

# Revolutions

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 142

September 2022



7-9 OCTOBER  
**2022**  
**AWGB**  
INTERNATIONAL  
WOODTURNING  
SEMINAR  
*Your turn to be inspired*



[www.awgb.co.uk](http://www.awgb.co.uk)

A Company Limited by Guarantee - Company Number 8135399  
Registered Charity Number 1150255

# Corporate Members of the AWGB

Further information, including discounts, on the Corporate Members is available on the AWGB website.

## Allan Calder's Ltd

Suppliers of high quality abrasives of many types at competitive prices.  
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Designer and manufacturer of a range of quantity woodturning tools, Jigs and sanding systems. 01206 230694  
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A registered charity which aims to educate the public in woodturning. Tuition is provided through a comprehensive range of courses. 07976 402960  
[www.maxcareywoodturningtrust.org.uk](http://www.maxcareywoodturningtrust.org.uk)

## Mirka (UK) Ltd

Finishing products and tools including abrasive discs, strips and rolls, power tools and accessories 01908 866100  
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## Oaklea Woodcraft

Stocking a wide range of finishes, project kits, tools and blanks for the woodturner and wood carver. 01952 884064  
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Specialist supplier of Italian olive wood from a sustainable source. Discount available to AWGB members. 07714 204060  
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Everything for the Woodturner.  
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A leading online timber merchant. High quality hardwoods and softwoods for the trade and the public. 01373 489610,  
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## Why-Aye Wood

We offer a range of finishes, tools, project and pen kits and wood turning blanks. Discounts available to AWGB members.  
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## Woodart Products

Magnetic & non-magnetic LED lights, Pyrography units & accessories. Micro drill/detailer equipment, Carbide piercing cutters & burrs - and much more.  
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## Woodturning Magazine

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## Yandle & Sons Ltd

Everything for the Woodturner.  
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## Front Cover

2022 Seminar demonstrators  
- see page 8

**Revolutions**  
Copy deadline for the next  
edition of Revolutions  
**1st November 2022**



The AWGB is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a Registered Charity. It is administered by a group of elected Trustees who are also Directors of the Company. The Trustees meet at least twice each year and at the AGM. When they meet together they are known collectively as the "The Executive". Additionally, there are a number of people who assist the Trustees in their duties. These people are not elected and are known as "Volunteers".

## TRUSTEES OF THE EXECUTIVE

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## DATA PROTECTION

Your personal details are held on computer for the use of the AWGB. We only use this information to run the organisation. If you would like to know what information we hold and how we use it, please contact the Secretary.

## Chairman's Notes

### Russell Gibbs

Greetings All

As I sit composing this, during the latest heatwave, things are heating up in more ways than one, we bemoan the winter weather when many of us find it too cold to get in the shed and make shavings, but equally 30 degree plus heat can make it just as uncomfortable. At the same time with the AWGB Seminar in Yarnfield Staffordshire on 7th to 9th October getting ever closer your Executive is moving into top gear to ensure that the event takes place smoothly and efficiently to the satisfaction of the delegates. There is still time to enrol for the seminar, details are to be found on page 8 or also at the AWGB Woodturning Seminar website.



You will see that there is the opportunity to either attend the whole event or to attend for one (or more) of the days, why not get a party together and join us for a day to see some of the finest woodturners around.

Training has for a number of reasons, not least Covid, had a bit of a hiatus, we have however been lucky with the addition of Steve Gordon to the Executive, he has taken under his wing the Member Training Workshops, and the Demonstrator Training Courses. Additionally he is reviewing the "Red Badge" Tutor training courses for members, which has required the process of defining who is eligible to run these courses and also who is eligible to appoint the "Red Badge" Tutor Trainers. We believe that there are currently 6 x Tutor assessors (under review) and 2 members (under review) able to appoint Red Badge Assessors, due to this low number it has taken time to get through the 30 or 40 members who wish to complete the assessment for the Red Tutor badge, we hope that you will bear with us as we try to expedite the backlog.

As I write this there are several Members Training Workshops advertised at training and workshop on the website and advertised in the last Revolutions newsletter. Keep your eyes peeled for further workshops being advertised. It should be noted that a fair and equitable process for the selection of applicants is in place, either online or by post, which should give everyone a chance to attend over time.

On the subject of "Red Badge" Tutor Training there is currently 1 day in planning with 5 members lined up to attempt to achieve the Tutor Badge, we will be looking to repeat this in the near future. The start of the Tutor Training is to undertake and understand the training at instructor training page on the website. On completion of this, you can decide if you wish to undertake an assessment which on successful completion will allow the awarding of the Tutor Badge.

