

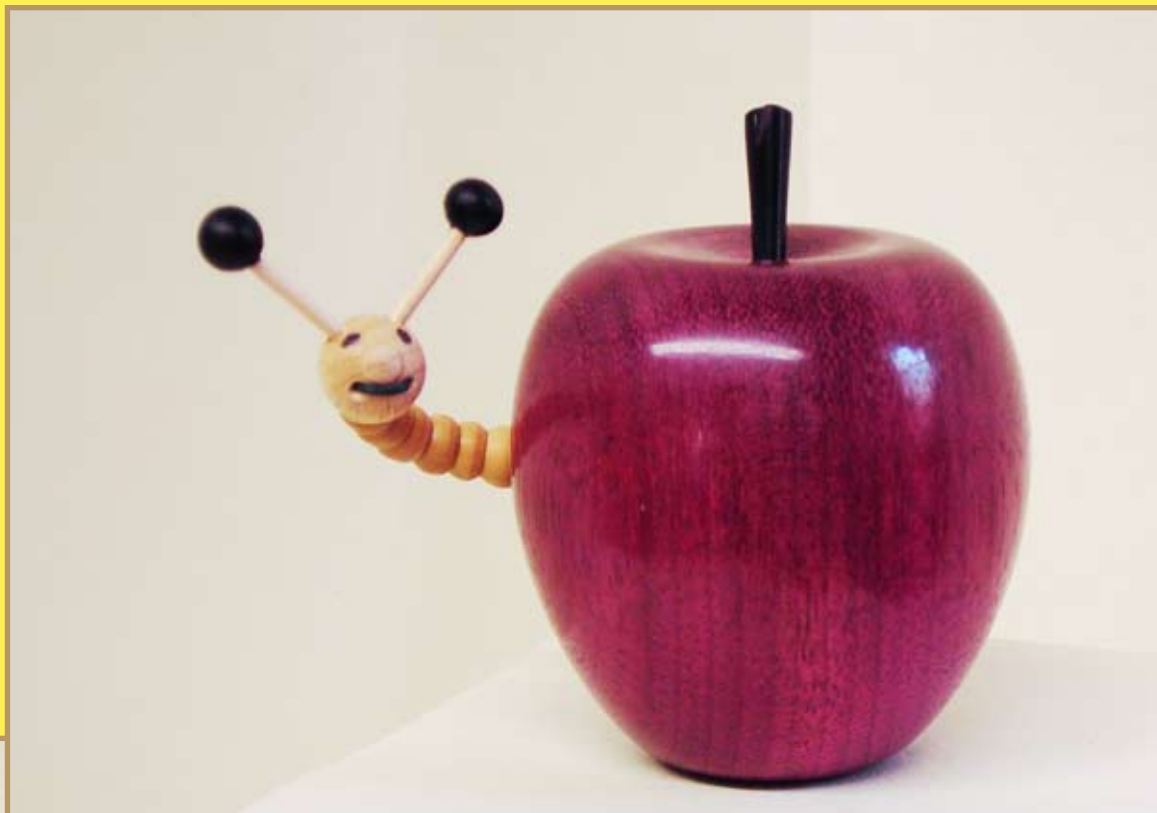


# *Revolutions*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 89

June 2009



*[www.woodturners.co.uk](http://www.woodturners.co.uk)*

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## COMMITTEE MEMBERS

### President

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## An Appreciation Reg Hawthorne

Tony Walton has just retired from the Executive Committee after eight plus years as Trade and Business Liaison Officer. I was the holder of that post before Tony, for a similar length of time, and I passed over to Tony a job that was well defined, with AWGB attendance at only three major shows, those at the NEC and Alexandra Palace and the "Axminster" show in Devon.

Tony had about a year of that relative calm before everything started to disintegrate. The NEC show disappeared, Stoneleigh came and went and Axminster stopped holding their shows. Tony was forced to look further afield if the AWGB were to be promoted at public events. Shows at Harrogate and Glasgow were added to the itinerary along with several smaller shows. All of this meant that a lot more work was required, collecting the exhibits and promotional material from a central storage point and transporting them to the event on the set-up day, and then returning them to the secure storage until the next event.

In my time the show organisers used to supply shell systems with shelves so all that we had to do was set out the exhibits, unfortunately during Tony's tenure all that disappeared. Where shell stands were available shelves were not supplied, only available at costs above AWGB means. Tony had to make the best of a constantly deteriorating situation. On top of all of that each show needed a number of volunteers which he had to arrange.

Every two years there was the added work generated by the AWGB International Seminar which has its own trade show organised by the Trade Officer.

Sometime during Tony's stint he retired from paid employment and started to earn his living as a woodturner, this of course has required a lot more of his time and as a result he has finally decided to hand over to someone else.

I would like to thank Tony on behalf of the Association for all his efforts over a considerable period. This was a very generous allocation of his time and effort on a voluntary basis and I wish Tony all the very best for the future.

**In conclusion if there is anyone out there who feels they can follow in Tony's footsteps please let me know.**

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

Your personal details are held on a computer belonging to the AWGB. Your details are held purely for the use of the Association and are not passed on to any third party. If you object to your name, address and telephone number being held in this manner then please contact the Secretary whose details are opposite.

### AWGB LAPEL BADGES

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For sewing on smocks etc.  
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### CAR STICKERS

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All available from the  
AWGB secretary  
(details opposite)  
Please make all payments  
to AWGB

## Front Page

Recent winners of the  
AWGB Forum  
competition

At the top is  
Roger Lowry's  
winner in February

The other is the winner  
in March, made by  
John Boyne-Aitken

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

**July 18th**



# Thanks to Chris Eagles

Ray Key

From my point of view Chris's tenure on the AWGB Executive Committee has been far too short lived.

I have known Chris for many years as a committed AWGB member and as Chairman of Gloucestershire Association of Woodturners, a post he held for many a year. At a social gathering in the winter of 2006 I asked him if he had ever considered standing for the AWGB EC. I did this with a certain doubt in my mind, memory told me someone in the past had approached Chris and got a negative response; happily I found this had not been the case.

At that time no one was willing to put their head above the parapet to stand as Chairman or Vice Chairman. The post of Chairman of the AWGB is a demanding one, and is best held by someone who has served on the EC for at least 2 years, so they have a real understanding of its workings. In essence I was suggesting to Chris he stood for Vice Chairman, as this role is always seen as Chairman elect in the fullness of time.

Long serving Secretary, Revolutions Editor, all time AWGB good egg Lionel Pringle offered himself as a stop gap Chairman, as no one from the then serving EC was up for standing for the post.

Chris was elected to the post of Vice Chairman at the AGM of 2007. He quickly took on his arduous share of committee work, taking on the role of Insurance and Health and Safety Officer. He did this with great professionalism and diligence, at a time when there were those out there who were in full nanny state mode. At the 2007 Seminar Chris played a major role, along with all EC members - it is very much a team effort. Chris finally became AWGB Chairman in April of 2008, I know he would have preferred to have had a two year term as Vice Chairman, but circumstances deemed otherwise.

Chris made it known in October of last year that he would not be standing for the Chair again and would be standing down from the EC altogether. I can assure you many of us tried to change his mind, but he was not for turning (*no pun intended*). The intrusion into normal family life had just become too much.

Chris is a perfectionist and is always one hundred percent committed to any cause he is involved with. These are wonderful attributes, but they can also lead to disillusion and frustration when you try to implement change and new initiatives. It is against this background that Chris's total devotion to the cause took its toll. His pride in being your Chairman was being nullified as achievement and enjoyment were less than anticipated.

I believe he achieved much in his all too short time in office, and he should now reflect and look back with pride on what he did achieve. The setting up of small working groups on specific issues and the implementation of the AWGB Demonstrator Programme are but two examples. Plus the continued growth of the Youth Training Programme, which is run in conjunction with the Worshipful Company of Turners. Chris has been central to all of these.

I know he got great enjoyment in being a judge at the WCT Wizardry in Wood Exhibition, representing the AWGB at the Irish Woodturners Seminar and meeting AWGB members at shows.

Chris is not lost to the AWGB, he will be in charge of the Instant Gallery at our International Seminar and involved with the Banquet Auction. Your new Executive Committee has had the good sense to keep Chris involved as an advisor.

A very sincere thank you Chris.

We may have lost Chris, but in his place we have Reg Hawthorne, the man I have always described as the best Chairman we never had. Reg has already served for many years on the EC, standing down a few years ago on health grounds and a possible house move which didn't materialise. Those who have been following things in recent times will know Reg had already taken on my Seminar Organiser's role, which, after twenty years, I stood down from in 2007. **There's really no pressure on Reg at this time,** AWGB Chairman, Seminar Organiser, Internet Auction Co-ordinator and at this time, just for good measure, Seminar Trade Stand Organiser. The one consolation is he has an extremely able and committed new committee on board.

## E-mail Security

Dave Wilcox

There seems to be a lot of paranoia regarding e-mail addresses within the membership. I would like to make a few suggestions, these will let you use your e-mail as you want and at the same time will add a degree of protection to stop your e-mail address being harvested and passed around.

When you get an e-mail forwarded from friends you will see lots of previous e-mail headers from every person this e-mail has been forwarded to. Each time a message is forwarded it adds an abundance of addresses for the would-be spammer to harvest. You are as guilty as the person sending this to you if, when you forward it to your friends and family, you leave all these addresses in situ. So what do you do?

First, when you click on the forward button a new message is created which becomes totally editable. All you need is the pertinent content and nothing

else. So go through the body of the new e-mail you are forwarding and delete all the previous headers, and anything else that is irrelevant, like sign off strings, smilies etc. This also reduces the size of the e-mail considerably. Next go to the Subject box at the top of the e-mail and delete all the FW: comments added by each forward so that you are left with just the title you want. Now you need to send the e-mail to the desired recipients. In all probability you select the names you wish to send to and they all go into the To: header of the email. This means that everyone you send the e-mail to can see a list of e-mail addresses you have sent it to. This is unnecessary, so instead of putting the names into the To: box put them into the BCC: box. For those that don't know, BCC stands for blind carbon copy, so the same message goes to each person in the BCC list without the recipients being aware of each other. (The option for BCC can be found by clicking the small arrow alongside the To:)

That's the easy bit, now you will be doing this to all your e-mails, it will take you a few minutes longer but it is worth it. The harder part is getting all your friends and family to do the same. I constantly preach this to mine but few do it, so do keep on at them, eventually they will get the message. If everybody does this then the spammer's job is made that much harder. As we stand at the moment we give our own, and everybody else's, e-mail addresses out to all and sundry and then whinge like hell that we get spam. So if you don't use the system properly stop whingeing and put it right. That way you can give your e-mail to those that need it and it can be used legitimately.

