

Revolutions

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 63

£1.95 Free to members

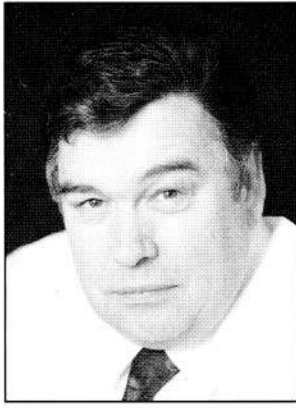
December 2002



Mike Morley - 'Fantazzy' - Sycamore

Photo courtesy Nick Hunton (Woodturner)

Chairmans Notes



As I write these notes I am just getting over a cold that some kind soul gave me on a trip to the Irish Seminar last weekend. I was there, with John Wilson, at the invitation of the Irish Woodturners guild to represent the AWGB. It was a wonderful weekend meeting up with old friends and fellow woodturners in an atmosphere of good humour and relaxation. It reinforces the reason why we, on the AWGB committee, put in so much time and effort to ensure that our seminar gives the same ambience as this one. There is more on the Irish Seminar later in this newsletter and I would like to thank the Irish Woodturners Guild for inviting us.

Revolutions Editor

The very fact that you are reading this issue confirms that we have a new editor for *Revolutions*. He is Bill Care from Suffolk and a lot of you will know him from his regular contribution of articles to the woodturning magazines. Bill I am sure will be a great asset to the committee, not just from his journalistic history but also his professional standing in the woodturning world, his teaching skills and his passion for the craft. Welcome Bill and I hope that you enjoy the challenges that face you as editor and your time as a member of the Executive Committee.

Committee Changes

In the last issue I reported on changes to the committee. Since then there have been other changes and they are summarised on the page opposite.

John Woodward, who had been one of our Regional Representatives, had not been able to attend many committee meetings. After much debate the committee decided that because of this non-attendance and under the terms of the constitution had missed enough meetings to have deemed to have resigned. We thank him for the work that he did do, particularly at the seminar last year and at the display of members work at Haydock Park this year.

The committee has co-opted John Wilson to take his place as the Southern Regional Representative until the AGM. Although John could not continue as editor he was willing to take on a less demanding role and volunteered to do this job until the AGM. I have to say that his appointment is not strictly in line with the terms of the constitution, as he is not a member of a branch, but he was the only volunteer from the south to make himself available, even after asking the southern branches.

International Seminar 2003

Make a date in your diary now for the AWGB Seminar 8th - 10th August 2003. We have a great line up of woodturning superstars for you to come and see as well as the usual trade stands and gallery of woodturning. The gallery will be supplemented by something rather special in 2003 - watch this space as the details are unfurled. We have gone out of our way this time, with coloured leaflets and posters to get the publicity for the seminar in full swing. We expect a record number of delegates and have kept the price as low as possible to make the whole package better value than ever before. My advice is book early - not only for the extra discount but to ensure your place at the best ever seminar hosted by the AWGB.

Promoting woodturning

The AWGB, has for many years,

debated how it can bring the craft of woodturning to the general public as a serious art form. You will have read the article from Lionel Pringle in the last issue of *Revolutions* on this very subject. We know there have been isolated instances of commissions to be presented to Royalty and Government but is this enough. We have some very talented people out there, evidenced by the gallery at last years seminar, the collection of work going to the exhibitions again this year and the creativeness of competition pieces at the exhibitions. But as Lionel points out these are only, in the main, being shown to other woodturners and woodworkers. We have debated the situation in Committee many times and not come up with any answers but we are constitutionally bound to pursue this goal. We believe that part of the answer may be lying with the branches; they often put on displays of work at local events that brings woodturning in front of the layperson. But when we enquired about their activity, in the form of a questionnaire, we got 12 replies from 39 branches. I am disappointed that so few branches bothered to reply - will those branches that did not do so please reply as soon as possible. Only by having a full picture of what is happening up and down the country can we try to overcome the dilemma we are in.

New Publicity leaflets

The Executive Committee has realised that our publicity material was looking a bit tired and drab. Some may say that reflects the committee as a whole but that is another story. To this end we have had a new design of leaflet and some posters printed to advertise the AWGB. If you are putting on a display of work or demonstrating at an event to the general public please ask for some leaflets and a poster. We will also be distributing the new leaflets to retail outlets.

Continued on page 6

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 2003

Editorial

Welcome to Revolutions, issue 63, albeit a trifle late!

