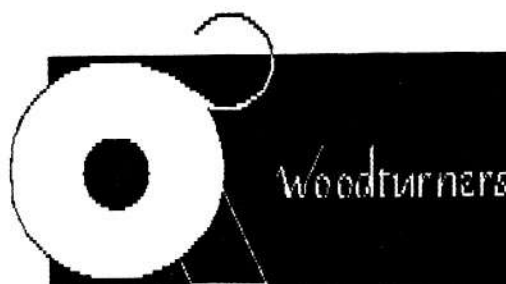


THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Chairman. Ray Key,
The Firs, 53, Weston Rd., Bretforton,
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Newsletter No. 11 (DECEMBER 1989.)

Editor: Reg. Sherwin. The Woodturners Workshop, Avoncroft Museum of Buildings, BROMSGROVE B60 4JR. Tel. 0527 76800.



SEASONS GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS.



CHAIRMAN'S
REPORT.

Since the last Newsletter a great deal of Association activity has taken place. We have held our A.G.M., exhibited at the Leeds 'Practical Woodworking' Show and the Alexandra Palace 'Woodworker' show. Before continuing I must make a sincere APOLOGY to all members Re. the A.G.M.

It will not have gone un-noticed by most of you that you received your Newsletter with your voting slip, after the date it should have been returned to our Secretary. I will not go into the reasons except to say the fault was not with our printers. This will not be allowed to happen again.

Once it was known it was impossible for votes to be returned to our Secretary by the prescribed date, I phoned all those standing for election for the committee. They were asked if they would accept, in the circumstances, that all votes cast and

returned up to the date of the A.G.M. be counted. They agreed to this. At the A.G.M. this was explained and those attending thought this reasonable. If there had been any dissent a new full postal ballot would have been organised. Your Secretary received 90 postal votes and some 25 people who had not voted attended the A.G.M. The result at the end of this saga was that your Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were returned unopposed and four committee members were elected. These are Reg. Sherwin re-elected, Brian Clifford, Chris Stott and Tony Waddilove, so we have three new members. May I welcome you aboard. It's going to be a busy time for us all, with several new initiatives on the way.

Another APOLOGY, not quite so serious this time. Those of you who let your Loughborough exhibits go to Leeds must have wondered what had happened to them. Well, as you know, we were also asked to show at Alexandra Palace at late notice and your work formed the backbone of the Associations display there. I thank you all for your patience and trust you now have your work back. It is now well travelled and exposed.

LEEDS 'PRACTICAL WOODWORKING' SHOW.

I am assured our stand looked excellent. This was down chiefly to the sterling work of Darrell Rushworth, Derek Rawson and other members of our West Yorkshire Chapter plus of course our tireless Treasurer Len. Grantham. Twelve new members were recruited at the show and several more have joined since.

ALEXANDRA PALACE 'WOODWORKER' SHOW.

This was our first invitation to this show. Although a great success for the Association it was the cause of a great deal of hard work for a number of our members. As invitations to show at these sort of events are becoming a regular feature of Association activity, the committee decided we needed our own display units. These we now have, thanks to many days of hard work making them by Mac. Kemp, Brian Clifford and Mike Cripps. Having just sorted that out, Mac Kemp, our man in charge for this event was contacted by the show organisers the day before setting up and told that we had a double stand. Panic. Not enough work for the double. Thankfully a number of our Middlesex and Herts Chapter members responded to the call and I am assured we had a good display. Our stand was manned throughout by our Middlesex Chapter members. Special thanks go to Mac Kemp, Arthur Lacey, Brian Clifford and John Embleton who stewarded several days. Also to all others who stewarded for a day. Fifty two new members were recruited at the show. An eleven year old lad and a gentleman from Sweden were amongst this number. Many other people have joined since.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

Those of you who have renewed your membership should now be the proud possessor of a new PLASTIC MEMBERSHIP CARD. Just like a credit card, but without the drawback of getting you into debt. This is a permanent card. Each year you renew your membership

2. you will be issued with a new sticky label to put on the back with your name, membership number and date of expiry. IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR CARD YOU HAVE NOT RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP. DO IT TODAY AS THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER IF YOU DON'T.

COMPETITION.