The bottom line is – Please give the AWGB your e-mail address so that we can disseminate information quickly when the need arises.



# The ToolPost



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These ceramic mill kits offer great flexibility, with 4", 5", 6", 8" and 10" spindles and mill mechanisms available separately.

Mills: £4.51 inc. VAT,  
Spindles:

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5" -	£1.06
6" -	£1.24
8" -	£1.78
10" -	£2.21

The CeraStar drill set provides all the drills you need for making elegant condiment mills. 7 & 24 mm Auger bits; 20, 30 & 35 mm Forstner bits. £28.55 inc VAT.

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## Seminar Traders

Should any member be looking to purchase anything from any of the traders that will be exhibiting at the AWGB International Seminar in August, it may be worth your while arranging for the item to be collected at the Seminar, it will certainly save you the cost of carriage. If you are not attending yourself perhaps a friend or fellow club member would be happy to act as courier on your behalf.

At the time of going to press the list of traders who are going to be present runs as follows:

- Axminster Tool Centre, 0800 371822
- Lovell Workwear, 029 2061 8112
- Ashley Iles
- Robert Sorby
- Turners Retreat, 01302 744344
- The Toolpost
- Henry Taylor
- Meantime Design
- VM UK Ltd, 01789 459262
- Simon Hope, 01206 230694
- Martin Pidgeon 01472 873342 (exotic timbers)
- Nigel Fleckney, 01536 330679 (native hardwoods in plank form).

Contact details for those with no telephone number can be found in the relevant advertisement in this newsletter.

# AWGB - AGM 2009

Daventry Community Centre, Daventry  
Sunday 5th April 2009 at 2.00pm

## The Minutes of the meeting

1 - In opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed members and thanked Tudor Rose Woodturners for acting as hosts for the meeting.

2 - There were 30 members in attendance.

3 - Apologies were received from Mike Donovan and Derek Phillips.

4 - Minutes of the 2008 AGM

The minutes of the AGM held at Daventry Community Centre on Sunday 6th April 2008 were unanimously accepted by the meeting as a true record following a proposal by Peter Martin seconded by Peter Fagg. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5 - Honorary Chairman's report.

Chris Eagles, Honorary Chairman of the AWGB gave his annual report to the meeting. A copy of the report is attached to the minutes. Lionel Pringle proposed and Peter Fagg seconded acceptance of the report, this was carried unanimously. Following his report the E.C made a proposal which altered the way the Executive Committee managed its affairs. This was accepted by the meeting. [Subsequent to the AGM the Executive Committee further discussed the matter and decided it was unconstitutional and the item has been rescinded and withdrawn.]

6 - Treasurer's report.

Adrian Needham, Honorary Treasurer, presented the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2008. A copy of the balance sheet is to be found at the end of this report, (a full copy of the accounts may be obtained by sending a SAE to the treasurer). He spoke of how he had made minor changes to the accounting method and highlighted areas where expenditure had increased; mainly due to inflationary issues and the fact that the committee, and particularly regional representatives, had increased the amount of visits to clubs and shows supporting the work of the Association. Income has decreased due to the present state of the economy and reduced advertising revenue. The result of this is that over the year there is a deficit of approximately £2,500. As subscriptions had not been increased on the 1st January 2009 it is likely there would be a similar deficit for 2009. As a result he was proposing that subscriptions be increased from 1st January 2010. Individual members by £2.00 to £16.00 pa, Family and Overseas membership by £4.00 to £26.00 pa, junior membership by £1.00 to £8.00 pa, Associated Clubs by £10.00 to £40.00 pa and Corporate Members by £5.00 to £30.00 pa. During a discussion on the item it was suggested that a saving could be made by

ceasing the £150 grant to branches. This Idea was rejected by the Executive Committee and endorsed by the meeting. Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Jon Simpson and seconded by Dick West. The proposal was accepted unanimously. The same two members then proposed a vote of thanks to Adrian Needham, Chris Eagles and the committee for the work they have done on behalf of the membership in the past year, this was carried.

7 - Election of Officers.

There being only one nomination for each of the Officer posts the following were elected.

Chairman	Reg Hawthorne
Vice-chairman	Mike Donovan
Treasurer	Adrian Needham
Secretary	Mike Collas

8 - Election of Executive Committee member

There being only one nomination the following was elected.

Public Relations Officer	Andy Coates
--------------------------	-------------

9 - Election of Regional Representatives

There being no other nominations the following were elected.

Regional Rep North	David Grainger
Regional Rep South	Martin Lawrence

10 - Members to be co-opted.

Data Manager	David Atkinson
Membership Secretary	Derek Phillips
Newsletter Editor	Lionel Pringle
Retiring Chairman	Chris Eagles

11 - Members' matters for discussion

It was proposed by John Montgomery and seconded by Vic Green that a vote of thanks be recorded in recognition of the work done by Peter Bradwick in developing the Demonstrator Training Programme. This was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Chris Eagles and seconded by Reg Hawthorne that we record a vote of thanks to Tony Walton for the tremendous amount of work he has done in supporting the Association as Trade and Business Officer over eight to nine years. This was unanimously carried. In response to this Tony Walton said that when he had started with the duties the Association attended three shows a year, now we attended many shows each year. He has enjoyed the job he has done and will continue to support the AWGB in any way he can.

Reg Hawthorne said he wished to thank Chris Eagles for his leadership during a very trying and difficult year. The meeting expressed their wish to be associated with these sentiments and to include their thanks. In reply Chris said it is sometimes difficult to get committee members but he was satisfied the new committee would be energetic in taking the Association forward.

Dave Atkinson said he was willing to combine the Data Manager duties with those of the Insurance and

Health and Safety Officer as he currently trained on Health and Safety legislation. His offer was gratefully accepted by the meeting.

It was stated that as we at present have no Trade and Business Officer and we are attending many smaller shows this will mean the Regional Representatives will have to have a greater involvement in organising our representation. The secretary will need to be informed of all show invitations to ensure that the gallery and equipment will be available. All committee members will need to support the Regional Reps at shows in their areas.

Members who submit items for inclusion in the exhibition gallery must be reminded that items must be properly packed bearing in mind the need to protect the work and take into consideration the storage and transportation that will be involved during the year.

12 - Chris Eagles closed the meeting at 2.55 pm again thanking the Tudor Rose Woodturners for arranging the venue and for the fine catering they had provided.

## **Chairman's Review 2008/09**

In a year of mixed emotions we have experienced: blessings, heartache, excitement and disappointments.

To record some high points, I am pleased to report that following an initial suggestion at the 2008 AGM we now have a comprehensive Demonstrators Training Programme in place. Those who have attended the trials are full of praise for the content and presentation of the event. They are now utilising the skills learnt to present quality demonstrations for their own and neighbouring woodturning clubs. A standard programme package has been finalised and members across the country can now avail themselves of this new AWGB membership benefit.

Similar progress has been made in the youth training area, a valuable feature that continues to benefit our younger members, in whose hands the future of woodturning lies.

Included in the current Demonstrator and Youth Training Diary are events in Essex, Hampshire, Daventry, East Herts, Bristol, Plymouth, Norwich, Preston, and Cwmbran. It is planned to extend these programmes into Scotland and the north of England.

In addition to advertising provided by the Association's PRO, the above features are frequently discussed on the AWGB Forum, encouraging further applications to both programmes.

The AWGB Public Forum goes from strength to strength and the wide variety of subject headings are driven by forum members. These currently include tool reviews, show events, items for sale, how-to

projects and health and safety issues, all of which are enthusiastically discussed on a regular basis. The monthly turning competition, generously sponsored by Jon Warrender of Meantime, attracts a small but steady flow of entries.

Another competition is being jointly formulated by the AWGB and the WCT. There are many elements to be discussed around the basic parameters of a high profile national competition aimed at branches, clubs, groups and individuals. Further details will be published in our newsletter as they become available.

Revolutions is our main avenue for contacting members on wide and varied Association matters. I hope the time, effort and finance spent on this publication is appreciated. It never has, nor will it ever be, a competitor to the established woodturning press. Financial implications make that a fact. Due to the sterling efforts of our editor, Revolutions continues to progress, with the introduction of colour being the latest feature included within its pages. However, it is a news medium which is intended to broadcast the world of woodturning for you and by you. The editor's role is to edit submitted copy, so to the vociferous minority only too ready to criticise the publication I say "contribute before complaining". It is your publication and your contributions will ensure its future is vibrant and informative.

Changes within the Development programme are being considered. In the past it has been the responsibility of interested members to apply for grants to enhance their woodturning skills. The EC feel this procedure has become too restrictive. In a more inclusive move we are planning a series of development programmes to encompass a wide range of foundation, technical and artistic disciplines associated with our craft. In this role reversal, AWGB members will in future be offered specific programmes and schedules to address their needs. While not replacing individual's requirements obtainable under the current arrangements, this procedural update will add another benefit to AWGB membership.

The idea for the above was, in effect, a spin off from the proposed Ray Key Bursary. Rather late in the day, the EC realised that not enough detail had been included in advertisements laying out the parameters of the award. This was a mistake and an embarrassment for which I offer the EC's apologies. It was intended that the award would be made in a non-seminar year but as no application was considered wholly suitable the award was not made. This will be corrected as soon as possible.

Continuing for a few moments on a negative note the variety and standards of our shows has been a huge personal disappointment. Compilation of exhibition pieces was an administrative nightmare and I am only too aware that some branches never did receive an

invitation to submit items for our exhibitions. That too is now in the past and detailed plans are in place for a complete root and branch overhaul of how you, and the general public, can rightly expect our Association to stage prestigious exhibitions.