Firstly, a few words about me as the new editor. I have been turning professionally for about twelve years, selling my own work, teaching, demonstrating and writing the odd magazine article to keep my head above the wood shavings.

It is only now that the stark reality of becoming the editor is sinking in. As I sit here at 2.00am, staring at a blank screen with an equally blank mind, struggling to find a theme for this, my first editorial.

It's very much like when we first decided to start woodturning. Fired with enthusiasm, we rushed out and bought our first lathe, a grinder, a selection of tools that the nice helpful man in the shop said would perform miracles and a selection of timbers that would keep the average wood burner blazing for a month. However, the one thing we cannot buy is inspiration. Frustrated by the fact that we can't come up with any bright ideas, we turn to our partners and ask, "What shall I make then?" "How about a pair of candlesticks then luv" they reply, trying to sound supportive. (They don't realise the amount of wood shavings we are going to drag through the house at this point of our new hobby.) Now panic begins to set in. "A PAIR?" We don't even know how to make one yet and already we are being asked for a set of them! Anyway, what do candlesticks look like? We've never really studied a candlestick before – our interest has only been in the burning flame above it. And isn't it funny that no matter how much timber you've stashed away, it's never the right size for the job in hand? "Why are you buying more wood?" my wife would say. "You've got a whole shed full of wood out there".

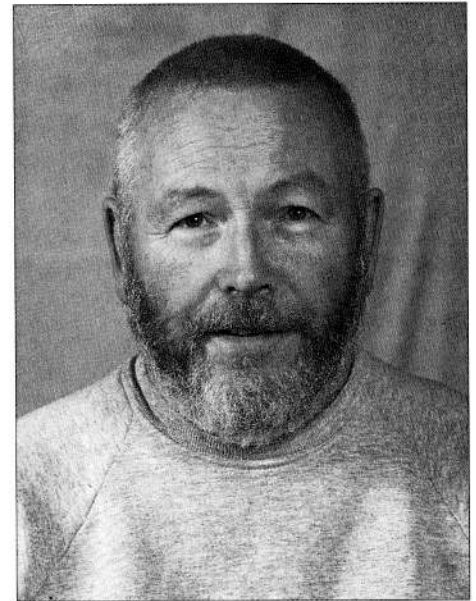
Anyway, that's the situation I now find

myself in yet again. I've got the hardware and sophisticated software that will work wonders, if I only had the skills and ideas to make them work properly. The wood shavings have been replaced by floppy discs, CDROMs, notes on bits of paper, peripherals, cables, folders and files and the dining room has become a temporary office and a no-go area until I can get organised.

On a more sober note, I would like to thank John for his hard work on "Revolutions" over the last three years and echo his cry for contributions for the newsletter from the membership. This can take any form from instructional through to anecdotal. The more material we have to work with, the easier it gets to put a newsletter together with a varied content.

I would also like to feature some of those talented club turners whose names are not the ones that immediately spring to everyone's lips yet have won competitions, many at national level.

If you have one of these talented turners in your club, send me a



profile and I will try to give them their five minutes of fame.

I would ask that anyone that contacts me by email makes certain that the subject matter is clearly defined. Unfortunately, there are too many viruses about these days and anything I am unsure of will be trashed without being opened.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Bill Care

**Don't forget to send off
your subscription
renewal form
Do it now!**

Chairmans Notes cont...

Collaboration with the Northern Federation of Woodturners

On September 21st David Grainger, Peter Hockley and John Woodward set up a stand at the annual exhibition organised by the Northern Federation of Woodturners at Haydock Park. This is the first time that two organisations have collaborated in this way and it was successful.

The Northern Federation is a confederation of 31 woodturning clubs in the north; they do not have individual members as the AWGB does. We are particularly pleased that this event was successful as it brings the two organisations closer for the good of woodturning in this country.

We were asked to put on a display of members work which we were pleased to do and on the day, we were asked to judge their inter club competition.

Mike Dennis

Women in turning

an observation by Lionel Pringle

It is heartening to witness a trend over the past few years of lady members of the AWGB rising to the top in the world of woodturning.

They are still very much a minority when compared with the number of men out there but they are certainly a talented and artistic minority, it is to be hoped that their continued success will inspire other women to take up woodturning.

The turning competition at the recent "Tools 2002" exhibition organised by the Axminster Power Tool Company was the scene of continued success for the latest of these ladies and, by dint of association, the AWGB. Julie Heryet not only won the gold award in her class but was also successful in taking away the first "Tony Boase Award" for the best piece of turning across all of the categories.