You will have noticed AWGorBlimey is missing from the top of this Newsletter. This follows several complaints from members and your committee finally agreed it had to go. But now we need a real title. Please send suggestions to our Secretary by the end of December. For the winner we will come up with a worthwhile prize. With the new title we hope to come up with a new format. The A4 format has served us well from photocopy to being printed. However, two years on, the time has come for a more professional look. Cost has always been the inhibitor and may yet still be. Time will tell. (The format which you now have before you is an attempt at an acceptable upgrade. Your comments, to the editor, would be appreciated. ed.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

Will members please note all correspondence should be sent to the Secretary, unless it is strictly for the Newsletter, in which case it goes to the Editor. I make this plea as our Editor is getting a lot of correspondence that should go to the Secretary. Please help as it all takes valuable time to sort out, especially as we all do these jobs on a voluntary basis.

INITIATIVES.

I can assure you that your new committee will be taking a hard look at training and regional seminars and will be initiating things in these directions.

LATHE LOAN.

Members may remember we had a Tyne Cub lathe donated by Tyne Machines, a

turning tools donated by Charltons 3. Timber and a combination chuck from Tony Waddilove. These items have been on loan to young Kath Etheridge for over twelve months now. We would like to find another worthy recipient. Please write to the Secretary if you know one.

CRAFTS COUNCIL.

Many of you may not be aware that a report commissioned by the Government and called the Wilding Report has recommended that the Crafts Council be merged with the Arts Council. This seems to me unthinkable. No craftsman or woman, or crafts body has been asked for their views on this matter, which is a totally unacceptable state of affairs. The crafts have always been the poor relations and any merger with the Arts Council would only make this matter worse. We would have little voice and no independence, feeding only on crumbs from the Arts Council table. The Crafts Council has been extremely supportive to this Association. They made a £1500 grant to our Seminar this year and underwrote by a similar amount the 1987 Loughborough event, where this Association was launched.

I urge you to make your views known by writing to the Minister for the Arts and your local M.P. on this matter. A petition from each of our local chapters and signed by its members, would be a good way of making a protest. Send to:-

The Right Honourable Richard Luce PC MP,

Minister for the Arts, Office of Arts and Libraries,

Horse Guards Rd., London SW1P 3AL.

Don't delay, act today. The letter to your local M.P. should start with 'I should like you to convey my views to the Minister on the proposed merging of the Arts and Crafts Councils'. The letters should be as concrete as possible, containing your reasons for thinking that the merger is not a good idea. **THIS PROTEST MUST BE LODGED BY THE END OF DECEMBER.**

DALE NISH.

Dale phoned me the other day to say he had now completed a full report on the Loughborough Seminar for 'Practical Woodworking' which would appear in the January issue, on sale in December.

LOGO.

Just a reminder that the Logo is not to be used by members. It is only for use on official promotional material authorised by the Association, Local Chapter letterheads being such an instance.

Ray Key, Honorary Chairman

October 31st. 1989.



EDITORS ROSTRUM.

The last time I asked for a title for our newsletter I had just two responses. 'Beads and Hollows' and 'Chips'. Now we are looking again.

The Irish Guild have 'Newsletter' as a title, the New Zealand newsletter is called 'Faceplate' whilst the Americans have 'American Woodturner' at the head of their journal.

It is now our hope to produce a newsletter with more than just words. The facility to reproduce acceptable illustrations without incurring a lot of costs or using up a lot of valuable time, has until now been beyond my simple word processor. Now we are looking into a number of possibilities which will allow a greater range of coverage and we need some response from out there not only to this present format but also to our request for a title. Come on folks, let's hear from you.

I have had a letter from one of our chapter organisers, making the point that information regarding his chapter activities has not been getting into the newsletter. The reason is that it hasn't been getting to the Newsletter editor. Mike Cripps took on the job of helping local chapters to start up, and also of offering 'what to do next' type

advice to new chapters. But reports on their activities should come to me, although I am sure that Mike would like this information as well, so as to be able to help other less well organised chapters with examples of what is happening elsewhere. Whilst I can't promise to print in full every report which I receive, a frequent mention of meeting places and times can certainly be made in the newsletter.

I should also mention that every new member receives details of other turners in their area when they join. This information, together with membership card etc., comes from our Treasurer. It is then up to the individual to make contact with his or her fellows, in order to join an existing, or to help set up a new, local group.

And finally I should say that there is no restriction on which chapter any member may join. For instance, a member living near the border of one County but closer to the meeting place of the adjacent County can jump whichever way they wish.

LOCAL CHAPTERS Items for this section of the newsletter should contain not only reports of what has happened recently, but also of what is to happen in the future, and when.

Whilst I can't promise to announce all such meetings in advance, for technical reasons, I will give a fair airing to those which I can catch in time. Other Local Chapter queries should go direct to Mike Cripps, 41, the Greenway, ICKENHAM, Middlesex. UB10 8LS.