To finish on a positive high note I can report that plans for the 2009 Loughborough seminar are at an advanced stage. The venue is booked, presenters are agreed and AV facilities will be enhanced by the

provision of our own set of seven new video cameras. Accommodation bookings and refectory facilities are being fine tuned. A multitude of tasks being handled by the EC are designed to ensure a high quality enjoyable feast of woodturning in its varied forms. The cherry on the cake is to be a worldwide auction of high class turned items produced by some of the world's most popular and accomplished turners. **How can you not be there!!!**

## ASSOCIATION OF WODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

### BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2008

	2008		2007	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Computers and Software	522.74		117.77	
Exhibition and Display	2380.02		1253.24	
Lathes and Tools	430.04		166.15	
Videos and Slides	0.00		3.01	
<b>Net Book Value</b>		<b>3332.80</b>		<b>1540.17</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors	1382.40		200.00	
Prepayments	742.60		1374.40	
AWGB Premier Account	36029.27		38068.53	
AWGB Current Account	10172.00		7856.99	
	<b>48326.27</b>		<b>47499.92</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors	150.00		150.00	
Membership Subscriptions in Advance	8327.00		6616.50	
Corporate memberships in Advance	75.00		75.00	
Seminar payments for 2009	5112.00		0.00	
Insurance from Branches	0.00		0.00	
	<b>13664.00</b>		<b>6841.50</b>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>34662.27</b>		<b>40658.42</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>37995.07</b>		<b>42198.59</b>
<b>REPRESENTED BY:</b>				
Accumulated Funds B/fwd	28781.36		26443.63	
Net deficit/surplus for the Period	-2540.90		2337.73	
		26240.46		28781.36
AWGB Development Fund B/fwd	6315.37		4189.27	
Activity	-1807.50		2126.10	
		4507.87		6315.37
AWGB Seminar Account B/fwd	7101.86		5372.10	
Net Profit/Overspend	144.88		1729.76	
		7246.74		7101.86
		<b>37995.07</b>		<b>42198.59</b>



# The Holtzapffel Experience

Gordon Fradley

This article was originally produced for members of the Mid-Staffs Woodturners and was published in their very successful newsletter in January and February 2009. Being a member of Mid Staffs Woodturners has meant a lot to me from the moment I joined, very soon after its inception. But nothing has meant as much as my recent experience with Ornamental Turning.

I was present at Mid-Staffs on the evening that Alan Hewitt from the South Cheshire and Staffs Woodturners came to give us a demonstration of Ornamental Turning, cutting various shapes and patterns with rotating cutters driven from a small overhead mounted motor, I was fascinated. This possibly had something to do with my engineering background, during my apprenticeship years with the then English Electric Company; I joined their Meter and Instrument Division and became deeply involved in the making of instruments and prepayment meters. At that time the division was still involved with the wartime design and modifications to aircraft instrumentation, such as turn and bank indicators, air-speed and altitude meters and the ubiquitous bomb sites. Apart from the bench work involved with the Company's team of very skilled model makers, I was also given the responsibility for operating up to three new watch-lathes making one hundred sets of shafts, pivots and gear trains for a consignment of newly developed pre-payment meters.

My background, my interest in woodturning and this initial glimpse into the world of Ornamental turning was to lead me on to additional areas and I joined the Society of Ornamental Turners in 1998.

Ornamental turning originated in Bavaria in the latter part of the 15th century. In the late 1700's, an Alsatian mechanic, John Jacob Holtzapffel, came to London and quickly established his workshop here. His descendants maintained the tradition and continued to make lathes until 1927 by which time they had produced 2,557, all marked with individual serial numbers.

That is enough of the background; let us get down to the core of this story. December 9th 2008 is a day I will always recall with great pleasure. On the evening of that day I received a phone call from a gentleman in Hednesford. His neighbour had recently bought a Myford ML7 engineering lathe and accompanying the lathe were several boxes. The vendor had included them in the sale as having "something to do with the lathe". My contact, Jim, had deduced however that the bits and pieces were worthy of further research and had persuaded his neighbour not to put hammer, saw and chisel to these pieces in order to sell the brass for scrap.

Jim had surfed the net, found the Society of Ornamental Turners web site, struggled with the name Holtzapffel and then rang the Mid Staffs Woodturners and spoke to Dawn, our extremely efficient secretary, to see if there was anyone in the club who knew anything about ornamental turning. Dawn promptly gave him my phone number and I was immediately in, feet first, up to my neck. The guy did not even give Dawn his name or address, even though amazingly they lived very near to each other. He rang me and we discussed the find. I was convinced that we had a tremendously important find especially when he told me that all the hand tools were stamped 'Holtzapffel and Co., London'. We arranged that I would visit them that coming week-end.

Sunday 14th December dawned and at 2.00pm I arrived at the homes of Jim and Steve to be greeted with various comments such as "be prepared to blow your mind". After handling a bench full of beautiful Holtzapffel hand tools, thread chasers, arm rests, thread taps, (Whitworth was but a boy then and the British Standard Whitworth thread was not introduced until after 1901), 'D' bits and boring-tools, I was directed to another shed. Steve, who by this time was beginning to realise the intrinsic value and beauty of his treasure trove said "You ain't seen nothing yet" and "I'll catch you if you fall", and fall, I nearly did, for displayed before me was the most amazing collection of exquisitely manufactured items I had ever seen. Most were laid out on the work-bench and all had been successfully preserved with grease.



I took a dozen pictures of the whole collection and taking my leave of Steve and Jim, assured them I would email a number of members of the SOT with the pictures, which I thought would be the most positive way of proceeding. There really is no better organisation, world-wide, to deal with such treasure and if the equipment could be linked to any existing Holtzapffel lathe, this would be in the best interests of all concerned. After this, events accelerated and what follows is the record of how it all unfolded, in the form of my own notes.

Monday 15th December 2008.

What a week-end I've had. I didn't sleep very well last night with all the excitement but I must e-mail the officers and certain friends at the Society of

Ornamental Turners to let them know what I've found. I will attach a few pictures too, just to give them the flavour of this treasure trove, and I will await their replies with great interest.

Tuesday 16th December 2008.

This is the day that I expect replies to my e-mails to fly in.

I am not disappointed. Three replies have come in so far and John Edwards replies that the pictures I sent of the O.T. Aladdin's cave show that the find is a major part of a very well-equipped outfit and it would be great if we could find the lathe it belonged to. John tells me that recently he discovered a superb Holtzapffel lathe which would have been similarly well equipped. It had been re-built and fitted out by Holtzapffels in 1897 and re-sold for over £700 then! But now, sadly only the heads and frame exist. Wouldn't it be a marvellous thing, asks John, if this is the one?

John also wants me to check with Jim and Steve to see if the chucks shown in the photographs carry the number of the lathe from which the chucks originated. This is a good idea so I will e-mail Jim today. Oh, I nearly forgot. Paul Coker rang back to say what a find. 'In common with many other Ornamental Turners', he said, 'we all go through life, hoping and wishing that one day we might find some hidden Holtzapffel treasures'. For me that dream was realised on Sunday last.

Jim has just phoned and says that all the chucks are stamped with the same number, '2410'. I am quickly sending off an e-mail to the Society members simply quoting this, and I have naively asked if this number is of any value in tracing the original owner.



Wednesday 17th December 2008.

Today, at the almost ungodly hour of 02:12 John Edwards sends me the following e-mail message:-  
Gordon,

*You will not believe this but No. 2410 is MY LATHE!!! It had a lot of equipment when I bought it but, from the notes that came with it, there was evidently a lot missing. This was one of the most expensive lathes ever made, when first sold in 1892 it was £670. Here is a picture of it plus its history.*

John.

I am still getting over the shock of John's news. In the miraculous time of one week we have traced the owner of lathe No. 2410 and I am fervently hoping that we can bring about a re-union in the New Year.

During the pre Christmas period, e-mails and phone calls sped through the ether discussing the best way to proceed with the disposal of these items. Jim and Steve request that all transactions be done through me and wish to see me again to discuss the various options. I feel that Steve doesn't want to wait until the Society's November 2009 AGM, although this would be the best time to auction the items, when a reserve price could be established for each item and a full catalogue prepared for worldwide circulation. What a stir this will cause! Charges of £100 for evaluation and 10% auction fees have been forwarded to Jim and Steve.

Friday 19th December 2008

John Edwards can't sleep either and sends me an e-mail at 03:37.

Gordon,

*Both Bob (Wade) and I are available to visit, more or less any time, as soon as required. Bob will be sending you a copy of the rules by which the Society's Disposal Committee operates and perhaps you can explain these to the current owner and his friend. I hope they will accept your guidance and Bob's valuation as being independent and fair so that I can buy the collection.*

*In view of the expense of travelling, I hope I can make just one visit and pay and collect at the same time. I think Bob could probably make a preliminary valuation from your photographs and, if that amount is acceptable to the owner and also within my means, I could pay with cash on the day.*

John.

I am sending a further e-mail to Jim to apprise him of the latest news.

Dear Jim and Steve,

*Assuming you still wish to dispose of the equipment, here is what I propose and this is supported by the Society's President, Nick Edwards. As early as possible in the New Year, I will arrange with you both to fix a date for viewing. John Edwards will travel up from his home in Kent and will be accompanied by Robert Wade from Cheltenham, one of the Society's senior assessors and member of the Disposals sub-committee. I will bring them over to meet you and hopefully get down to some serious listing and evaluation.*

*It has been suggested that the Society will invoke the services of Christies if necessary but personally I think you will be delighted to accept any offers made, there and then. But perhaps we will reserve judgement on that one.*

*The President has e-mailed me to indicate that John Edwards should be given first refusal on this collection associated with his lathe No. 2410 but John has indicated that he would like to buy the complete*



collection.

*Best wishes to you both and your families for Christmas.*

*Gordon.*



Thursday 1st January 2009

With Christmas done and dusted, I have just rung Jim to tell him that John and Bob will travel up this weekend if required. Jim said they were thinking of asking me to go over on Saturday.

Jim rings back, having spoken to Steve, saying that they are happy to meet with John, Bob and myself next Saturday. I have left a message on John's answer phone and I will now ring Bob to let him know of this development.

Friday 2nd January 2009.

I am phoning John to make sure he received my earlier message. He tells me he will try to hire a van, and will ring me back after speaking to Bob.

John rings back at noon to confirm that he and Bob will arrive here at Hyde Lea, between 10.30am and 11.00am tomorrow, Saturday 3rd January.

At last, we're nearly there; tomorrow we will hopefully see the equipment re-united with the current owner of lathe No.2410. I'll never sleep tonight.