Some readers may remember that Julie was the recipient of one of the Associations first Seminar Scholarships in 2001, (she was also the author of a report on that seminar

which included an eyewitness report of an amusing incident concerning a well known turner and the Loughborough shrubbery), the AWGB is most gratified to know that its confidence in Julies abilities, evidenced in her original submission to be a Seminar Scholar, were not misplaced.

As readers will now be aware 2003 is our next seminar year and once again the Association will be offering four places at that seminar to worthy applicants, hopefully some future recipients will carry on in the world of woodturning to enjoy the kind of success that Julie has achieved this year.

Full details and application forms will be made available early in the new year, anybody who is interested should pass a note of their name and address to the AWGB's membership development officer Tony Witham. In the meantime heartiest congratulations go to Julie and may her success, ability and sense of humour continue to be rewarded.



Advice clinic?

Here is a picture of AWGB President, Ray Key offering a "friendly" word of advice to someone at the NEC. Could he be indicating the direction that the wood shavings go when you breathe in at the wrong moment? Or perhaps how to get them out again?

What do you think could be going on? Send in your suggestions for a suitable caption.

*Photo courtesy of Nick Hunton
(Woodturner Magazine)*

AWGB 9th International Woodturning Seminar

*8th 9th & 10th August 2003
Loughborough University, Leicestershire*

Main presenters:

**Alan Batty - England
Jimmy Clewes - England
Christian Delhon - France
Melvyn Ferminger - England
Tobias Kaye - England
Stuart King - England
Mike Mahoney - USA
Laura Ponting - Wales
Jacques Vesery - USA
Hans Weisflogg - Germany**

**For more details please refer to leaflet and application form
in this edition of Revolutions**

Make a date in your diary now.

An invitation from the Northern Federation of Woodturners.

Haydock Park - 21st Sept 2002

During the early part of the year, the AWGB received an invitation to join The Northern Federation in their annual "Woodturning Exhibition" which was to be held in an area under the stands at Haydock Park racecourse. The executive committee saw this as a great opportunity to establish a bridge between our two organisations.

During August, I was visited by Tony Witham who I believed was to deliver the exhibits, but unfortunately, there were only six pieces. Good as these pieces were, there just wasn't enough if we were to make any real impression, leaving me a bit worried.

Shortly afterwards, I received a telephone call from Lionel Pringle saying that I was to receive some more exhibits and within a few days, two heavy cardboard crates arrived, each measuring 3ft x 2ft x 2ft. I know that doesn't sound much, until they turn up at your door!

Fortunately I had some space in my workshop where I could store them unopened until the time they were needed. Friday 20th September and time to go. Would I get it all in the car plus my overnight bag and some spare socks? Obviously not, even if I unpacked the crates, so I loaded both into my trailer, still unopened, plus one of my own pieces. On arrival at the racecourse, Ray Jones and George Moore, who had allocated the AWGB three 6x2 tables in the entrance to the exhibition area, welcomed me and helped with the unloading. At this stage, I became

aware of the enormous responsibility we take when we handle other people's work. It is also important to be able to identify the exhibit with its packaging so that they can be returned safely to their respective owners.

The day of the show arrived and after some preliminary tidying up of our display stand, we were ready for business. Other stands were already

because everything was looking so good. Fortunately, I remembered the points I had learned from watching and listening at the critique sessions at our own seminars and this helped enormously.

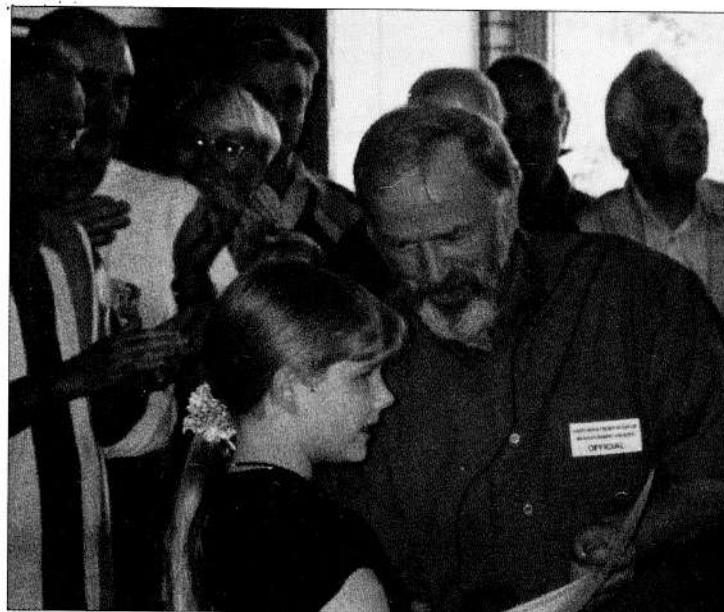
Above everything else, I was impressed with a class that was for young people under the age of 18. An item from this class was a

turned clock that had been made by thirteen year old Katie Jackson. Katie has been interested in woodturning for about six months and with help and encouragement from her grandfather, she received second prize in this class. Personally I believe Katie's input to be encouraging and a boost to the AWGB's interest in encouraging youngsters. Returning to the AWGB stand, I found that Peter Hockley and John