I have been approached by the Worshipful Company of Turners to make you aware of a turning event in support of both Young Turners and Freedom from Torture Charity.

WCT Liveryman Professor Michael Maisey is actively involved with the charity. He and the Company's charitable arm are

joining forces to develop a turning project based on the recycling of timber objects. Proceeds from the sale of these objects will be split equally between a Turners' Charity and Freedom from Torture. If you would like to be involved in this then please contact either Michael Maisey 07710 744009 michael@maisey.org.uk or Les Thorne les.thorne@noturningback.co.uk donated turned contributions need to be sent or delivered your by 15th October. More information on pages 16 & 17.

On the Youth training front 4 training events have been run this year and there is a further event advertised on 19th November 2022 with Les Thorne at The Woodturners Shop, Four Marks, Hampshire, so if you know of any young turners who would benefit from a training day then please ask them to apply, the courses are free of charge to the young turners (12 to 21) and membership to the AWGB is also free until they turn 22.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the AWGB Executive for their sterling work, a number of members have had to step aside and we wish to thank them for the service they have given and hope that they have a speedy recovery from their present conditions. I would like to welcome to the Executive Mark Beckett who is taking on the role of SW Representative so if any clubs in the South West need advice then Mark is your first point of contact via swrep@awgb.co.uk. It does bring me to a perpetual theme of Chairmen of charities and that is that there is always more work than there are people prepared to step up and help; this is your Association and it will only continue and thrive with your help. If you think that you could help share some of the load then please contact us at info@awgb.co.uk, in particular we do not have a Representative to support the Clubs in the South East of England, this is not an onerous job and has the added advantage of allowing the person to get out and meet the clubs, individuals and the general public whilst promoting the Association.

Wishing you all the very best and hoping you make time during the Summer to get into the shed.

## Revolutions

We can deliver Revolutions in both paper and electronic format. All members we have email addresses for will initially receive both formats.

If you are happy to receive both formats, you don't need to do anything but if you would prefer just the paper version, just the electronic version or neither, and that if you want to change your preference to email John Peachey -datamanager@awgb.co.uk with your choice, but if you are happy with things as they are you need do nothing.



# CHESTNUT

P R O D U C T S

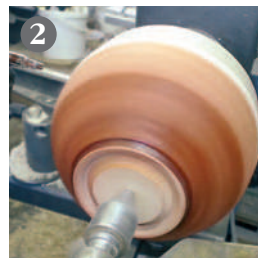
## FINISHING SCHOOL

### Coloured and Textured Bowl

WITH STEWART FURINI



1 Turn and texture the outside of your bowl in a random pattern. A power carving tool makes this much easier. Smooth back as necessary.



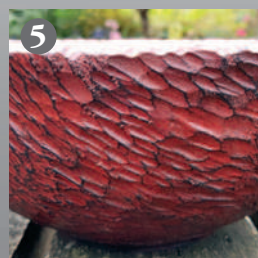
2 Apply spirit stain with an airbrush to the outside of the bowl while it's spinning on the lathe at about 500rpm. (If you don't have an airbrush, the stain can also be applied with an ordinary artist brush while the bowl is stationary).



3 Lightly load a soft brush with black acrylic paint, then brush off most of the paint on a piece of card or paper. The brush can now be used to 'dry brush' across the top of the texture.



4 Finish the inside and outside with Microcrystalline Wax. Use a brush to buff the wax on the outside of the bowl to get into the deepest parts of the texture.



5 A close up of the texture on the outside of the bowl, showing how the dry brushing technique has provided a contrast for the raised areas against the stained background.

See our YouTube channel for more tips!  
More information available from your local stockists or contact us at:

PO Box 260, Stowmarket, IP14 9BX

Tel: 01473 890118

mailroom@chestnutproducts.co.uk

www.chestnutproducts.co.uk



**Association of  
Woodturners**  
of Great Britain



**Development  
and Training**

## Young Turners Training Programme

Date	Topic/Technique		Venue
November 19th 2022	Various Projects and techniques Workshop Health & Safety	Les Thorne	The Woodturners Shop, Four Marks Hampshire

**For application forms and information visit... [www.awgb.co.uk](http://www.awgb.co.uk)  
Or contact... Ron Caddy - 07903 313065 e-mail [youthtraining@awgb.co.uk](mailto:youthtraining@awgb.co.uk)**