Saturday 3 January 2009.

The trio of Society members duly arrived in Hednesford and for the first time, Bob and John were able to see and handle the treasure trove of equipment.

Another interesting discovery was the newspaper that had been used to wrap up some of the items. It was dated 1971 which was the very year that Ronald Adames bought the lathe from Robert Benthall. Was it then that this equipment was separated from the lathe and which of the two was responsible for such an act? We might yet discover.

Steve hitched a flat loader trailer to his tractor and we carried out all the items and neatly displayed them on the trailer. Fortunately the weather was kind to us; cold but very sunny, and a number of cameras were soon flashing away to record this extremely special occasion. After warming cups of coffee, Bob continued with his evaluation and his assessment of any changes in value now that he could see

and handle the pieces. Later Bob gave Steve his considered and professional estimate of value, the payment of expenses and the Society's valuation fee were settled and John made his offer to Steve to purchase everything on display. The shaking of hands quickly sealed the deal and John and Steve disappeared into the shed to exchange the agreed price. The deal was done, the equipment loaded into John's hire van and goodbyes and handshakes were made before we headed home. I shall long remember the time when John Jacob Holtzapffel played Santa Claus over Christmas 2008.

## **Plymouth Woodturners have a Turn at Events**

John Montgomery

While attending the Plympton St Maurice Lamb Feast charity event, which we have attended for the last few years demonstrating the art of Woodturning, I was approached by Martyn Salt, who it turned out later, was organising a mountain bike event at Newnham Park, Plympton later in the year.

After a short chat, he said how much he liked our stand and demonstration and would we be interested in an event he was organising locally. We are always, as a club interested in promoting woodturning as part of the AWGB and its aims, so I replied that we would be very happy to go along if we had no other commitments the weekend of his event.

About two weeks later he duly phoned up to give me the details and his ideas on how we could fit into his plans.

He explained that it was a 24 hour mountain bike race around Newnham Park, and he would like it if we could turn up for the two days of the event. He then went on to ask if it was possible to turn the trophies to present to the winners.

After discussing the type of thing to present, I stated that as he wanted us to turn the trophies on site while the event was taking place, the only practical thing we could produce would be platters. This was agreed on and details would be sorted nearer the date.

A few weeks before the event we met at the park where the event was to be held and we confirmed details. He would like 15 platters; he would have engraved tabs made to fit in their centre with the winner's details. He would arrange for electricity and we would take the club marquee to put up.

On the day of the event we turned up and could not believe what we saw. It turned out it was the Bonrager Twentyfour12, the biggest event on the English mountain biking calendar. There were trade stands with all the major equipment suppliers from

around the world. A very professionally run event.

We set up our marquee and stands and got down to turning at around 11.00am on the Saturday. We had two Axminster M330 lathes on the go until 6.00pm; we then all went home for the night while the event carried on.



#### Hard at work producing the platters

We arrived back on the Sunday morning at 8.00am with the task of finishing the trophies by 12 noon. When we arrived the 12-hour race, which had finished at midnight, was over with all the riders along with the spectators, encouraging the remaining riders in the 24-hour section of the race.

Luckily I had cheated and turned five platters on Friday, so by lunchtime Sunday when the race finished we had 16 platters in total. We took the completed trophies to the organiser to have the engraved tags fitted ready for the 1.00pm prize presentation.

The event was a great success with over 1000 riders and 3500 spectators. The club was thanked, receiving a loud ovation from the crowd and competitors.



Some very happy trophy winners

There were a number of complaints from some competitors that they had not received a turned trophy. The organiser apologised, stating that they were only for the top riders and try harder next time and they might receive one.

A few days later Martyn phoned and gave his sincere thanks, and would it be possible to make a further 5 platters, as he had miscalculated the numbers. The event was such a success that the competitors asked for the event to be held in the same format and location next year. We have been asked to attend and make the trophies again. I am trying to think of something that can be turned quickly and be suitable for use as a trophy. Any ideas?

As a club we had great exposure, it introduced woodturning to an audience that was different from that which normally watch, and the members who went thoroughly enjoyed themselves and the cycling going on around them. Members have already put their names down to help for this year's event and are arranging to camp out overnight so they can enjoy the atmosphere of floodlighting and music.

For those who would like to know more, go on line to [www.twentyfour12.com](http://www.twentyfour12.com) where the details of this years event over the weekend of 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> July and a gallery of pictures from last years event can be seen.

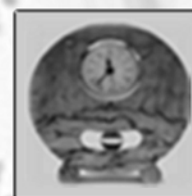
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# A Great Woodland Experience

Doug Alderton

In the October edition of the Bristol and Avon Woodturners newsletter 'Turnings' Simon Keen offered a day helping himself and John Wilson-Smith to coppice a small area of their woodland. Like most of the club members, having nothing else to do with my spare time, I volunteered my services. I enjoyed it so much that they had to suffer my presence for another day. This is my account of those two wintry days in November, the sun shining, frost as thick as a door mat, icicles on the nose and spare polystyrene ceiling tiles shaped to line my size eleven wellies.



**The weekends transport**

Reading Simon and John's 'Field' reports in 'Turnings' had made me curious as to why they were spending precious turning time in a field!, well this was the day to find out. Armed with a bow saw, which I didn't need as Simon and John had all the tools necessary to do the job in hand, we assembled at John's little homestead at about 9.00am. We bundled the gear, chainsaws, ropes, ladders, branch loppers and winch tackle into the trailer. Most of us use a wheel barrow to move things about, not John, he is the proud owner of a Ford Model 1920 tractor which he hitched up to the trailer. Only one problem with this setup, it only has one seat so Simon and I followed in funeral cortege fashion walking behind and 'Hi Ho, Hi Ho off to work we go'.

On the left of the field is the cordoned off wood store for any timber from the duo's wood or other free timber that comes their way. It is necessary to secure the wood store as firewood poachers have helped themselves on a couple of occasions. Apparently John and Simon each use ten ton of logs per year to fuel their log burning stoves for their domestic heating and hot water requirements, a good reason for owning a wood. On the right, in the middle of the field, stands a large oak tree, it must be a hundred years old, which needed attention. Some broken branches were hung up in the tree following a storm and needed removing. I asked Simon why the tree was appearing to die from the top down, he

informed me that oaks get quite stressed if the roots of the tree are damaged. I wondered how the roots could be damaged if they were under the ground, and the answer was that the cattle that grazed the field sheltered under the tree, eroding the soil from around the base and exposing the roots. The cattle continue to damage the roots with their hooves by removing the protective outer layer, exposing the roots to frost and disease, thus reducing the effective root volume which could not then support the full leaf potential of the above ground branch system. The solution was to cover the exposed roots with dead branches etc, anything to prevent the cattle causing further damage.

We then passed the 'in progress' Orchard Project on the right, through the access gap and into the next part of the field. This part of the field is quite interesting, along one side is a two acre plantation created by John and Simon, running adjacent to a natural water course. The plantation is about 30m wide x 250m long, planted with 1000 deciduous trees and various shrubs, mostly ash, oak and hazel. I was very impressed how professionally John and Simon had arranged the trees and installed a substantial fencing system. All the trees looked healthy and due to the damp soil conditions the saplings planted three years ago are now four to five feet tall. There is also a small area in the corner of the field planted with a few saplings to supplement the existing group of trees. A pond has been dug to encourage newts, insects and other wildlife to take up residence on the duo's estate.

A short walk brings you to the entrance to the wood, through a wooden gate with the inscription 'Anne's gate' carved by John in memory of his sister who only managed to see the wood once in her lifetime, a nice touch. The wood is mostly on a 1 in 3 slope, walk 3 metres and you are 1 metre higher than the spot you started on, good exercise if you manage to survive. Unfortunately we picked the short straw as the area to be coppiced was almost at the top of the hill. After unloading the trailer we processed, feeling like overloaded donkeys, to the designated area of the wood for coppicing. On the way we collected the homemade metal tubular trolley for trundling the cut timber from the coppice to the wood pile at the gate. Because it was cold we wore clothing to suit the conditions, but after climbing what seemed to be the Himalayas, we all started to shed layers of clothing. Then the work began, the plan was to coppice all of the trees in a radius of about 20 metres, by cutting down to the ground anything above 4cm in diameter, leaving the remaining side shoots to grow and replace the trees that were removed. Most of the trees to be cut down were about 5-15 cm in diameter, mostly hazel, but a few ash and a couple of maple. The felled trees were to be logged up into suitable lengths for the 'donkeys' to trundle down the hill on the trolley, any thin and long useful lengths retained for bean sticks etc. The remaining trimmings

were to be used to reinforce the perimeter barbed wire fence which would also provide an environment for small animals and birds.



Then the fun began, Simon got to work with the chainsaw and there was timber falling left, right and centre. I thought we were making a new movie 'Chainsaw Massacre 2008' but instead of human limbs there were massacred trees and branches all over the place. If you know Simon then you will know that not one tree was felled unless it was perfectly safe to do so. I noted that some of the trees had a lot of ivy twined around their trunks, and when it could grow no higher it would branch off to other adjacent trees and form a dense roof covering about 2-3 metres across, stopping the light reaching the undergrowth. As we proceeded to clear the area the 'hole' in the sky got larger by the minute, which is what the duo wanted to achieve, so that the undergrowth could regenerate. One of the ash trees had to be removed as it was infected with the ***Daldinia concentrica*** fungus, also known as coal fungus or King Alfred's cakes. The name is associated with the carbon like balls that appear on the branches and trunk of infected trees and the well known story of King Alfred burning cakes. Obviously with it being winter there was no green growth around apart from the ivy but John told me that during the spring the wood floor is covered with bluebells and wild garlic. Both flowers are open at the same time for only a short period and the combined scent needs to be experienced, I look forward to revisiting the wood for this yearly event. It wasn't long before Simon's strength started to wane and over came the call 'where's the coffee'.