Woodward had arrived and were busy talking about the AWGB to non members and selling the book, "Wonders in Wood".

After the results to the competition had been announced, people began to pack away their displays and get ready to return home. I'm pleased to say that we managed to pack all our exhibits away safely and return them undamaged to their respective owners.

I returned home in good spirits. Some might ask why did we get involved in this event at all but we



in up and running and Dave Reeks had arrived as the main presenter and demonstrator. There were 10 other club stands, 12 trade stands, two people working pole lathes, a pyrographer and a display of carving. And of course, there were the inevitable comforts such as refreshments and alcohol. I was then called away to help judge an inter club competition; feeling quite honoured to be asked as this was to be my first time as a judge. The exhibits were of high quality and I personally found it difficult to judge



Katie Jackson
have now established a bridge between the two groups and established a communication channel for the future showing that even though we are different organisations and are governed to different rules, we share a common interest and that we can work together.

Dave Grainger

The International Woodworking Exhibition at Alexandra Palace

21st - 23rd February 2003

Opening times:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Fri 21st February | 10am - 5pm |
| Sat 22nd February | 10am - 5pm |
| Sun 23rd February | 10.00am - 4pm |

Ticket prices:
£8.00 on the door
£6.00 in advance

Advance ticket hotline 01353 654422
or order on-line at
www.getwoodworking.com/iwe

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Health and Safety

The Workshop

Safety in the workshop begins with the layout. If the workshop has been laid out well there is space around the benches and equipment to work easily with good access. Many of us however have workshops which are limited in space and are laid out with respect to being usable for a number of functions, so when we wish to do a bit of turning the first job is to ensure that all the unnecessary obstructions to work are removed. This is in effect a risk assessment of the situation followed by appropriate action to reduce the risk of injury to an acceptable level.

A typical scenario in my workshop:- I consider the space around the lathe, ensuring that there are no trip hazards (don't forget the logs that I was given by the neighbour when he trimmed that

tree and left them on the workshop floor). Then I find the wood required. I may shift half of the wood store stacked around the edge of the garage, making sure to stack it safely again (another hazard minimised).

The tools need sharpening so space has to be made at the grinder (make sure there is nothing flammable behind the grinder) and have comfortable access. I remember that I am still wearing shorts and sandals so off to change. I then sharpen the tools needed for this project taking care to lay the tools down so the edges are not damaged and there is no risk of them falling on my feet. Now I am ready to start turning.

This may seem a simple story which you may or may not recognise, but

there are included five simple risk assessments and appropriate actions to reduce the risks. At every stage of the operation we all make assessments of perceived risk and take what we believe to be at that time appropriate action. It is important when we make these decisions that our brain is in gear and operating. I have a motto **"Think first then take action"**.

The Workshop

Consider the table below for some notes on basic areas for consideration. This is not an exhaustive list and does not take any specific conditions or needs into account but is intended to start the thinking process.

| Notes | |
|-------------|---|
| Access | There needs to be access to all working areas without having to strain or get into uncomfortable positions. There should be room to keep a good posture whilst carrying out all operations, as back problems are difficult to sort out. Some pieces of equipment need space to easily get at both sides. Access also refers to access into the working area in the event of needing help with equipment maintenance. Temporary obstructions e.g. trailing leads should be considered as they often cause difficulties. |
| Lighting | There needs to be adequate general lighting and good lighting in the working area. This may require localised "task" lighting in some areas e.g. over the lathe. If task lighting frequently needs moving or has trailing leads, consideration should be given to putting permanent fittings in position to remove the hazards associated with the frequent moving of trailing leads. |
| Floor | This should be flat and in good condition. Slippery floors can be very dangerous and a layer of wood dust or shavings can make some floors slippery as well as hiding low obstructions. Uneven floors constitute a trip hazard and cold floors may make stumbling more of a risk as the feet do not operate well when they are numb. Cleaning should be done often and always with a vacuum cleaner as this does not raise dust. Position of sockets for power tools will impact the number of trailing leads whilst working. |
| Air quality | The workshop should be well ventilated but this can bring in the cold in the winter months. Wood dust levels need to be kept as low as possible (the maximum allowable level for industry is 5mg per cubic metre) and extraction at the point of generation is the best way to deal with this if at all possible, otherwise dust masks are needed. Chemicals in the workshop can also present risks as continual use of solvent containing finishes can dull the senses before drowsiness sets in unless it is continually diluted by good ventilation. |
| Noise | This is a distraction and at high levels, will damage hearing so equipment should have as low a noise generation as possible. Localised extraction, where possible, should be powered from outside the workshop. Whenever the noise level is high, ear plugs or defenders should be used. |