**Association of  
Woodturners**  
of Great Britain



**Development  
and Training**

## Member Training Workshops

**Mick Hanbury**

Doncaster Woodturners

**17th September 2022**

Intermediate  
Bowl & Colour

**Les Thorne**

Four Marks Hampshire

**21st October 2022**

Intermediate Advanced  
Spindle and Skew

**Gary Rance**

Wendover, Buckinghamshire

**25th November 2022**

Thread chasing

**Mick Hanbury**

Doncaster Woodturners

**17th December 2022**

Advanced  
Bowl & Colour

These workshops are subject to restrictions at the time and unfortunately may need to be cancelled at short notice. Due to the change in circumstances, we understand that members that have previously booked to the course last year may no longer wish to do so. We are therefore asking that everyone re-applies for the workshops. However, preference will be given to those that have been allocated places previously that were cancelled. If you have any questions, please contact our Development Officer - Steve Gordon. email at [development@awgb.co.uk](mailto:development@awgb.co.uk) or tel: 07939 371420.

**If a workshop is oversubscribed, there will be a ballot for places.**

**To apply - visit the AWGB website: [www.awgb.co.uk](http://www.awgb.co.uk) and download an application form and send to the coordinator shown on the form. Or complete a 'Training Workshop Application' web form. Only fully completed application forms will be considered.**





# Woodturning Week3nder: Full Steam Ahead

**CHESTNUT**  
P R O D U C T S



Featuring Headline Demonstrators Joey Richardson, Darren Breeze, Richard Findley, and Stewart Furnini, the Chestnut Products Woodturning Week3nder took place in Swindon in July. With trade stands, clinics and club demonstrations, plus some great entertainment on Saturday evening, a good time was had by all!





## Roger Gubbin



It was very sad to hear of the sudden death of Roger Gubbin on the 6th March this year with his funeral being held in Bodmin, Cornwall on 5th April. Roger was a well-known turner, particularly in the South West.

Roger was born in Launceston a true Cornishman and lived in the area all his life. He was a one time member of Tamar Woodturners, was chairman of North Cornwall Woodturners and also a member of Plymouth Woodturners. Roger was always involved in all the clubs he was a member of and also helped at other clubs if needed.

He was a great supporter of the AWGB over a number of years. I remember going to Yandles Show with Roger when we both demonstrated and helped on the AWGB stand back when Tony Walton was Trade Officer. He also helped when Plymouth manned the AWGB stand at Axminster Shows when they first went to Westpoint Exeter, also in Tony Walton's era. Later on when I was acting as Southwest Representative Roger was one of the first to help demonstrate and man stands at various shows in the 5 year period when I was in office.

Roger attended both the Demonstrator Training and Tutor Assessment not long after both had been in existence. He became a member of the Register of Professional Turners after he started turning for a living and demonstrated at a number of clubs in the South West area. He also ran some AWGB courses at his workshop over the last number of years.

I was lucky enough when acting as Southwest Rep. to visit North Cornwall club that he helped run, ably supported by Sheila his wife, and was invited to attend an AWGB birthday event held in Launceston Town Centre that bought in a large crowd over the day.

Roger will be sadly missed by a large number of people and clubs in Devon and Cornwall area.

Our thoughts are with Sheila and all of the family who were always supporting him and he adored at this time.

**John Montgomery**

## North Cornwall Woodturners

Sheila Gubbin



Nick Moore, Bob Weaver, Derek Cole, Mick Chambers, Derek Hicks and Mike Metherell.

The members of North Cornwall Woodturners held a cheque presentation day on Sunday 31st July.

£560.85 was donated from the club's funds to The Children's Hospice South West In memory of Roger Gubbin who sadly passed away suddenly in March. Roger had run the club in his workshop since 2005.