DEVON. In June 1988 four members met at Willowfield, gazed at each other and wondered if the idea was a runner. September '89 saw a return to the same venue but now with a total of 34 members! I think it has a chance of success.

Recent events have been an exhibition/sale at Dartmouth, during which the group, now called Devon

4. Woodturners, sold £1200 worth of work. This will be followed up with a two week show at the same venue next year.

The group will be run by just two members, doing a 12 month stint, at the end of which their nominated successors will take over. This is a very good way of sharing the work load.

The HAMPSHIRE Woodturners Association has been inaugurated at a meeting of 16 turners in Basingstoke, which is known as do'nut city in CB circles, because of its vast collection of roundabouts - very appropriate for turners. Future meetings will be held in Winchester, a more central location, with the first one on December 4th. Contact Brian Hannam, Chairman, on (0256) 25621 for more details.

A spy from the East, Bob French from Frimley, was an invited guest and now plans to energise a Surrey chapter in the near future.

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER held its first meeting of the new season in Reg. Sherwin's Avoncroft workshop, where they were entertained by Reg, who showed them some of the things which Del Stubbs was doing on his recent visit. "I'm going straight back home to have a go at a flower" was heard issuing forth from at least one of the members present.

A programme of events, hosted in turn by different members, was drawn up, the meetings to be on the first Monday of every month. An annual fee of £5.00 was decided upon, to help cover the costs of administration and to get a float together which will help to finance future events. It was also decided to allow potential members a maximum of two free nights, to see if they like us, before joining. Contact Phil Lees on (0527) 89 2507 for further details.

KENT. David Crawford, the Chairman, has sent me a copy of a very comprehensive letter which all Kent

members received. (Local Chapter organiser Mike Cripps is also on the circulation list. Well done Dave!) Kent meet monthly, on alternate third Thursdays and Saturdays. A recent demo and slide presentation by Toby Kaye was very well received and plans are afoot to secure the services of another home grown turner of similar ability. They are around folks. You only have to ask Mike Cripps for the list, or make your own approaches direct. Other meetings in Kent are to feature a talk on the problems of dust extraction, safety hazards and various health problems associated with wood dust. Thanks to Dave, Kent is a go-ahead County chapter which took a lot of spade work by a couple of chaps to get off the ground but which is now in full flight. Well done John and Bill!

LONDON (SOUTH)

Nicholas Higgins is very keen to get a group going in the Wimbledon area and asks all other local members to contact him on (01) 543 0824.

SUFFOLK (North). Formed in November '88, with just 5 members, are now up to eleven and their latest event was a visit to the 'Woodworker' show in London, which happened to be right next door to an exhibition on knitting, so wives also enjoyed a days outing to 'the Smoke', which made life more bearable for the men.

A recent practical session featured some innovative turning from Shaun Clifford, who demonstrated the Stewart system. Specializing in hollow forms in Australian exotics, Shaun showed a far from unique, but non the less spectacular method of avoiding a flat top to the vessel, when he removed 1/3 of a 12 inch bowl in one cut. Those who know about these things might have called it a dig-in. The session was brought to a conclusion by Roy Child, who showed the assembled members how he hollows out natural top bowls. Anyone wanting more information on the Suffolk (North) Chapter, should contact the part writer of this report, Mike O'Connor, c/o Forge House, The

Street, HOLT, Suffolk, IP19 8PN. Thanks for making contact Mike, and best of luck in your tussles with the old electric tripewriter. Keep me posted.

Yet another new Chapter, provisionally called the A.W.C.B. SUFFOLK/ESSEX BORDERS Chapter, has inaugurated itself. Meeting on a monthly basis, but on different days or evenings, it aims to cater for a greater membership. Covering West Suffolk, North East Essex and South East Cambridgeshire, the person to contact for more details is Secretary, Mike Marsh, 21 Stour Gardens, Great Cornard, SUDBURY, Suffolk, CO10 0JN. Tel Sudbury 71842.

The WESSEX Woodturners Association has been formulated, with John Sanders in the chair, non turning - as yet- Don Newson as Secretary, and Graham Ireharn as Treasurer. A £5.00 annual subscription was agreed upon and a request for future themes brought forth a treasure trove of ideas, the first one of which is a hands on tool sharpening evening and display of members work. Meeting to be held on the last Friday of each month. Don's address is 36, Herne Rise, Ilminster, Somerset, TA19 0HJ. Phone (0460) 53906.



MEMBERS PROFILE. The spotlight falls this time on Sue Tincello, an early retired school teacher. Sue's effort comes in poetic form.

"Woodforms."

From chalk to gouge is quite a change.
Freedom from clockwatching adds a range
of choices - what to turn today?
A bowl, a platter, pot or tray?