A DECADE ON.....

A nostalgic look back at the NEC Shows by Graham Lovett

With another NEC Show over, it is probably time to look back over the last 10 years (and eleven shows) in which the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain have had a prominent involvement at this superb venue.

During the mid 80's, woodturning was having somewhat of a renaissance and with the formation of the A.W.G.B., the craft of the woodturner was beginning to take centre stage at the various woodworking shows. Much of the hard and ground breaking work on behalf of the Association displays was down to a team led by Mac Kemp, who really set the standard for future events at which the A.W.G.B. had a presence. The logistics of putting on displays at these early events was far greater than the comparative ease which we enjoy today. The majority of major shows were located in the south of the country and London, however, in the autumn of 1992, the first International Woodworking and Woodturning show was held at the National Exhibition Centre. This is when the local Midlands branches and myself became involved in the stewarding and presenting of the A.W.G.B. display. That first show was really a baptism of fire and a pretty steep learning curve. I well remember receiving a call one Sunday morning from Mac to say that he was about to leave home (somewhere south of Watford gap) with the display staging, and would I meet him at the one and only services (at that time) on the M40 and take the equipment from him. The equipment was lengths of chipboard shelving, plinths etc which tested the suspension of my little Maestro as it was all brought back to the Midlands. I still don't know if the tear in Mac's eyes as he loaded my car was joy at having

passed the job on, or sadness at having handed his "baby" over!!! I suspect the former, but will probably never know.

And so the NEC Show was born, and as far as the Association has been concerned, the involvement has been very successful with the quality and variety of member's exhibits reaching higher standards year on year. Another first for the A.W.G.B. at the NEC was the provision of an Advice Clinic manned by members, with the aim of giving impartial advice to visitors without sales pressure. Over the years this provision has been well received, and the clinics are now included at most of the shows attended by the Association.

So onto this year's Show. As in previous years, our stand was generously provided by the organizers, Highbury Special Interests. Stewardship of the A.W.G.B. stand is arranged from local Midland branch members, and over the three days of the show, perform a magnificent P.R. exercise on behalf of the Association membership, who can be justly proud of the work of these volunteers. Of course much of the hard work that is required before these shows see the light of day is down to your very own Executive Committee who have the task of requesting and collating the items for display, storing them and then delivering them to the show venue. Exhibitor's passes have to be obtained, stand equipment ordered, which again this year was arranged by Reg Hawthorne, the Trade and Business Liaison committee member, who really has the headaches. My involvement happens later in the arrangements, and really only requires obtaining the necessary stewards and

making sure that they have the passes for their day of duty. Apart from the "Set up" day, which is usually the Thursday before the Friday first day, my task as the Stand Manager (sounds rather posh that) is made so very easy by the very proficient volunteer stewards.

Without doubt it is a pleasure to lead a good team, and once again we had just that, which I think bodes well for the future of the A.W.G.B.

Overall our stand displayed the quality now expected of it, new members wererecruited, and many items of merchandise sold. Old friendships renewed and new ones forged, and although the visitor numbers may have been down on previous years, for those attending, there was plenty to see.

Will there be a NEC Show next year? Who knows, but if there is I'm sure that the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain will be present.