*Ashley Iles*  
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made in the old tradition

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*Ashley Iles, Solly Street c.1958*

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**www.ashleyiles.co.uk**

The 17th International Woodturning Seminar will take place at  
**Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre**  
**Stone Staffordshire ST15 0NL**

**from 7-9 October 2022**



*The event will run from Friday lunchtime to Sunday afternoon.*

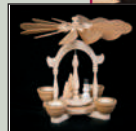
**That's one extra demonstration compared to the last Seminar. The event aims to offer something for turners at all levels from beginner to expert. The seminar programme is guaranteed to inspire, educate and entertain!**



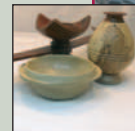
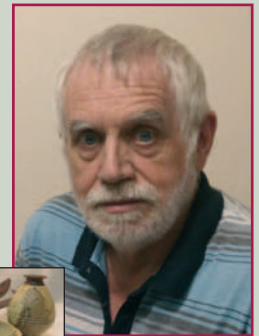
**Alain Mailland**  
France



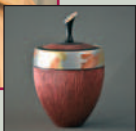
**Bob Rotche**  
USA



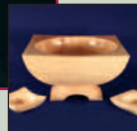
**Colwin Way**  
UK



**Eugene Grimley**  
Ireland



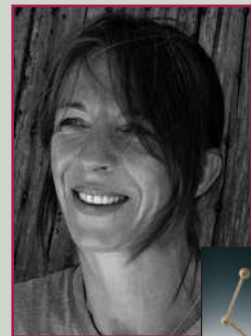
**Gary Lowe**  
UK



**Joe Laird**  
Ireland



**Joey Richardson**  
UK



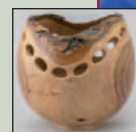
**Nathalie Groeneweg**  
Ireland



**Neil Turner**  
Australia

Throughout the event we have trade stands, a raffle and of course the instant gallery where we encourage everyone to bring up to 3 pieces of their best work to display.

Make this a date in your diary, you won't regret it! The seminar is open to AWGB members and non-members alike. We look forward to seeing you there! You can book using the booking form in this issue of *Revolutions* or you can book on the website at [awgbwoodturningseminar.co.uk](http://awgbwoodturningseminar.co.uk)



**Nikos Siragas**  
Greece

**All bookings are guaranteed and will be refunded in full if the event doesn't go ahead.**



## AWGB International Seminar 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## Booking Form

The accommodation comprises en-suite double and twin rooms, and there are a number of accessible rooms. We are pleased to offer a range of attendance options. Please select the quantity required. If you have any particular needs or requests please note them below. (All costs include VAT)

Package	Description	Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
A	Full Weekend incl Accommodation and Meals	<b>£445.00</b>		
AT	Full Weekend incl Accommodation and Meals with Twin room for <b>Two People</b>	<b>£830.00</b>		
AD	Full Weekend incl Accommodation and Meals with Double room for <b>Two People</b>	<b>£830.00</b>		
B	Full Weekend incl Lunches, No Accommodation or Evening Meals	<b>£325.00</b>		
C	Friday incl Lunch, No Evening Meal	<b>£95.00</b>		
D	Saturday incl Lunch, No Evening Meal	<b>£140.00</b>		
E	Sunday incl Lunch	<b>£115.00</b>		
F	Saturday incl Lunch & Evening Meal	<b>£160.00</b>		
G	Full weekend for second person - shared room accommodation & meals only - no access to demonstrations.	<b>£215</b>		
Total Cost				

Name (as you would like it on your badge)	
Address (inc Postcode)	
Email address	
Tel Number	
Membership Number (if applicable)	
Please advise any particular requirements (diet, access etc)	

**Data Protection:** The information you provide on this form will be used solely for dealing with you as a member of the AWGB; to inform you of AWGB news and to administer your attendance at AWGB events. By signing this form you are giving consent for the AWGB to use your data as described in our privacy policy which can be found at [www.awgb.co.uk/privacy-policy](http://www.awgb.co.uk/privacy-policy). Your data will be used and stored in accordance with this policy.

### **Payment:**

50% deposit on booking, remainder due 4 weeks prior to the seminar.

**NB** If you are unable to attend your deposit may be refunded at the discretion of the AWGB.

I have paid by cheque/bank transfer/international bank transfer (delete as appropriate). We are unable to take card payments by telephone. Card payments can be made on the website or by sending a payment through PayPal to [awgbtrading@awgb.co.uk](mailto:awgbtrading@awgb.co.uk)

Signed:

Date:

Payment by cheque payable to **AWGB Trading Ltd**, or

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# Kennet & Avon Woodturning Club

Philip Lobb

The Kennet & Avon Woodturning Club has been very busy during the last couple of months making turned pieces for club member Peter Hatherell who lives at Shaw, Wiltshire to sell at his village fete which was held at the Shaw Village Green on Saturday 4 June.

Peter gave several woodturning demonstrations throughout the day whilst fellow club member Derrick Weston assisted with the selling of turned items and answering questions from the many visitors to the stand. All proceeds from the sales of the turned work were donated to the Ukrainian Children's Appeal.