I've never seen anything like it, action man John got to work and started rummaging around for the coffee making kit. It takes me back to when I was a boy scout, first light a fire. Not that simple with John's kit, he had brought one of his boys toys which consisted of some sort of magnesium stone and an iron age piece of corrugated shaped metal bar. The idea was to strike the stone with the metal bar and produce some sparks to light a fire. I could see in John's eyes that an expert fire lighter was at work and I was about to learn the skill of fire lighting from a true master. He collected some 'dry' grass and some moss with some little twigs and carefully arranged these into a wigwam shape, picked up his toy and struck the magnesium stone with the metal bar and whoosh there was an enormous amount of sparks from just one strike, just like a sparkler on November 5th. Plenty of smoke resulted but no fire, the result remained the same after umpteen attempts with the fire stick, plenty of smoke still no fire, the kindling was too damp



### Success at last

Plan 'B' followed, from one of John's pockets out comes the crumpled up emergency toilet paper, the front page of the 'Thornbury Gazette'. Unfortunately that was damp too, from the day's sweat, and after making further attempts, still plenty of smoke but no fire. By this time I had trundled two loads of timber down to the gate wood pile and Simon was gasping for his coffee. Then came the call from John, 'Has anyone got a box of matches'. I couldn't believe it, no emergency backup of matches in his coffee kit. Some half hour later and as the day was getting shorter Simon said he would have a go and within a couple of minutes we had a fire, but credit goes to John for perseverance and for drying the kindling. Another toy of John's was the 'Storm Kettle' for boiling the water, I hadn't seen one of these before. You build a fire in the bottom half and place the water container over its base. The water container is an



enclosed aluminum can with a hole through the middle to act as a chimney and also to allow feeding the fire with short sticks, much more efficient than the usual kettle or saucepan (see photo). Within a few minutes we had our long awaited coffee supplemented by nothing but the best Aldi chocolate bar kindly provided by John. We got back to work to continue clearing all of the small trees and we soon finished the first day's work.

The second day's task was to remove some large branches from larger trees that were on the perimeter of the clearing. This was necessary as the branches encroached on the area we had cleared and were also preventing light from reaching the undergrowth. With guidance from Simon and the use of his winch tackle we managed to remove some heavy branches. Simon was the tree monkey clad in a harness rig, John was the ladder charge-hand and it was my job to stand on the bottom of the ladder, pull the rope to raise Simon to the chainsaw position and call 'timber' at the appropriate moment. I nearly got it right most times but I often wonder why Simon trembled when we were about to start on the next tree. No problems with the coffee this time, John brought another boys toy, one of those special pyromaniac lighters, more like a flame thrower. I don't think he had a fire certificate for it so I was ready with the mobile phone just in case he set fire to the wood.

It doesn't take you long to realize that John and Simon are serious conservationists and are doing a great job applying forestry management to their wood. I saw evidence also of their interest in preserving and enhancing the habitat for the wild life on their land. As an experiment, delicacy mushroom spore plugs have been implanted into decaying logs in a secret location somewhere on the estate but the crop to date is only two mushrooms. The last task of the day was to install a couple of bird boxes in trees around the clearing that we had made. I noted other bird boxes that had previously been installed, mostly for

small birds but a large box was for the owl population.

My thanks to Simon and John for the wonderful two days and the fun we had together. I now know a little about forest management and how not to light a fire! I went home completely exhausted, lost five pounds in weight and slept for a week. Would I do it again, certainly I would, but next time I will be taking a box of matches.

## Woodturners Wordsearch

Eric Pearce

G	E	X	D	O	O	W	K	C	A	L	B
R	R	A	E	P	E	O	L	R	S	B	A
A	O	E	H	Y	N	O	B	E	A	E	S
S	M	S	A	V	O	D	Q	R	G	R	S
S	A	Y	W	T	Z	T	K	A	O	T	O
R	C	E	L	A	B	U	R	N	U	M	C
O	Y	K	I	H	D	R	F	J	G	A	I
O	S	Y	M	O	C	N	I	G	E	R	A
T	R	A	E	L	S	E	K	T	L	S	T
B	U	R	R	L	K	R	E	M	A	H	I
I	V	O	R	Y	E	S	L	B	N	I	O
P	X	D	O	O	W	E	V	I	L	O	N

There are 25 woodturning associated words in this grid, how many can you find? Answers on page 27.

## Eastern Region Ramblings

Brian Partridge

Life has been quite busy here in the east. We have had two Demonstrator Training days (see comment from one of our students on page 17) and one Youth Training day so far this year. There will be at least one more Demonstrator Training day this year and the date for the next Youth Day is August 29th

There will be a new woodworking show in Essex later this year at the Cressing Temple Barns. This is a great venue where at one time the Knights Templars had a base to support them when they went out on their missions round the world. There is already an entry on the events page of the website where a link connects to more information.

Please will branch and associated club secretaries let our secretary Mike Collis know of any changes to your information. We would also like a second contact for



Erecting a bird box

each branch in case there is any difficulty contacting your secretary.

I have already had the pleasure of visiting some of the region's branches this year and expect to visit many more during the year. I am always made very welcome, but that is how it is with woodturners.

I have spent time trying to get our database in good shape ready for hand over to our new data manager. I would urge all members who have an entry on the member's services section of the website to please check to see if their details are correct and if not to notify Dave Atkinson the data manager, if you don't let us know of errors then others trying to use your services will get a bit fed up and you may lose out.

## Western Region Review

Dave Wilcox

Well I reckon it is my turn to put a few thoughts onto paper regarding what I have been up to since taking on the post of Regional Rep for the Western Region, that is Wales and the Midlands. The biggest gripe I heard from Clubs in the West was that they have had no communication with the AWGB for some time, I took this in hand and immediately sent out all sorts of information to the Club Secretaries in the form of e-mails for dissemination to the membership. I requested also that all members who have e-mail should please provide it for use by the AWGB and the Reps. The response from the majority was abysmal, the few was very good. You all complain about lack of communication but fail to help us to help you, you cannot have it all ways. If you want everything by normal post, this is expensive, subs would need to rise to cover the costs. Your details will not be forwarded to other organisations, you will not be bombarded with spam e-mails because of, or by us. If you want a separate mailbox for your AWGB e-mails go and register with a system like hotmail or google-mail or gmx mail and get a standalone address. Come on we are trying to help you but you need to help us to do it. Let me give you a few statistics - West Region - I reckon I have 905 members, out of this I have 56 that have so far submitted e-mail addresses. We are in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century where communication is paramount and electronically is free if you have a link. I appreciate some will never get connected and I respect that but the stats in this case tell a very sad story. (Please read my other piece in this issue concerning e-mail and see if I cannot allay some of your fears.)

By the time you read this I will have visited all of the West Region Clubs. I was made welcome by one and all and had good days and evenings with you all, and I thank you for that as it is sometimes a daunting prospect travelling for a couple of hours not knowing what to expect when you arrive. I do have one reservation to throw at some Secretaries though, from talking to the members during my visits it seems

that the information sent out was not being passed to the members by some. Please, I accept you filter items but most of what comes from the centre does need to be passed on for the benefit of all.

It was also a surprise to me how many members did not appear to be aware of the benefits they could apply for. It's like the old school saying for exams – R.F.Q. It is slightly different in this case the initials are R.F.B. Read the Flippin' Book! (The polite version was entered for print!). The handbook comes to you fresh from the printers, how many put it in the magazine pile never to be seen again? I know, I used to as well, but it is full of information for you so please read it, you may be pleasantly surprised.

My first excursion into dealing with shows also arrived fairly quickly after joining the Committee in the form of the Scottish National Show at the S.E.C.C. in Glasgow. I defy anybody to say that these are anything but hard work. It was very pleasant though as everyone who attended was enthusiastic and friendly and had an interest in everything available and were willing to stand and chat a while. It was again apparent that there are a lot of Woodturners in the North who are not in Clubs or Associations, they turn in their sheds and garages and seldom realise just how many others have similar interests and hobbies around them. Hopefully we will have moved a step or two closer to helping you realise this and to light the spark to get some of you setting up a local Club with the AWGB's help and guidance. By the time this goes to print I will have probably escaped my baptism of fire and jumped straight into Woodex in the Midlands, but that will have to be a topic for another time.

I have one request that applies to all of the membership really, but for me it is especially to those of you in the Western Region, and especially those of you that are not currently in a Club, can we please have an e-mail contact for you if you have access to one. I have a lot of members in the West I would have liked to write to but it is cost prohibitive with so many of you listed without e-mail. Requests have been made to Clubs but my appeal now is to you the member, please send me your e-mail address if you have one, so that I can keep in touch.

Nuff said! I won't waffle on and I have no pretty pictures to show you so I will bid you all a good day and happy turnings.

If you agree or disagree with anything I have said, or would just like to get in touch, all of my contact details are on page three of this newsletter and in your Members Handbook.

### Marriage

A woman marries a man expecting he will change, but he doesn't.

A man marries a woman expecting that she won't change, and she does.



# Demonstrator Training Day

Graham Slaughter

In the last issue of *Revolutions* there was an article about the first of two pilot demonstrator training courses which was held at Portishead. The second pilot course was held on a very cold day at the end of January in the workshop at the premises of Peter Child Limited at Little Yeldham, Essex. Well done to Peter Bradwick who travelled from his home in South Wales to run the course.

The venue is well known in woodturning circles, it is here that the Suffolk, Essex and Cambridge Borders branch (SECB) hold their monthly meetings, and we are very grateful to Roy Child for allowing us the use of the workshop for the day. Peter Bradwick had enlisted the help of Brian Partridge, who is already a very popular and competent demonstrator. His role was not just to assist with the evaluations during the day, but also to learn how to run the course so that future courses in the South East can be run by him, so well done to him as well.

Unfortunately one of the four students was unable to attend for personal reasons so the three who were there were David Floyd, of the SECB Tom Parker, from the Chestnut Woodturning Club and myself Graham Slaughter, from the Colchester and SECB branches.



The day was structured in the same way as the first pilot course in Bristol. We each gave a five minute presentation which was followed by feedback individually by Peter Bradwick and then from the group. We all felt that this was a very worthwhile experience from which we were all able to learn.

After lunch we moved on to the twenty minute turning demonstration. David Floyd showed us how to complete a pot-pourri container. Tom Parker surprised us all with his magic mushroom (toadstool)

box for holding one pound coins and I showed how to make cane toppers for gardeners, which I used instead of the green plastic variety, commonly in use.

Feedback followed before Peter Bradwick summed up and asked us to complete a self reflection diary summing up how the day was for us. Hopefully Brian Partridge will now feel sufficiently trained by his experience to run further courses to encourage club members to share their ideas with their fellow woodturners.