**THE
EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE
WISHES ALL
MEMBERS A
MERRY XMAS
AND A
PROSPEROUS
NEW YEAR**

Gort 2002

The Irish Woodturner's Guild seminar

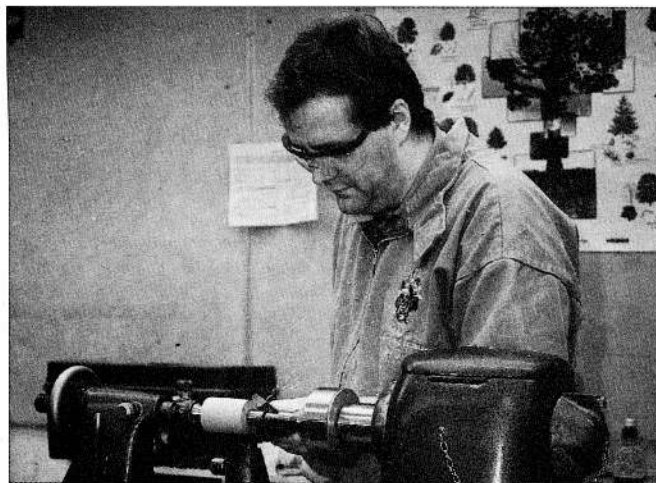
I had the pleasure of accompanying our Chairman, Mike Dennis, to Ireland in early October to represent the AWGB as guests of the Irish Woodturners Guild at their annual seminar.

We met up at Heathrow early one Friday morning and in company with Gary Rance, who was to demonstrate at the seminar, entered into the Irish experience by boarding an Aer Lingus flight to Shannon. On arrival we were met by our Irish hosts and driven, with a detour to grab a brief lunch and sample some of the "blackstuff", to Gort where the seminar was to be held for the second consecutive year. The afternoon gave us an opportunity to settle into our accommodation, meet with our hosts and renew old friendships at the local hotel only 5 minutes walk from the seminar venue, Gort Community College. Nearly 300 delegates came from all over Ireland, the UK and destinations as widespread as Finland, Israel and the USA.

The Irish seminar is an annual event and follows a similar format to our own in that it aims to bring together a group of demonstrators representative of the variety that our craft encompasses. This year there was such a balance with UK turners Gary Rance, Laura Ponting and Phil Irons (well he has been with us so long we regard him as one of ours!) The USA was represented by Bonnie Klein and David Ellsworth with Roger Bennett, Ollie Burke and Glen Lucas providing the mainstay of the Irish contributions. Beside the latter three, there were contributions from Tom Rafter, IWG President Felix McCrory, and members of the Galway Chapter of the IWG in the persons of Des

O'Halloran, Frank Kelly, John Kelly, Sean Clancy and Donal Buckley.

Besides this impressive and diverse array of talent, delegates curiosity was stimulated by speculation as to the identity of the demonstrator scheduled to occupy the three Sunday slots included in the programme as the "Surprise Guest". Speculation was rife at the Friday night buffet and long



Garry Rance hard at work

into the night at the bar - guessing the identity of this presenter is quite a social occasion. The smart money seemed to make Ciaran Forbes the prime suspect. And so it proved, the first positive sighting of the principal suspect being made in the bar at lunchtime on Saturday. Ciaran played to packed houses throughout Sunday as he entertained and instructed his audience in his own inimitable manner.

The main problem at these events seems to be making the choice of ones own personal programme. There are always demonstrations that one is determined not to miss, but then the difficulties start. The problem eventually becomes one of - which of this mouth-watering array of presentations am I prepared to miss or forgo for another? It can be

frustrating but with the quality of programme being assembled at these seminars, it is an enviable quandary in which to find oneself.

I planned my own schedule by first selecting from amongst those whose skills were not likely to be easily accessible to me elsewhere. So I rapidly selected sessions by David Ellsworth and Bonnie Klein and added to them

Irish turners Roger Bennett and Glen

Lucas. The schedule was completed by attendance at sessions presented by Laura Ponting, who has indicated her intention to limit her appearance on the demonstration circuit, and Gary Rance.

All of the sessions were of a high standard, both in terms of the quality of presentation and work presented. From a personal point of view I emerged from every session feeling that I had learnt

something new by way of technique or working methods or with my mind preoccupied with creative ideas for development of my own work in the future. Not only had I gained all this but also the experience had been in convivial company and all the presentations were entertaining as well as informative and stimulating. What more could one ask?

David Ellsworth demonstrated the production of an open natural edge bowl in a session notable for the clarity of the exposition of the theory underlying the practice. His discussion and explanation of the ideas underlying the design principles were simply and brilliantly expounded. He inspired and educated in equal measure - this was one of those opportunities to sit and learn at the feet of the master.

Bonnie Klein presented work on boxes and I attended two of her sessions in which she demonstrated the production of a threaded box utilising the thread cutting jig that she has developed and showed chatterwork and the utilisation of alternative materials, acrylic and bone in particular in the second session.