Peter Hatherell demonstrating at the lathe.



Peter & Derrick engaging with the visitors to their stand

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**30<sup>th</sup> October 2022** 10:30am - 4:00pm

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# Elm Box with Threaded Boxwood Insert

Dave "Atco" Atkinson

I had a demonstration coming up and I'd decided to do thread chasing but wanted to do something different from my normal acorn box and as I had an offcut of Elm from another project I decided a small box with threaded boxwood insert would fit the bill.

I like the band of Boxwood separating the lid from the base and if you don't want to do threads the same effect can be achieved using a push fit. I learnt to chase threads many years ago with John Berkeley and I've never looked back and John's book "All screwed up" is highly recommended if you like puzzles and thread chasing.

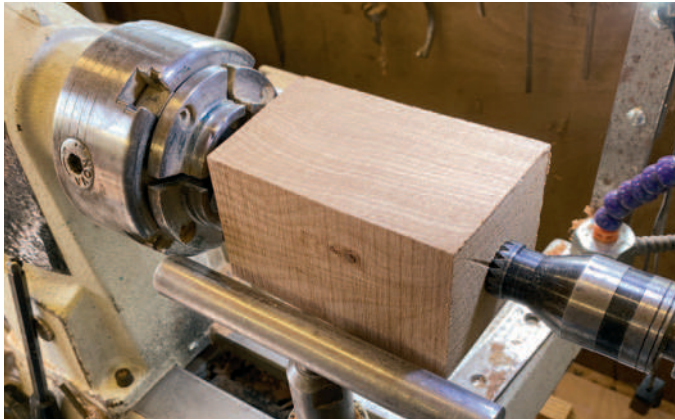


Photo 1

Photo 1 - The first step is to mount the blank between centres. I use a steb centre in the chuck and a revolving steb centre in the tailstock. I find the steb centre in the tailstock, especially reduces the amount of indentation from the centre in the timber.



Photo 2

Photo 2 - All turned to round with a spindle roughing gouge and a chucking point in each end.

Photo 3 - I've parted the lid from the base with a thin parting tool to help maintain the grain match and as the band of boxwood is the same width as the parting tool the grain match is about perfect in the finished item. Here I'm checking the sides are parallel so there will be a good fit between the insert and the box lid.

Photo 4 - I finished the inside with some decoration and sealed and polished with wax. These little circles look decorative and they also take away the occasional tool mark!



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5

Photo 5 - Here's the boxwood turned to round and mounted in the chuck and marked ready for parting off.



Photo 6



Photo 6 - I've turned the insert to fit the lid using a parting tool. It is important at this stage to get the sides parallel.

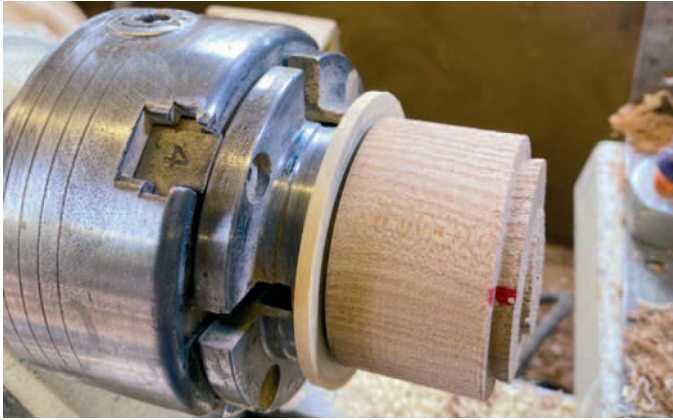


Photo 7

Photo 7 - The lid fits! It needed tweaking as it must be a sliding fit, this allows for just a little movement in case anything moves.



Photo 8

Photo 8 - The next step is to hollow out the insert with your tool of choice. I use the bottom wing of a 3/8" spindle gouge and then square up the side with a small square end scraper.



Photo 9

Photo 9 - Once satisfied it's time to chase the female thread. It is important to put a small chamfer on the front edge of both female and male threads, this helps to get the thread started. I use the "Bill Jones Armrest", my thumb holds the chaser on the armrest and my forefinger is over the end which allows me to keep the chaser in contact with the wood.



Photo 10

Photo 10 - Once I was satisfied with the thread I waxed it and then I parted off the insert and glued it into the lid as you can see here.