We three students all felt it was a very worthwhile learning experience following which we are better equipped, if asked, to demonstrate to our fellow club members. For me personally the most important lesson learnt was that if you prepare in detail and practice beforehand, then demonstrating is not as hard or intimidating as you think. Go on give it a go!

(Editor's note: further feedback from another of these popular courses can be found on page 24).

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are about you, for you and  
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2009 Catalogue

## Presentation

Jeff Greenway

I suspect a good number of our members, having spent many hours turning polishing and packing their turned items, will attend craft fairs hoping to sell them. There is however one other very important part of selling that is all too often ignored, **presentation**. Good presentation will without doubt help to sell any product by presenting it in the best light possible.

The first thing to consider is the cloth that covers the table. This needs to be wide enough to hang to the floor, hiding any boxes used to transport the items for sale and other necessary clutter. Attention should also be paid to the colour of the cloth, it is best to aim for a neutral colour, cream or light brown is a good choice. The important thing is to draw attention to the products rather than the cloth they are standing on.

The average table gives a relatively small surface area on which to display your products, this area can be increased by introducing shelving positioned at the back of the table; ideally this should be glass shelving. Adding back boards to the shelves will help the products to stand out more prominently.

The items placed on the table will be better presented if they are raised by using blocks of various sizes to give height and lift to the display.

Placing a number of the same items, such as light pulls or bottle stoppers, in a box and leaving the customer to sort out the right one for them is not the best way to sell. The best way is to make a display stand that will show them all off individually. Purpose made display stands are best designed in a way that will allow them to be dismantled and assembled at the venue, in this way they will take up less room when transporting and storing.

Lighting also plays a very big part in the display, drawing the attention of the prospective customer to your table.



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On completing the setting up, stand well back and look at it as a customer would and make any adjustments necessary.



Well displayed light pulls

It is a good idea to price all the items on display. Try to avoid sticky labels, as if left on too long they will leave a mark. If they have to be used stick them on the bottom of the item. But much better still use price tags placed near the product on sale, these can then be used again.

Remember it is not only the table that requires good presentation. the person who is selling should also look smart and have a cheerful outlook, a friendly smile will go a long way. Sitting at the back of the table, looking for all the world as if you have just lost the winning lottery ticket, is sending out a message to the customers that you have not had a very good day and you have lost interest in the selling.

Finally stand in front of the table this will give you closer contact with the customer making it easier to introduce your products and answer any questions they may have. I have always found that a little humour will help a sale along.

## Turning in Miniature

Peter Martin

Turning in Miniature means to me turning for Dolls House enthusiasts. They require items to be turned true to scale and representing either 1 inch to 1 foot or 1/2 inch to 1 foot, which is now becoming more popular with limitations on space. My wife and I own seven dolls houses, four at 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale and three smaller versions. It would be fair, therefore, to describe us as "geeks" and I am proud that much of the furniture in those houses has been made by me and quite a bit includes an element of turned work.

Miniature turning differs in so many ways from the hobby that is traditionally recognised in that:

- Miniature turners are never prone to buy those "must have" tools that are constantly introduced to the market – they do not exist and it is often

found that you have to make your own tools from masonry nails, hack saw blades etc. It is rare indeed even to find a basic skew or spindle gouge small enough to produce what is required. My only impulse buy was a Universal Little Gem lathe which is still my lathe of choice for miniatures.

- Shavings are always cleared away **before** parting off. To spend time producing something that measures 3mm by 1mm only to see it disappearing into a pile of shavings, however small, is not recommended. There was an occasion when I produced a 1/12 scale egg at a demonstration only to see it disappear in such a way. To see six members with a combined age approaching 450 years on their hands and knees looking for the missing piece was entertaining but it taught me a lesson.
- Design opportunities do not exist in miniature turning – a mistake is almost always fatal, which teaches you to concentrate and not to look away at the crucial moment.
- It is not easy to demonstrate to a large crowd. They soon tire of watching some individual in a pair of bottle bottom spectacles peering into the jaws of a lathe at a piece of wood that can hardly be seen with the naked eye.
- The costly masterpiece does not exist. I believe this to be the product of the same debate that relates to the foreseen value of a heavy bowl against a technically superior thin turned bowl. The public are equally reluctant to pay large sums for something very small even although that will take the turner as long to produce as the equivalent "full size" article.
- You will be inundated with offers of offcuts from every conceivable source and, with care; you need never buy a piece of wood.

Having said all of that, why then would anyone turn to miniatures as a source of inspiration? My interest in miniatures actually led to my involvement in turning. My wife had always yearned for a dolls house and this was the gift that she received from me to celebrate our silver wedding. Shortly afterwards we attended the National Dolls House Exhibition at the NEC in Birmingham and, whilst there, I was enthralled to watch a "turner" producing newel posts and chair legs on a Universal Little Gem lathe. I purchased the lathe and, as with all impulse buys, left it in a cupboard for years having failed to replicate his efforts within five minutes of picking up a chisel. I also discovered, some years later, that this was not helped by the fact that he sold me a set of miniature carving tools not turning tools.

This remained the case until I happened upon an exhibition of turning run by a branch of the AWGB in Kent. My interest in dolls house miniatures had, by that time, grown considerably and I was very active in the Kent Miniaturists. The exhibition was exactly what I required to awaken my interest in turning and it led to my being in attendance at the next

meeting of the branch and almost every meeting since. Although I do produce, what other members term to be, real turning, my interest always returns to my miniatures and it is a constant challenge to me to watch a professional demonstration and then to return to my workshop to convert what I have seen into 1/12<sup>th</sup> or 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale. This is normally practical but challenging; although I do have to draw the line at scorching as I do not have a lot of wood to burn and piecing is beyond even Dremel technology.

Off centre, open twists, square pieces and natural edges are all now in the portfolio and it is interesting to note the types of commission work that is passed on. My most taxing commission to date was to make 60 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale lace bobbins, (to include miniature coloured beads through the top), for a lady who teaches miniature lacework and is the author of a number of books on the subject. These had to be made in batches of five as the eyes would not function any longer and inserting the hole, wire and beads into the top was a real challenge. Some of these featured in a display of miniature lace on a lace cushion in the Kensington Dolls House Fair although it was obviously impractical to work the lace with such small items. It was a "never again" challenge although, I must confess, I have made one or two sets since.

Further examples of my miniature turning have been used to demonstrate history in some of our large country houses and have been offered for sale at various regional and the national Dolls House Exhibitions. Tudor items are very popular as there are a limited number of suppliers of wooden pieces and the majority of the utensils and furniture in Tudor times were made of wood.

The photographs shown include examples of both 1/12<sup>th</sup> and 1/24<sup>th</sup> scale items and you may see the influence of some of our professionals in the work presented. I am particularly proud of a 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale table in ebony with the open twist and the white insert. This was made following a demonstration at our Club by Stuart Mortimer. The white insert is made from a turned old ivory piano key that was amongst the offcuts bequeathed to me by other Club members.

I am still using the Universal Little Gem which has the benefit of turning at the very high speed that I find to be essential in the production of a really good finish on very small items, but also turn to my Axminster lathe to turn the more basic miniature items. I use the very small jaws on the Axminster chuck but turn to the Multistar mini chucking system on the Little Gem. Unfortunately this system is no longer available although they are now producing a collet system that is an adequate substitute. Once again I had to turn to home made tools to accommodate some of the holding problems that I experienced in the early days and collets were one of the ways in which I overcame early problems. I am not sure

whether the present manufacture of the means to hold very small items is an indication that more turners are producing miniatures, but certainly that is not yet evident.

Miniature turning remains a challenge and the more adventurous you become the more of a challenge it is. I am wondering now whether there is any mileage in pewter inserts or if that is yet another pipe dream. You are limited only by your own imagination.







## Vacuum Chuck on the Cheap

### Martin Lawrence

As we progress in the early stages of woodturning, we are encouraged to have a finished product that bears no sign of how the wood was held in the lathe.

All the lovely gallery pictures in magazines, or on websites, that we see, and items brought by professional turners to our clubs on demonstration nights further hammer home the requirement to take that next step and have a finished product nearing professional standards.

As we are aware, there are varying ways of holding the work to remove the spigot or recess, but with every different size bowl or platter a new home-made system may be required.

The one method that will work on almost all your work is the use of a vacuum chuck.

We all know woodturning is not a cheap hobby and we have all bought tools that we use once and which then fade to the bottom of the tool box, so when we consider a vacuum chuck we can hear the ching of the cash register and feel the strain on the purse strings.

I was reliably informed, along with all sorts of numerical figures thrown around that quite honestly went way over my head, that the principal requirement for a vacuum chuck is a pump capable of producing heavy suction. Demonstrators had turned up with lovely gold coloured chucks with rubber facia, and when I added up the amount it would cost to purchase these items I would not have had much change out of £600.

So the idea of owning a vacuum chuck got shelved but still remained in the back of my mind, until I heard

of a possible way to do a vacuum chuck on the cheap.

The main component of this cheaper method is a vacuum generator, which utilizes a dual-venturi system within the generator to develop up to 19+ inches of vacuum using air supplied by a standard shop compressor (min 2.5 cfm at 55-65 psi required).

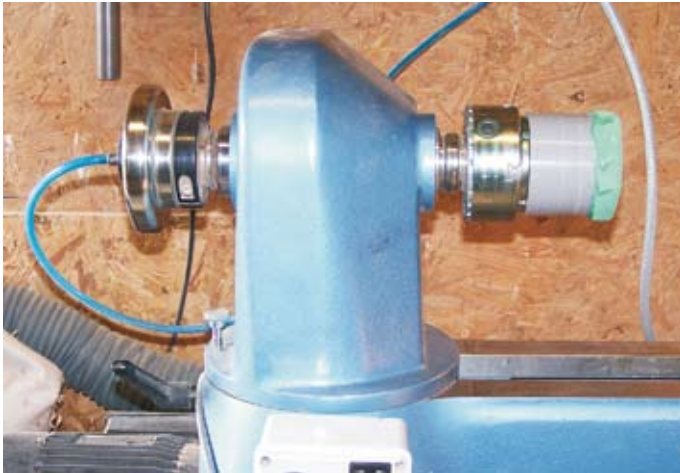
This wonderful piece of equipment is available from Craft Supplies USA, advertised at the time of writing at \$129.99 under the trade name of Holdfast Vacuum Generator. Much research failed to find anywhere in the UK where such an item could be purchased. It simply works by attaching the hose from a compressor (with a tank not internal valve), shown below on the left, and then attaching the headstock adaptor airline shown in blue on the right



As the proud owner of a compressor which I use for airbrush work, that cost me all of £35 from a well known DIY store, I decided to see if it would be possible for me to make my own vacuum chuck. I found that as long as the compressor has a reserve tank and is not

the valve type, and is capable of producing 80psi, it would suffice.