Roger Bennet is a Dublin based turner who has developed a very individual style, working much of the time in sycamore. His signature pieces are thin-walled bowls, coloured and decorated by the use of silver wire or the use of gold leaf. He has developed an elegant and very distinctive style and demonstrated the production of a bowl dedicating much of the session to showing the use of gold leaf and silver wire as a means of decoration. This was a great stimulus to the

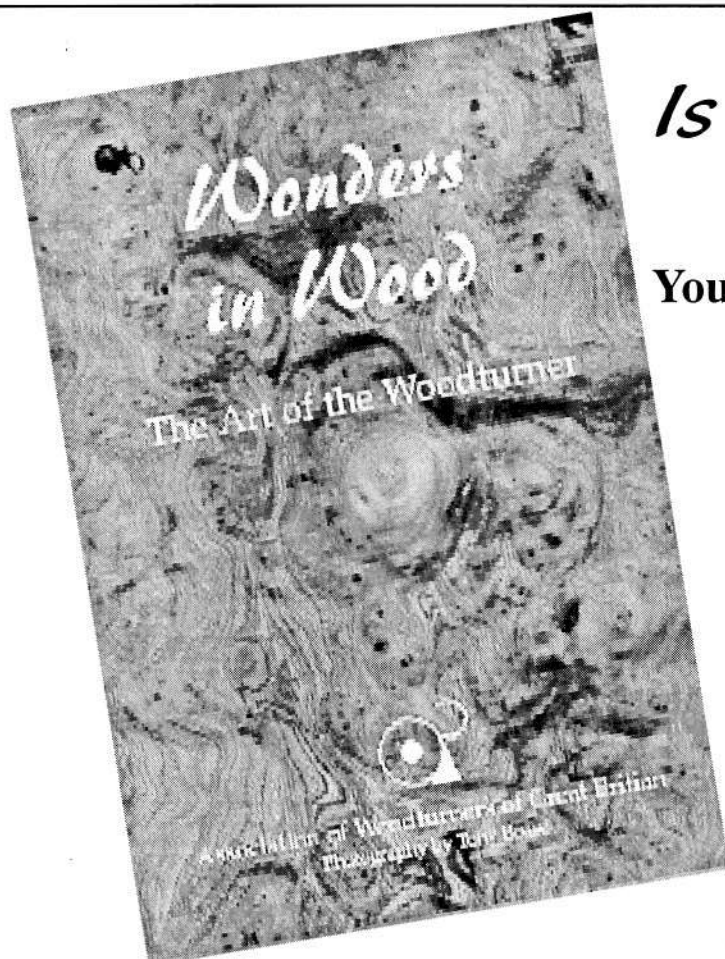
creative juices suggesting alternative ways of approaching the finishing of the more bland timbers.



Bonnie Klien making a spinning top

Glen Lucas has pioneered the use of vacuum chucking which would seem to have general acceptance as a useful work holding method in the USA but, so far, seems to have made little impact on this side of the Atlantic. Articles appearing in the journal of The American Association of Woodturners encouraged Glen to develop such a system. As a production turner, the technique is of tremendous value in enabling the quick and secure reverse chucking of bowls to finish the base. This is a method of which we will hear more - two kits for vacuum chucking are becoming available on the UK market.

Laura and Gary, both AWGB members as well as being on the Professional Register, did us proud. Gary undertook a marathon programme demonstrating in six of



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Laura Ponting turning a platter

the seven sessions over the two days. He presented three different demonstrations, repeating each, candlesticks, peppermills and box making. All were presented in his usual jovial manner and with the speed and expertise for which he has become so well known.

Laura demonstrated the production of bowls incorporating the colouring and scorching techniques, which have become an integral part of her designs. Laura's gentle and self-deprecating humour make her demonstrations a pleasant and amusing experience as well as an opportunity to learn. Irish eyes were certainly smiling at these sessions.

The seminar was a great success, the demonstrations of a high standard and the gallery of delegates work of an exceptionally high standard with much work of an innovative and creative nature. This, allied to the small but varied trade presence, provided the delegate with an opportunity to acquire supplies to support the work that was being inspired on the return home to his or her own workshop. The quantity and quality of timber contained within the articulated lorry that served as the wood shop had to be seen to be believed.

Thanks are due to our hosts for the opportunity to attend and share the experience of the 2002 seminar - by common consent the best yet.

The work involved in bringing such events to fruition is considerable and the IWG Committee and the Galway Chapter, as hosts, did a brilliant job. For Ambrose O'Halloran, who as IWG Secretary has been involved in the organisation of four seminars, this was the swansong before he stands down as secretary. He is going to be a hard act to follow. However, preparations are already well advanced for 2003 when the venue will be Maynooth, only about 30 minutes west of Dublin which may be more accessible for some in the UK.