Photo 11

Photo 11 - The next step is to mount the remaining piece of boxwood in the chuck and prepare the tenon for the male thread. I always remove some of the inside before I chase the thread. This allows the wood to move, if it is going to before you get a good fit and the same applies to push fit boxes as well. Turn the tenon down to size and at each step put a chamfer on the front edge and touch the female thread onto it, when it's the right size you will see a witness mark from the wax on the tenon. I'm using the pencil to show this in the photo.



Photo 12

Photo 12 - Then it's just a case of chasing the male thread as you can see here.





Photo 13

Photo 13 - The next step is to put the lid back on the chuck and screw in the male insert. Then reduce the tenon to the right size.



Photo 14

Photo 14 - Mark the size of the tenon onto the base of the box, I use callipers to do this but make sure you only touch the leg of the calliper nearest to you onto the spinning wood. Then you can eyeball the other leg to make sure you have the right size.



Photo 15

Photo 15 - I hollowed out the base and then slowly made the recess to the tenon with a square scraper until I got

14

another sliding fit. Once I was satisfied I marked the position of the two parts, so it was easy to align after I had added superglue to the tenon.



Photo 16

Photo 16 - When I glued the insert into the base I left it for a while and had a cuppa to give the glue chance to cure. Then it was a simple matter to finish hollowing the base, seal and polish.



Photo 17

Photo 17 - I fitted the lid back onto the chuck and finished the box sides and base off. Once completed I parted off the lid. To finish the top I made another male thread and screwed the lid onto it whilst I finished the top.

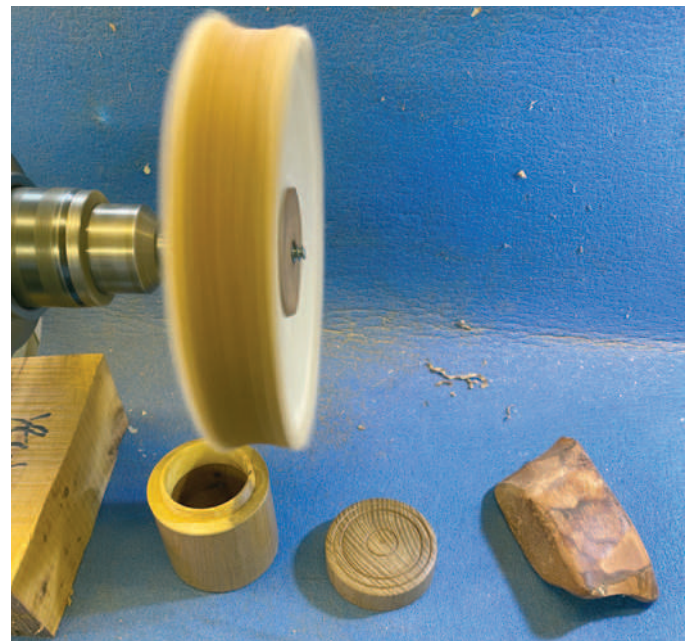


Photo 18

Photo 18 - Finally, it's time to polish. I use a buffing system using Tripoli compound first, then White Diamond (I think



that is what it is called) and then Carnauba Wax. As this box was likely to be handled I finished it with two coats of Renaissance wax. You can see here that I have my Jacobs chuck in the chuck on the lathe. I can only do this because my chuck jaws clamp down onto the morse taper of the Jacobs chuck which prevents any chance of it leaving the lathe. If you can't do that bring up your tailstock up to keep it in place, **DO NOT TAKE A CHANCE!** You can also see here a piece of camping mat I fix to the lathe bed. This is my "just in case" mat....just in case I let go while I'm buffing the piece. The mat catches it undamaged.

Here is the finished item.



Photo 19



Photo 20

And finally, when I know I am going to re-chuck a piece I always mark either side of jaw number 1 with a felt pen – you can see the marks here in red. (And yes, it did make one hell of a bang when I caught a tool on the chuck jaw many years ago), Photo 21

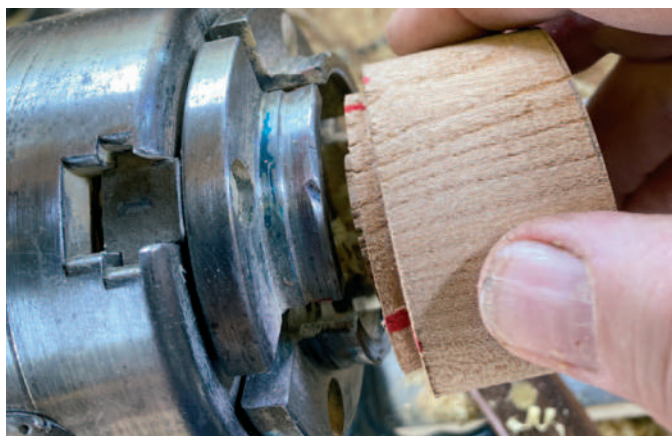


Photo 21

## John Black (1934 - 2022)



One of the founder members of The North Highland Woodturners back in 2005.

