

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

NO 1
1987

Newsletter No.1.
November 1987.

A recent newsletter from the Irish Woodturners Guild contains notices of one day Workshops, two day Seminars, special demonstrations, a special offer from a hardware retailer, a "For Sale" section and notices of exhibitions of members work.

What the Irish newsletter didn't boast was a message from the Guild Chairman, but our first one does. And Ray Key might even be persuaded to write one for the succeeding letters as well.

Chairmans Notes:-

"At last!" I hear you cry. Something from the A.W.G.B.

This Newsletter is the first outward sign that we mean business, although no doubt you have received your membership card by now.

Your elected Committee has now met and formulated realistic plans and objectives for the future. We would have liked to have met sooner but due to prior commitments etc., this was not possible. However, we are up and rolling now.

The Newsletter is our first sign of action, our volunteer Editor is Reg. Sherwin, we wish him well. Your support is crucial to the Newsletter's success. Reg. needs information, articles, snippets of interest, humorous recollections, for sale and wants, exhibition news, in fact anything to do with woodturning.

We need a LOGO design for the Association, so get your thinking caps on, sharpen that pencil, and design away. A PRIZE of free admittance to a Mini Seminar of your choice is on offer to the winner. Last submission date is January 31st, flood us with your entries please.

Talking of Mini Seminars, a series of these and Open Workshops are being arranged throughout the year and the country. Details of the first ones appear in this Newsletter.

We need more of you to step forward in some parts of the country to host these events, or to act as regional contacts. We are looking for activity throughout the country. Let people know about the A.W.G.B. Go out and spread the Gospel that woodturning is on the up and up.

Those of you who attended the Loughborough Seminar will not need me to tell you what a warm, humorous, but above all generous man Ed. Moulthrop is. That generosity has reached our Association in the form of a donation of £150., which is to be used at the discretion of your chairman, to further the A.W.G.B. cause in some way.

A big "Thank you" Ed., on behalf of all the A.W.G.B. members.

Many of you at the Seminar expressed interest in the lathe I had made for Ed. to use. In the new year details and a drawing will be made available for purchase at a modest price, proceeds to the Association.

We have designated a membership category for suppliers allied to woodturning, their title to be Business Sponsor at an annual subscription

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of £50. We hope to negotiate discounts for members on purchases, so if you can enrol a supplier it may benefit us all.

Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.
Keep on turning.

Thanks Ray, and now on with the show.

There are some small seminars (mininars?) planned, each one of which is restricted to members of the Association and there is also a limit on the number of delegates for reasons of both safety and sanity. Please apply to the individual organiser for places. First come, first served! The organisers addresses are printed later on in this newsletter.

The first Midlands seminar is on 28th. February and is to be held at Avoncroft. As the Museum is one of those open air places, bring your wellies! It can be a mucky walk from the car park to the workshop. Especially in February. Delegates will also have to walk to the Cafeteria at lunch time for soup and a roll, quiche and jacket potatoes with coffee to follow. Break time drinks in the workshop are included in the price, as are demonstrations of box and commercial turning by Ray Key and repetition spindle turning and tool techniques by me. There will also be a questions and answers session, and if time allows, a 'hands on' session. The first 25 applicants to send £13 (cheques payable to Reg. Sherwin), quoting their Association membership number, will secure places and receive confirmation to that effect.

And don't forget to bring your membership cards with you when attending any seminars. Why should we accept gate crashers?

For those members who live north of Birmingham, and someone has to, Mike Scott is having three 'Open Days' in his workshop. The dates are 16th. Jan., 20th. Feb., and 19th. March. Mike suggests a maximum of 10 visitors at a time, cost to each visitor not to exceed £5.00. for the day, but this depends upon how many members attend and for how long. Mike says "Bring your own food". He also tells me he can find space for up to 10 visitors at any one time. He proposes an informal session on each day and is willing to discuss his own tool techniques and reasons why he employs them. Mike is also willing to show chainsaw techniques. Texans beware! To avoid overcrowding and the possibility of being denied entry, you are requested to contact Mike A.S.A.P.

There is to be an extravaganza of wood in the West Country in June, turning being one of the attractions. Watch out for further details in forthcoming newsletters.

Plans are also afoot for woodturning 'somethings' (The details have not yet reached me, Ed.) in the Cheltenham and Bristol areas. Once again, watch out for more details in the next Newsletter.

We are looking for members who would be willing to act as area representatives. What this would entail depends rather upon the person who takes on the title, but generally they would be expected to arrange local events, to which guest turners could be invited, should they be required.

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(And that could be a way for the organiser to obtain a free place at the event). Small local meetings on a regular basis would be a nice way of keeping in touch with fellow turners. The meetings might even be held in the back room of a Pub!! Any willing bodies, particularly in the areas of North and South Scotland, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, East Anglia, Kent and Sussex, Wales and 'Others', should make contact initially with the Secretary.