I'm saving my pennies!

John Wilson

Change of address

Please note that our Hon. Sec. has moved
His new point of contact is:

Lionel Pringle
The Stacks
Sandrock Hill
Crowhurst
Battle
East Sussex TN33 9AT
Tel: 01424 830170

Chippings and Shavings

We welcome two new branches to the AWGB:-

Tudor Rose Woodturners from
Northamptonshire

and

North Warwickshire – Hinkley
College Woodturners club who meet
at Hinkley College on the 1st and 3rd
Tuesday of each month from 7.00pm
to 9.30pm during term time. The
secretary is Alan Edwards.

To all branch secretaries Branch Handbook errata

Secretaries will have now received the latest version of the branch handbook and the amendments to the list of demonstrators. Please will you make the following amendments to your information:

Page 17,
Worcester Woodturners Secretary,
Keith Brooks, Orchard Rise, Butts
Bank, Broadwas on Teme, Worcs,
WR6 5NH. Tel 01886 821292

Page 16,
Village Turners. Venue address should
read 130 Garton End Road not 103.

Page 12,
Address for Secretary of Cheam.
David Buskell, Woodlands,
52 Upper Selsdon Road,
South Croydon, CR2 8DE

Page 12,
Address for Jim Hill should be:
Latchingdon
email: jimhillnow@aol.com

Woodturners and the "Web"

I think that it is fair to say that, on the whole, woodturners are not amongst the most avid technology junkies.

True, most go for electric motors and lots of us have been converted to the benefits of electronic speed control. Most of us have heard of the Internet and according to the papers a goodly percentage of the population are active computer users. I've never seen any figures on how many are woodturners but my bet, borne out by some recent surveys at his club by Brian Partridge, is that relatively few woodturners are active Internet users.

I will confess to being a gadget lover and the Internet is a "gadget" par excellence. It is now part of my everyday life and is useful in all sorts of ways; true it sometimes gives me grief when it does not work but, fingers crossed, the systems continue to become more robust and user friendly. However, I can see that, as far as the non-computer literate are concerned, there appears to be a rather steep learning curve or barrier to entry. Cost can also be a barrier but again it is becoming less so.

So, what is the point of this article? In short, to encourage you to have a look at it. It will entail some work and it will cost some money (since when did you last get something for nothing) but it is becoming my belief that the person who does not have Internet access is increasingly becoming a handicapped person in today's society. So, what can it do for you? Some of these things are relevant to woodturning but most are useful for all sorts of other purposes.

Perhaps the most basic of the Internet tools is e-mail. Albeit with some problems it is now very much a part of the AWGB Committee communications and, as far as I am

concerned a very good way of exchanging information and pictures with friends and family (including some in Canada).

Once you have the basic set-up it is effectively free, extremely rapid and I would now reckon as reliable as the Royal Mail. It is also non-intrusive so you do not need to worry about contacting someone by phone at an awkward time.

Newsgroups are another marvellous thing. These are effectively worldwide question and answer groups on almost any activity you can think of, where, if you post a question, you stand a chance of getting a reply from someone who has "been there, done that".

The third major area is the World Wide Web. (The Internet is a system of connected computers used for all sorts of purposes; the WWW runs on the Internet and is a system for storing, publishing and above all accessing a truly enormous range of information).

It is being used increasingly for commerce and for advertising but there are also individuals who publish valuable information purely for the enjoyment of it.

Some of the things that I now use the system for are: -

- ☐ To manage my bank and credit card accounts, check balances and pay bills.
- ☐ To get the latest weather forecast (including foreign places where I might go on holiday).
- ☐ Keep track of the AWGB bank accounts.
- ☐ To find a detailed map of almost anywhere (just enter postcode).
- ☐ Check the latest news from

almost anywhere.

- ☐ To find and order speciality items (I wanted some non-slip matting recently).
- ☐ Find information on almost anything, enter a word in a search engine and you will probably get a series of web sites that will help.

We are fortunate in having as a part of our committee another enthusiast, Brian Partridge and, as soon as you make your way to the World Wide Web take a look at his work on our own Website. I am sure you will find it interesting and useful.

So, how to get started? Only a few words here because it depends on your circumstances, but as a very first step you could visit your local library where you should find some computer terminals and some people who will be very happy to introduce you to using them.

Best of luck!!

Mike Morley