He was a great help to the club and members for many years and is sadly missed.

Our thoughts go out to his Wife and family at this sad time.

**Colin Walker**

**Association of  
Woodturners**  
of Great Britain



## Regional Representative required

**The Association of Woodturners  
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at [secretary@awgb.co.uk](mailto:secretary@awgb.co.uk)  
or telephone 07876 321 293

# Re-TURNING for charity



**The Worshipful company of Turners (WCT) has joined with the Freedom from Torture (FFT) charity.**

By recycling timber objects professional and amateur turners will raise funds to support torture survivors from Ukraine and other countries and the new young woodturners project.

**All professional & amateur woodturners are invited to contribute turnings to this charity event.**

**On-line Auction and a live event will be held in November — DATES TBA**

**CONTACT:**

Michael Maisey [michael@maisey.org.uk](mailto:michael@maisey.org.uk)  
or Les Thorne [les.thorne@noturningback.co.uk](mailto:les.thorne@noturningback.co.uk)



*(Images, from top)*

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[www.freedomfromtorture.org](http://www.freedomfromtorture.org)

# AWGB Certificate In Woodturning

Graham Pritchard

I have just completed the AWB Certificate in Woodturning held over 4 weekends at the Max Carey Woodturning Trust in Portishead, Bristol. I started woodturning in 2019 when my wife bought me an experience day with John Brookes in Bodmin, where I lived at the time. I loved the day, never having touched a lathe in the past. Decisions were made, John advised me what to buy, a shed put in the garden and I was away. I joined Bodmin Woodturners, then after a few months lockdown happened so club meetings stopped. I carried on turning, learning with YouTube, and when I was on furlough entertained by Colwin Way and chums at Axminster Tools several times a week with their live YouTube videos.

But, each time I stood in front of the lathe I still struggled to turn a piece in the way that I wanted. Each piece got smaller and smaller as I tried to get the shape and finish off the tools that I wanted, and that YouTube confidently told me that I could achieve – it looked so easy. It was frustrating, but I kept plugging away at it.

We moved 18 months ago to Wiltshire, and with Covid still rolling away in the background I still haven't joined a club. My workshop is finally finished, and semi retirement is happening, so more time for my hobby. I kept up with my membership of the AWGB and I saw an advert for the Certificate. I was tempted and my wife encouraged me to apply. I along with 7 others, were accepted, and so on Saturday 19th March I arrived, chisels and other paraphernalia in hand, to meet Jay Heryet RPT our course tutor. Stuart Bradfield our other tutor from Max Carey Woodturning Trust missed the first week due to Covid, but Jay effortlessly set us to work practising some spindle work. The next 3 weekends we have benefitted from 2 tutors, so there was always a tutor available when needed.

Over the weeks we have turned spindles, a spindle with a base (a lamp stand), plain and decorated bowls, platters and this finally a cake stand as a final assessment piece.

Speaking personally I have learned SO much. There can be no substitute for someone looking over your shoulder and suggesting 'that if you present your chisel like this it might be better'. And amazingly it was, in every case. Chisels were examined and taken to the grinder and brought back sharp.

What a difference a sharp chisel and correct presentation makes. Shavings fly off the end in ribbons. I've also been taught to move the handle to create the shapes that I want. Suddenly it all makes sense. I understand what I am doing, so instead of spending all my time at the lathe forcing the chisel to do something it couldn't do, I now know how to make it do what I want, and so I can concentrate on design for a change. I have learned how to sharpen chisels, what different grinds are all about, and when to use them. All in 8 days of tuition.

I can't thank Jay and Stuart enough, for their laid back, non critical, encouraging teaching methods, total patience at repeating the same advice until it percolated into my memory, just having Jay walk past and casually say that what I had just done was exciting, was so encouraging. Thanks are also due to AWGB and the Worshipful Company of Turners for their sponsorship.