Exhibitions of Ray Key's work are to be put on at the following venues and dates:-

Leeds Craft and Design Gallery, Leeds City Art Gallery,
last week of January to end of February.

Stafford Art Gallery, The Green, Stafford,
March 15th. to April 23rd.

Do you have any shows coming up, or are you about to make an exhibition of yourself? Let me know and I will put it in the relevant newsletter.

One of the regular features of this newsletter is to be a short profile of one of our members. As a turner, I am always interested in the type of work undertaken by fellow turners, their outlook, their working environment, etc., and I feel that fellow members could also be interested.

As my request for profiles has not yet been answered by all of the other committee members, I am going to lay myself open to charges of egoism and start the ball rolling.

I first became interested in turning way back in 1966, having read the late Geoff Peters first article in "Practical Woodworking." I persuaded my long suffering wife that it would be a good idea to buy a lathe attachment for the Black and Decker drill, and set about making the neighbours teeth rattle late into the night and early in the morning. I soon tired of both the limitations and the noise, and progressed to a 'special' lathe, made from bits of bike and stout plywood. The creation was held onto the drill lathe bed and driven by an old addressograph motor. The neighbours stopped complaining and started placing orders. The makeshift lathe was eventually replaced by a brand new Coronet Minor, which cost me £45., complete with saw table!

In 1969, redundancy struck. I took the fateful decision to go out on my own, armed with a broom and a kettle, to conquer the world.

Having placed a small advert in the local paper, I waited for the world to beat a path to my door. I waited until the redundancy money ran out and then I ran out and looked for work by knocking on *their* doors. Eventually I built up a list of customers in the industrial field and took on contracts. At one time I had up to 9 employees, but am now back on my own and in a purpose built teaching workshop from where I run my business. My main source of income is from producing, teaching, writing and demonstrating. By way of relaxation I also teach sword fencing professionally. It provides that security which is so missed by the newly self employed person, and yet which is so vital. A regular income!

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As I said at the start of this missive, it is *YOUR* newsletter and it won't be of general interest unless *YOU* contribute. However, please keep literary submissions to a maximum of 200 words. And even then, I reserve the right to edit, in order to keep the production costs to a minimum and the interest to a maximum.

The following is a list of committee members, and their addresses, which could be of use. Should you want to make contact, please write rather than ring or call. Most of us are professional turners and can't earn a living away from the lathe or when working at half speed whilst holding a conversation with an unexpected visitor.

Chairman,

Ray Key, The Firs, 53, Weston Rd., BRETORTON, Nr. Evesham, WR11 5HW

Hon. Sec.,

Hugh O'Neill, 5, Kent Gardens, Eastcote, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8RX

Hon. Treas.

Len. Grantham, 1, Duncan Court, Lord Presidents Rd., Nth. Berwick,
East Lothian, SCOTLAND. EH39 4RJ.

Newsletter Ed.

Reg. Sherwin, The Woodturners Workshop, Avoncroft Museum of Buildings,
Stoke Heath, BROMSGROVE, B60 4JR, Worcs.

Members,

Mike Cripps, 41, The Greenway, ICKENHAM, Middlesex.

Stephen Marchant, Winchcombe Pottery, Becketts Lane, WINCHCOMBE, Glos.

Mick. O'Donnell, The Croft, BROUGH, Caithness, Scotland KW14 8YE.

Dave Regester, Millstream Cottage, Higher Town,
Samford Peverell, TIVERTON, Devon.

Mike Scott, Studio 10, Warmingham Mill Craft Workshops, Nr. SANDBACH,
CW11 9QW. Cheshire.

Don. White, 10, Graham Rd., Downend, BRISTOL, BS16 6AN.

Whilst I have no intention of guaranteeing a newsletter at specific intervals throughout the year, I shall produce one periodically and so I would ask you to let me have material for inclusion as often as you can. Don't forget, some magazines work on a three month deadline, so don't expect me to notify everyone of what you have decided to arrange for next week!

And finally, should I have got your name or address wrong, could you please advise me. Any mistakes which I made were of course, deliberate and designed to test your powers of observation!

The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

November 1987

Dear Member,

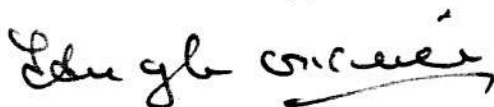
The Association is now up and running. The committee has met. letter headings are on the way, we have the first issue of the newsletter and various mini-seminars are planned. In the newsletter is a request for names of possible area representatives for local "chapters".

You will also shortly be receiving membership cards which will serve as receipts for subscriptions.

I hope that you saw the seminar report in the November issue of Woodworker. It has stimulated an enormous response with 10 requests a day for membership application forms. Meanwhile if you know anybody who might be interested in joining us please invite them to apply. That way we will become a force in the land.

To help us to get our records in order might I prevail upon you to co-operate by filling in the attached Membership Survey Form. The information will help your committee to mount activities to meet your needs and wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Hon. Secretary.