The next item required is a method of attaching the air line to the revolving head of your lathe, the following method is for lathes without a solid headstock. I discovered it was possible to purchase, from the same source as the Vacuum Generator, a Holdfast Vacuum Adaptor priced at \$56.99. This is fitted with a revolving bearing to allow the connection of the airline to the lathe, so the purchase of both items along with import charges cost me around £120. I am sure that with a little research a similar bearing could be found or even made to fit on the live side of the headstock.



The chuck itself I made from sheets of "corian" laminated together, with a recess cut to fit onto the jaws of my chuck, this was then turned to hollow out the inside. By simply using sticky back foam the facia was covered, albeit crudely, it is very effective.



So for a little less than £160 including the compressor, I am now the proud owner of a vacuum chuck. I can now produce finished work without a spigot or recess in sight, all I have to do now is master how to use the tools to get that professional finish we all seek to achieve.

The next photograph shows a walnut platter ready for finishing, this piece measures 22" in diameter and

is safely held on the vacuum chuck which is only 3" in diameter, if you prefer a 5" diameter this will also work just as well and will hold heavier pieces of work.



I am fairly new to the art of woodturning having started in Feb 2007, and I have no engineering or industrial background, so if I can build a vacuum chuck and get it to work then believe me anyone can, so give it a try.

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John Jaques - rose engine from mdf  
Dennis Keeling - segmented turning**

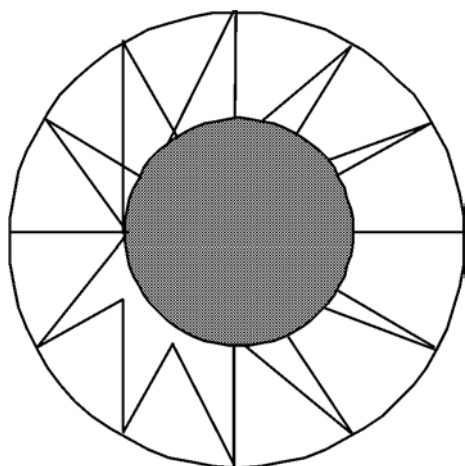
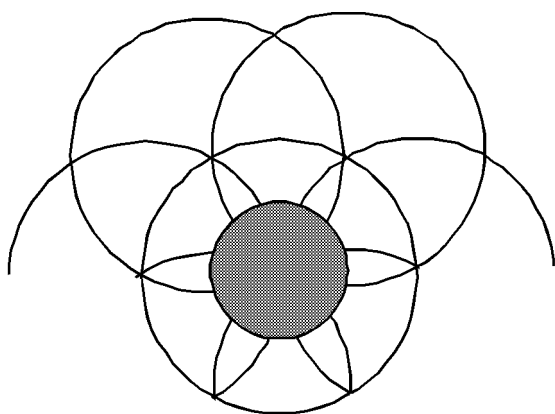
**For those not attending, the Instant Gallery and the Trade Stands will be open to non-delegates and members of the public between 10am & 4pm on Saturday and 10am & 3pm on Sunday**

# Choosing and Using Pattern

Derek Hayes

If and how you decorate your turnings are at your discretion. A lot of words are out there on what techniques you can use: piercing, carving, colouring, texturing to name but a few. You are less likely to find suggestions on how to choose a design or a pattern to follow. The first question is will it be regular, symmetrical or random? For those lacking confidence, it is probably easier to start with a repeat pattern based on regular, laid-out lines. Certainly the inherent 'roundness' of our work lends itself to repetition. Take for example, a typical platter, with a wall width the same as the radius of the inner bowl. So a 16" (40cm) platter would have a rim width of 4" (10cm).

For those of you confident with a protractor and a pair of compasses, feel free to split your 'canvas', the rim, into whatever divisions you fancy. Remember that the radius of a circle will split the circumference into six, easily producing a hexagon. You can then bisect each pair of points on the circumference into twelve, and then twenty-four. You could always use the indexing facilities of your lathe if available – use a blank, circular, board with a paper circle attached – or work live on your bowl, if you're confident enough. I've included examples of the classic petal shape and a, more unusual, star pattern. Some of the construction lines remain to show you how they were drawn and to suggest ways that you could add some of your own original shapes.



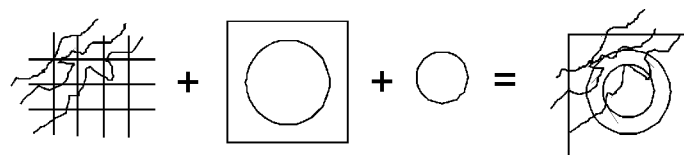
## Pattern: man-made and natural

It's harder to bring off an irregular pattern but if you can get it right, it is often much more attractive to the eye, perhaps because of the randomness we see in nature. How do you bring about an "it's just happened" pattern?

Usually, man-made items, such as paving slabs, will generally produce regular patterns. The best we can hope to do is breakdown the regularity. For the patio you will need at least two or more different sizes and follow the rules taught to me by my neighbour that you should never have four corners meeting and that you should keep a run of joints as short as possible. Two similar shapes, with no particular relation to each other, are merely that, similar. If we add a third element we can bring a degree of regularity and produce a recognisable pattern, a repeating form that, in theory, could go on forever. That third element allows for regularity in a pattern, but brings with it a natural feel. Nature appears to prefer odd numbers and natural things often occur in threes and fives. Flowers tend to have odd numbers of petals and stamen for instance. Gardeners instinctively know that planting in threes works better visually than does even numbers. There is still a need to be careful using the magical three though, especially in non-organic situations. By definition a triangle will always be formed and may cause a "tension".

## Using templates to produce a pattern

Make full use of templates to ensure that only the appropriate areas of your turning are prepared for decoration. The figure below, uses a square of card with a circular hole, (the size of a platter), removed and a circle of card (the size of internal rim) which sits inside. Draw some random lines on a simple grid. With the two cut-outs laid over the pattern only the area that will form your decoration is visible, (a polo shape). By moving the stencils you can choose and copy what you think is the most attractive formation.

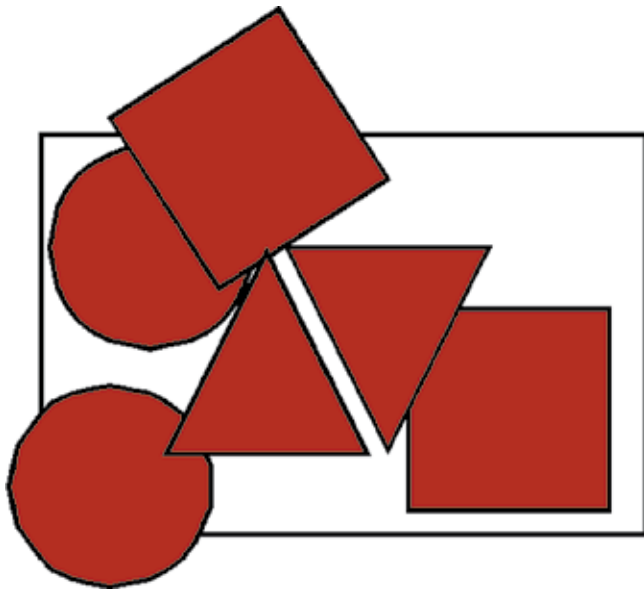


## An artist's approach

So why not try a painter's trick, cut out six geometric shapes from the same piece of cardboard (2x squares, 2x circles and 2x triangles) about 5cm. Draw a frame on a sheet of paper about 15 x 10 cms. Manipulate your shapes and create a "working" relationship between the shapes. Look for a seventh shape formed by the negative space. Don't forget to overlap and crop. Ask yourself, does the pattern:

- Appear random, or is there an obvious repeat pattern?
- Create "tension" between shapes?
- Are the shapes too large or are there too many?
- Is the mood created upbeat or tranquil?





If you're in an arty mood, here are some other tricks of the trade to consider if you plan to use paint:

- Splash or flick your chosen medium, such as ink or paint, on the piece. The easier and less messy way is with the piece off the lathe, for more dramatic results allow the piece to revolve as you add the colour.
- Use rough cut sponges to dab on a pattern
- Use spray paint

Of course if you are lucky enough to have an experienced eye like Nick Arnall, (his bowl *Celestial* is shown below), you will be able to generate a random pattern easily – his advice is “Just don't think about it!”



Photograph courtesy of Jane Arnall

Man: “Your body is like a temple.”  
Woman: “Sorry, there are no services today.”

Man: “I'd go through anything for you.”  
Woman: “Good! Let's start with your bank account

Man: “I would go to the end of the world for you.”  
Woman: “Yes, but would you stay there?”



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## Trying Something New - Thread Chasing

Ian Guy

I have been Woodturning for over fifteen years and during this time I've turned most things from Lace Bobbins to 5ft long Newel Posts. Many years ago, during a visit to a woodturning exhibition, I marvelled at Bill Jones chasing threads in ivory during the construction of chessmen. I have always had a wish to master this aspect of woodturning, but I considered it far too daunting and beyond my capabilities. Several years elapsed and I read lots of articles on thread chasing but still no action! Then a couple of years back John Berkeley visited the club and my enthusiasm was sparked again. On this occasion I bought his book and a pair of thread chasers. The section on thread chasing was studied many times, but still I fought shy of attempting to have a go, until about three weeks ago when reading his book once again I read his words as follows:- "If you stick to the principles that I will outline, and practise them I am sure you will be successful in acquiring this skill. I myself learnt from a book, so it can not be too difficult."

### Getting Started

You will need a pair of thread chasers of say 22 tpi (threads per inch). You may think that a coarser thread of about 6 tpi would be easier when in fact the fine thread is preferred. Well seasoned close grained hard wood such as Box, Yew heart wood, Lignum Vitae etc. are ideal timbers for this process. The underside of the chasers must be free of any sharp edges and the tool rest must be perfectly smooth to allow the chasers to glide effortlessly over the rest.

