attempt a pair of vases with five segments of utile separated by sycamore veneers. A sycamore bell and base would complete each vase

Cut short the construction and turning, this piece is not intended as a description of the work but when the time came to send in the forms I was confident enough that the vases would be finished in time. I put my entry into the Felix Levy Open competition (plain

or ornamental turning) as the plain turning competition sponsored by the AWGB called for a mix of spindle and faceplate turning and I could not claim that for my pieces (although the final finishing was done between centres). I also resolved to take the pieces up to London on the day so that I could have a look at the other entries.

The format for the day is that entrants register and leave their entries by 10.30am and are not welcomed back to Apothecaries Hall until 2.00pm after the judging is complete. This coincided rather neatly with an intention by my wife and daughter to take a visit to the Tate Modern Gallery, just across the river, which was mounting a major exhibition of work by Matisse and Picasso. It also afforded a chance to experience the Millennium Bridge, now reported to be free from wobbles, (it is), and we met up in the Gallery. We enjoyed the exhibition but I will not try to act as art critic (except to say that, compared with some of our woodturners, I reckon that Picasso was a pretty lousy craftsman particularly on some of his constructed sculptural pieces) and returned to the competition hall at the appointed time.

The bridge provided an impressive and

unexpected phenomenon on the way back by turning into a real "Blade of Light". The walk way is made of aluminium and the non-slip surface is made of projections about 20 mm wide and 4mm deep. The sides of these catch the sunlight and reflect it back towards the south. The modern bridge also provided a contrast to the ancient building that is the Apothecaries Hall, which is rich with stained glass windows and some splendid carvings

Back at the Hall we inspected the assembled work, a mix of Plain and Ornamental turning, and I was commiserated with for not having won but having been beaten by a fine piece of work combining plain and ornamental turning on an elegant dish. After the presentation of the awards we were all entertained to tea courtesy of the Worshipful Company of Turners and went on our way. I found it to be an interesting and worthwhile day and so did my wife and daughter despite some degree of bemusement about who was being presented with what in the award ceremonies. I hope to try again at some future date and would recommend all AWGB members to have a go.

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So you want to be a Woodturner Part 15

- How can I improve my turning skills?

By Chuck Turner

Courses.

A look through any of the Woodturning magazines, available these days at most newsagents will provide information of the courses available in your area. These courses are quite a valuable introduction to Woodturning if you have no previous knowledge of lathes, and the equipment involved, or the use of turning tools. However one must understand that a two day course while being valuable to the newcomer, will only be the start of the learning process, and will require a lot of practice and a keen interest in all matters to do with woodturning.

Books.

There are a considerable number of books available from book sellers, or your local public library, both of whom will order a book for you, if it is not immediately available on the shelf.

The book considered by many as the original and most informative is 'Practical Woodturner' by Frank Pain, first published I believe in the 1950's. The original version can still be found in many Public Libraries, but does not deal with any modern methods of chucking, tools and equipment. Nevertheless a good basic treatise, well worth reading. It has been revised and expanded by James A. Jacobson in 1990 to bring it up to date and is available from booksellers for about £12.00.

I learned my woodturning mainly from 'The Manual of Woodturning' by Gordon Stokes, which is a very comprehensive introduction to the subject. It is no longer in print and does not deal with any modern chucking or equipment. However it

deals with all basic aspects of the subject very thoroughly and can be obtained from most public libraries.

There are also a number of more recently published beginner's texts, that by Keith Rowley probably being the best known. It is worth perusing the available books at one of the shows, booksellers or the publishers' listings.

Videos.

Are a very good source of information for all Woodturners, and there are very many available featuring most of the acclaimed Professional, International and National Turners.

Video prices vary, probably according to the length of the subject matter, but can be most useful in teaching use of various tools and work holding techniques. Subjects range from basic to advanced turning, colouring, twists and other techniques of interest to woodturners.

Woodturning Clubs.

There is no doubt in my mind that the most beneficial way of learning about woodturning, after perhaps a course, and a lot of reading, is contact with other woodturners, where ideas, knowledge and techniques can be exchanged.

Demonstrations by members and professional turners are a regular feature of club activities, some times with the chance of hands on experience.

There are now over 30 branches throughout the United Kingdom of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain, with a membership of 2700+ and numerous other clubs who are not

affiliated. All provide a great source of information and assistance to their members, who in their turn, in my experience, are usually very friendly and only too willing to give advice and help to others.

Clubs or branches usually hold a small library of videos and books which have either been bought or donated by Members, which can be loaned to members who would like to have them for a short period.

There are throughout the UK a number of Woodturning Suppliers who also put on at their premises professional demonstrations for their Customers, and at National Woodturning Exhibitions there are usually a number of Professional Demonstrations provided by various firms, who are willing to give advice and help if required.

Practice.

Is the best way of becoming a proficient woodturner.

For those who have to work for a living daily, it is not easy to achieve more than 2 or 3 sessions of turning per week without adverse effects on family life. However even an odd hour can help you to gain experience with your lathe and turning tools. Retired people of course have a bit more time and a regular turning session for a short period every day can soon build up a good confidence and skill.

Once committed to the hobby or profession don't give up, keep trying to master your tool handling and seek advice if you are having difficulties – give yourself time and you will soon be turning out your own masterpieces! Good Luck.

AWGB Web News

I have been AWGB Webmaster for over 2 years. Has it been worth it? Well it depends on what you mean by that.

Our site gets about 80 visits per day but this means very little if the visit did not help in some way. The most popular pages are Branches, Trade Links and For Sale.

However the most significant aspect is the amount of Email that I get, from all over the world, which is prompted by our website. Many of these Emails are answered by referring the sender to the appropriate page of our site. Some of can be satisfied by information in the Services pages, so maybe those individuals who have put up their services on these pages get contacted as a result, I certainly get a number of requests for demonstrations as a result

of my entry on the Demonstrator Page. The For Sale page has had some successes for its contributors.

The other day at a demonstration I was giving to a branch I asked how many of the 45 attending had seen our Website, only 2 hands were raised, when I asked how many had access to the Web 12 hands were raised. I found this a bit disappointing.

I also find it surprising that I get so few notifications of significant events. The events page should be one of our most useful pages but only if I am informed of events, I do not have a crystal ball. Like most things in life the more you put into something the more you get out of it.

Well that is the end of the gripes. I have found that being Webmaster has

been a very interesting project and as a result I have had contact with many interesting people throughout the world.

For the future I hope to be able to launch a chat page on which members may be able to ask questions and hopefully receive answers from others.

Remember

www.woodturners.co.uk

Contact

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if you have any news

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