I left the classroom in '88,
built a workshop by my gate.
It holds my car and 'Coronet 3',
bandsaw, grindstone and bits of tree.

From Autumn thro' to Winter bleak
I read and practiced every week.
I made mistakes and 'dug-in' too,
but I was hooked and life was new.

'Woodform' a business very wee,
started off in January.
I'd carved for years and dabbled too
with wood tools, screws and pots of glue.

I went to Reg in early Spring
for intensive tutoring.
Coves and beads and lids with glee,
even ambidextrously!

We worked and talked from morn 'til
night.
Reg determined I'd get it right.
Two days of magic and endless chat.
Skew chisel? - - I'm not afraid of
that!!!

Daily now my skills improve
and sales are getting on the move.
Reg had said "Sue, have a go."
I did. - - 5 foot gables in
Walthamstow!!

Join A.W.G.B. and you will find
helpful woodturners of the kind
of folk who'll share their skills and
'gen'
with both ladies and gentlemen.

Woodforms are viewed in local shop,
retailed in Enfield - I'm trying the
lot.

Will it sell, my wooden ware?
I've yet to try my first Craft Fair!

Whatever comes in eighty nine,
I'd not change anything with
time.
Horizons widen day by day.
This work is really more like play!

What changes life has brought to me
- mother, teacher with family;
but out of all that I have done
turning is the greatest fun.

Sue Tincello. April '89.

(I can only add, after all you've said,
you were a very good student. ed.)



FOR SALE, BEG,
BORROW, BARTER
OR STEAL.

VISA

Frank Morris, (tel. Worthing 67752) has
a 3/4" x 16 threaded Coronet Chuck
for sale, V.G.C. Complete with C spanner,
2 7/8" expanding jaw and 1" collet.
List price £75. Will accept £25. (Frank,
if you don't sell it by Christmas, let
me know. I'll have it, but I mustn't
take an unfair advantage by getting in
first. ed.)



LETTERS.

A letter from Hugh O'Neill,
our Secretary, advises me
that he holds stocks of
members 'T' shirts, bearing the
A.W.G.B. logo, which are for
sale. Hints dropped to non
turning members of the family, and
Hugh's address left in strategic places
round the house, like on the T.V.
screen, might bring forth a useful
stocking filler costing only a fiver.

Sad news arrived from the North East
a few days ago. One of our members,
Melvin Davidson, passed away recently.
Melvin, a very active 'retirement'
turner was keen to get a chapter
going in his area and he and I had
spoken of the possibility. It is
perhaps a fitting tribute to him that
some of his designs are to be
published in the March issue of
'Practical Woodworking.'

Len Grantham, our Treasurer asks for
any members who have not received
their Loughborough slides yet, to
contact him at 1, Duncan Court, Lord
President Rd., North Berwick, East
Lothian, EH39 4RJ.

John Holyoak has written to me with a
poem which may well prick the
consciences of a few members. I hope
to launch the new look newsletter with
it. Thanks John!

One of our 'overseas' members, Frank 7. Coates, of The Workshop, Patrick Street, PEEL, Isle of Man, asks if any members have information on the history of his Kellam lathe, which was made in Leicester. The machine No. is LO 109. Vital Statistics are 17cwt, 50" centres, 16" swing, (32" over gap), 82" outboard, 5hp, 10 speed. 30 years old? Keep me informed Frank, if you hear anything. And I agree, they don't make 'em like that anymore.

A letter from one of the Loughborough '89 delegates, Dennis Hales, contained the following snippet. A woodturner was overheard talking to Bob Brett of North Heigham Sawmills about exotic timber. As most exotics are now imported part processed, Bob said that he no longer travelled to India to buy rosewood logs. The wood turner, who's experience of timber in the round was limited to windfalls, commented that anyone buying logs in the round must require a great deal of knowledge and confidence to buy timber 'as seen'. 'Yes' was the reply, 'especially when the end grain is covered in Elephant s... (dung), which is a very effective way of stopping end grain splits, and also covers a multitude of sins.' Pausing for a moment to consider this latest piece of information, the turner responded with 'It's a wonder Craft Supplies aren't selling it!' Dennis finished his letter with 'No offence, Mr. Davidson, but if you do decide to import it, what about 20% discount to A.W.G.B. members for the information?'

And finally, not a letter exactly, but a comment from Mike Cripps, the famous Continental Crypt Crafter. Mike suggested to me that it was rather unkind of a certain supplier of turners requisites to place a photograph of my head so close to Theo Fossel's name in the pages of their catalogue. Also unkind of you to make the unprovoked comparison Mike. By the way, I hope your 'headache' gets better soon.