The chaser moves in a circular motion on the rest, anti-clockwise for the external thread and clockwise for the internal thread. This will produce a right hand thread. Lathe speed 400-450 rpm. Practise is the key, try to chase a thread each day for about two weeks starting each day with the thought:- 'give us my daily thread' and you will achieve. In the past three weeks I have completed fifteen boxes ranging in size from ¾" - 4" diameter and I am pleased with the results.





## Answers to Wordsearch

Association	Pear
Woodturners	Burr
Great Britain	Ivory
Bert Marsh	Gouge
Ray Key	Bark
Blackwood	Oak
Olivewood	Elm
Grassroot	Skew
Laburnum	Lime
Sycamore	Beech
Ebony	Tool
Holly	Yew
	Ash

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If quitters never win, and winners never quit, what fool came up with, "Quit while you're ahead?" ....

A man walked into a bar and said 'Ouch!'

## A Course with Tracy Owen

Stuart Bradfield

It was Easter Saturday morning and expectations were high as a group of 30 enthusiastic Avon and Bristol Woodturners gathered at 'The Mill' for a full day demonstration. Tracy Owen arrived and we helped him into the workshop with his equipment. He made an instant impression with a large number of us, with his practical but artistic approach to the demonstration. Off centre, carving and colour techniques were all explained in a straightforward manner and a number of high quality pieces were produced before our very eyes.

Over the next week or so I tried to replicate what we had been shown, and although the principles were there, when I looked at what I was producing it was easy to see why Tracy is a professional turner and why I still had a lot to learn! As luck would have it, at the club's AGM the following month there was an announcement encouraging members to apply for a Development Grant from the AWGB. With nothing to lose and knowing exactly what I would do if I was successful, I duly completed and submitted the application form.

Success, a letter arrived from AWGB confirming that I had been granted a £200 award to attend a 3 day course with Tracy. As you can imagine I was straight on the phone to Tracy to set up the course. With the date fixed it was quickly agreed that we would cover off-centre, carving, colouring and hollow forms.

The day duly arrived and full of anticipation I arrived at Tracy's workshop. As it was a frosty December morning I had plenty of layers of clothes on, knowing how cold woodturning workshops can be. After a quick look round the workshop we discussed the plan for the next 3 days. It was like being in Aladdin's cave with wonderful pieces of work on benches and in boxes. Coloured, carved and textured, and of course off-centre pieces. Then I spotted the most incredible piece – the 'leaf platter'. Unbeknown to me at the time, this was Tracy's featured project in the next edition of 'Woodturning'. I looked at Tracy and said "I would like to have a go at making one like that", to which the reply was "It's very challenging". Well, I am always game for a challenge but what, of course, I had lost sight of in my enthusiasm was that I had only been there for 30 minutes and that Tracy hadn't even seen me start the lathe.

It was time for Tracy to pull the reins in and he suggested that we should finalise the topics we would cover. The areas that I had asked to work on were: off-centre, hollow forms, colouring, carving and texturing. The plan began to take shape – Day 1 would be a wide rimmed shallow bowl with a carved and texture top which would then be coloured. Day 2, if I was up for the challenge, would be a thin walled hollow form 'leaf platter' including piercing



and pyrography. Day 3 would be experimenting with multiple off- centre work on a large platter with carving and utilising a vacuum chuck.

About an hour into the session and it was time to meet the other half of the Tracy Owen team. Jill, Tracy's wife came into the workshop armed with a tray of tea and some homemade cake. I soon realised that this was to become an hourly treat. Jill is clearly a vital part of the team and not only the catering manager, office manager and accountant but also chief photographer. Despite being below freezing outside the workshop was already up to 18°C thanks to a very efficient wood burning stove. It was time to start work and Tracy commented that the harder I worked and the more chippings I made the warmer it would make the workshop!

Tracy produced a 12" dia. x 2" maple blank and asked me to true it up and form a simple curved base for a bowl. I started cautiously on a new lathe and with the maestro listening for that first catch. It was a wonderful piece of wood and it didn't take long to have the bottom prepared and sanded. Out came the vacuum chuck and with the blank reversed and centred the top was shaped. At the earlier demonstration at our local club Tracy showed us how to carve using an arbortech cutter in an angle grinder, with the lathe stationary. Fairly straightforward provided that you concentrate on the safety aspects! What I was about to do was not quite that simple. The lathe was rotating at about 400 rpm and the arbortech spinning at 11,000 rpm, Tracy calmly said "Put the cutter up to the wood just left of centre and make an outwards circular cut to the 8 o'clock position". This I did. We stopped the lathe after one pass to inspect the damage, not a lot to see other than a rather chewed up surface which I had carefully prepared.

the arbortech a rhythm developed, a bit like using a chatter tool. When the lathe was stopped the pattern was unbelievable, a gentle regular curved carving like a soft twisted rope. To clean up the loose grain and to finely texture any smooth surfaces we used a rotary wire brush with the lathe stationary. *[Just a note of caution here, make sure that you understand the risks with using an arbortech and the safety protection you need to wear.]*

We now moved on to try colouring. Green was the chosen colour. The airbrush was prepared (that was another item to add to my Christmas list), and the textured surface gently sprayed until an even colour was achieved. Black was applied as a feature to the edges of the green to provide a contrast. Things were looking good, but another little secret was about to be disclosed. Using a toothbrush and artists' *interference colour medium* it gave the textured area an impressive shimmering appearance. A couple of coats of acrylic gloss lacquer and the colouring was complete.



**Airbrush colouring**

The piece was repositioned on the vacuum chuck with an offset of 10mm. and the centre recess carefully removed. After sanding, finishing oil was applied to the bottom and the bowl recess. It was nearing 6 o'clock and time to reflect on the day. Had we achieved our objectives? Yes, and much more.

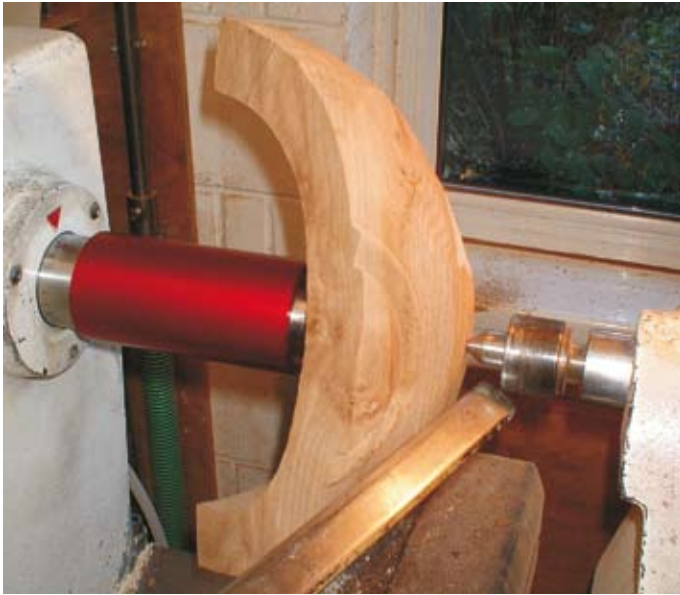
Day 2 and my first question to Tracy was "Are you going to let me have a go at the 'leaf platter'?" Tracy produced half a roughed out elm bowl blank which had been discarded due to cracks appearing during the drying process. With a specially adapted faceplate the blank was mounted on the lathe and the underside shaped and a chucking spigot prepared.

The blank was reversed on to the spigot and the real fun began. A large part of the centre had already been taken out so I was able to get straight on with reducing the wall thickness down to 3mm, working on sections of about 25mm at a time. With the lathe turning at about 1000rpm great care was needed as



**Initial Arbortech carving**

I repeated the process and after several passes with



**Turning the half-bowl blank**

the outside edges disappeared into a blur. Slowly the wall thickness decreased and progress was made towards the centre. With an ever increasing overhang of the tool over the rest, using a larger bowl gouge gave more control. With a few final cuts the inside of the platter was complete, much to my relief and satisfaction.



**Turned leaf platter**

The edge of the platter was profiled using a drum sander and then an opportunity to try piercing before applying the finish.

Day 3 was all about experimenting with the vacuum chuck and off centre work. The vacuum chuck allowed easy repositioning of the work piece into numerous off centre positions. After turning the basic platter, by repositioning the wood on the chuck, varying rim thickness were achieved, intermittent carved grooves were created and the inner offset

recess produced. The opportunity to experiment like this opened up a complete new spectrum of possibilities.



**The finished items**

I could not have imagined when applying for the grant just how beneficial the course would be. In addition to developing the areas of woodturning that are of particular interest to me, there were a number of other aspects where the opportunity to be guided by an expert proved very beneficial. These included sharpening of gouges, where just minor changes to the profile made a major improvement to their use. Learning different techniques for using the tools that improved the final shape and finish of the item, and the opportunity to use equipment such as piercing tools, airbrush and vacuum chuck.

On reflection perhaps the two most significant aspects were developing the confidence to stretch the boundaries of your work and to see how professional tutors provide encouragement and support to enable you to achieve a significant improvement to your work. Throughout the 3 days, whatever I was attempting to do, Tracy didn't pick up a tool to do it for me, but just explained how it should be done and provided the guidance and encouragement to ensure that I could do it. There were very many lessons learnt that I can in turn pass on to other AWGB Club members at 'The Mill'.

A very worthwhile and memorable experience with a tutor that was exactly right for the development which I needed, so many thanks to both Tracy Owen for three very enjoyable days and the AWGB for enabling me to attend the course.

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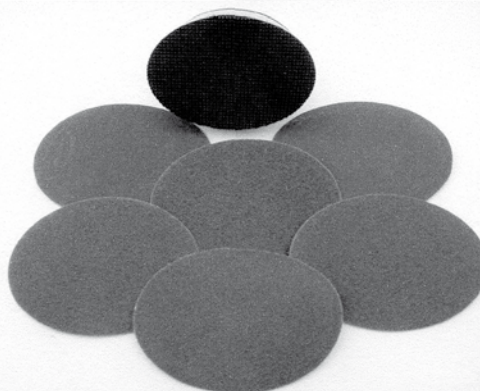
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