SEMINAR REPORTS. This issue carries two reports on events at which Del Stubbs was the demonstrator. I make no apologies for the fact that this section of the newsletter is a little 'Stubbs heavy', as it was he who was prepared to put all the travelling time in, so that he could meet as many of our groups as possible. (Complaints should be addressed to me please!)

Thursday August 26th. Request from Reg to write a report for the newsletter about Del Stubbs seminar at Avoncroft. Didn't seem too much to ask when we arrived early in the morning with a clear brain and eager to assimilate Del's every word and deft movement - not so easy after eight hours of concentration, filled to the brim with technical info and ideas, followed by a very well lubricated Indian Supper interspersed with humorous stories from both sides of the Atlantic.

36 people had travelled from incredibly, but not surprisingly far afield to see Del, from Surrey, Wensleydale and Somerset. And they were not disappointed. It was a fine experience for all. Del relates so completely to wood, he is so gentle that I'm sure brain surgery would present no problems for him. But as he says, tool manufacturers do not love you, and he spent a considerable amount of time explaining about the tool edge, angles of cutting, sharpening etc. After all, no tool, no cut wood.

He introduced the multi tool which could do six different jobs. Most impressive! Del then showed how to make a hook tool from 1/4" silver steel. Well tempered and sharpened. He then proceeded to make a miniature maple goblet with a loose ring, the prepared blank having been driven into the morse taper of the headstock.

He showed how to make miniature side and hook scrapers from 4" masonry

nails and used them to make a 1/2" high goblet which was passed round in a coffee cup for fear of loosing site of it. Del emphasised the importance of making all 'exploring new methods' cuts with a slipping belt drive, to eradicate the problems of dig-ins until you know what the timber will accept from the tool, and also the use of frowned upon honing, both with and without a burr, for fine finishing cuts.

Having got his hand in he demonstrated that which he is probably best known for - a dainty natural edged bowl - from 18 hours felled birch. The finishing cuts were made to the sound of whoops of joy from Del, which was supported by held breath from the audience. Why are we British so inhibited? With the help of Reg's Heath Robinson inspired lamp we were able to appreciate the translucent wall thinness. Secretly the wall thickness was measured. .015"!!

Lunch was followed by a slide show where Del concentrated solely on the profile curves of work by a variety of turners. This was followed up with a pen, board and mirror technique to show how easy it is to see a complete shape by drawing a simple curve and encouraged us to do the same to improve or find designs. Parabolic curves are a favourite with Del. Soft and subtle.

We then watched a 9" long 1" diameter oak branch being turned into a beautiful flower with a long, long, long stem. Petrified lest the long stemmed translucent flower wound itself up into knots, we were delighted and relieved when it came off the lathe in one exquisite piece. In a strange workshop and on a strange lathe, that was no easy thing to do. We took our hats off to Del whilst he waxed lyrical about English oak.

Del finished his seminar by showing how to cut book match pieces from figured wood, for use in box lids. A half circle was planed and then cut from a flat piece of wood. Sliced through once - like a loaf - the two flat ends would be glued together,

8. turned to a circle and set into a box lid.

Delegates brought along some pieces of work for appraisal and once again we were struck on his generous and encouraging comments.

Thanks Reg for organising these two single day seminars. Every bead of sweat was worth it. And many thanks from us all to Del. Jan Sanders.

The Middlesex Chapter had an excellent day on 9th. September when members gathered at Nick Wheeler-Robinson's home and were treated to a feast of woodturning skills by Del Stubbs.

Del first made a goblet 1" high with masonry nail scrapers and a pen-knife to part off. Saying that all you need is a sharp edge and a handle, he then proceeded to make a smaller one with a hand axe, large gouge and a bodgers skew!

To overcome one's fear of dig-in's when using such tools as the skew chisel, to encourage experimentation and to develop sensitivity in the fingers, Del demonstrated loosening the tension on the drive belt, running the lathe at slow speed and getting the feel of the tool. With sharp tools, correctly held, the wood will be cut and any dig-in automatically stops the work with no heart stopping bangs.

Next we were treated to a Del Stubbs special - a translucent bowl created before our eyes from beech so wet it had been felled only that morning! With a light shining behind the bowl we watched the walls getting thinner and thinner as Del delicately shaved the wood away until we could read the A.W.G.B. logo through the wood! How to make, and use, a hook tool was next on the agenda and a talk on design, illustrated with slides, completed a most enjoyable and memorable day.

Valerie Cresswell.

AND DON'T FORGET YOUR



SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE YEAR.