I wonder how many people take up turning and then give up due to lack of training. These courses are amazing, my turning has moved on massively. Sadly there seems to be a lack of courses like this in my experience. I could be wrong, but I don't think so. I couldn't have managed this level of learning on a one day course, it needs continual input so that any advice can be reinforced until it becomes habit. Who knew how important sharpening tools frequently was, along with correct presentation, well not me until a few weeks ago.

If you have the opportunity to sign up for one of these courses I would encourage you to do so. It's not for rank beginners, but those with a little experience who want to improve. If there are instructors out there who could put on extended courses, then it is worth considering.



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Demonstrator changed from event published in printed version of Revolutions.



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# Platter with Ball Race Inserts

**David Ritchie**

My preference for mounting blanks, given that they are sufficiently in balance, is to mount them between centres. This enables me to see both surfaces after cleaning up, before deciding on the top or bottom of the blank and without drilling holes for a faceplate, but please take care make sure the wood is sound and not soft or heavily spalted.



On this particular blank, a stain and a fault as well as a piece missing from the edge indicated that this surface would be the top and the offending faults could be removed when excavating the bowl section. A spigot was therefore cut to allow the bowl to be reversed and mounted in the chuck jaws.



Because this blank was 500mm in diameter before shaping the spigot and foot could become one and the same, still staying within the rule of thirds, therefore a spigot of just over 130 mm was cut.



The base of the bowl was then cut, shaped and sanded up 400 grit. The final diameter was 410mm.

As you can see from the picture the chuck jaws were not over extended and a secure grip was maintained on the spigot. So pick the right chuck and jaws and work within their limits.



I mentioned this because I saw an article recently where the blank was forced into the chuck jaws and the blank came out with disastrous results at about 2000 revs. Fortunately it missed the turner but could have been very nasty, so take care always stay within the limits of your equipment.

Accuracy is paramount when turning a bowl to take inserts, so please, excuse the expression, but its no good having balls of different sizes for this creation. Whilst stainless balls are supposed to be exactly the same size they will not be 20 of these were purchased at 16mm and varied from 14+ to 17+ so it's worth checking each one.



Mark the blank at least 3mm under the ball diameter to allow for finishing and scribe both lines where you intend cutting a groove for the ball race. When doing this consider how wide your rim needs to be and where the bowl edge will start.





Using a "sharp" parting tool cut your groove to about 14mm wide and 12 deep maximum, remember you can always take more off but you cant stick it back on!



After marking where the bowl will start, continue with the groove. I prefer to use the Simon Hope 6mm swan neck carbide cutter for this although of course other makes are available. Gently tease out under the rim and down to the base until you are approx 14 mm deep at the bottom of the curve but 17 mm+ under the rim.



Shape and sand this section the balls should now sit on the rim 1 to 2 mm bigger.

**DO NOT TRY TO FORCE THE BALL IN - BE PATIENT.**



Now turn the blank into a bowl the diameter should now be approx 250 to 270mm the design and finish is a personal choice. Because I often use Sycamore for these bowls they

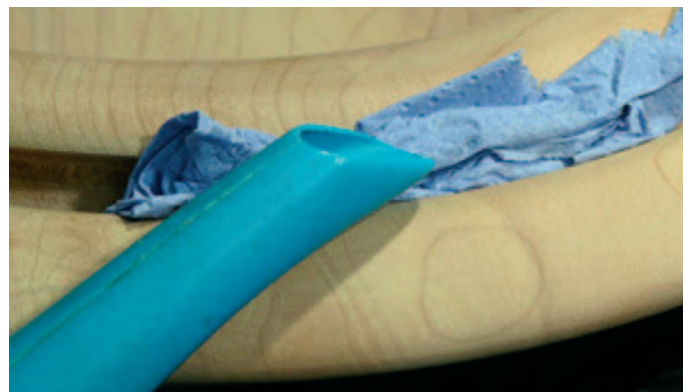
can be rather bland so an insert of some kind may be appropriate, but that's for another day.



This should leave your stainless ball sitting proud on the rim which is 1 to 1.5 mm too small any tighter than this, sand it back.



Using water and heat to shape wood has been practised since the cave man era, however in this instance all we require is for the fibres to soften and bend. Pack a section with paper towel approx. 100mm long, don't use printed paper as it will stain the wood. Carefully pour in sufficient hot water to saturate the paper and leave for approx 10 minutes.



Throughout this process the platter should be positioned so that the wet paper is at the bottom. Repeat the water process and leave for a further 20 mins.





The wood should be soft and pliable enough now to be able to push the 5 balls through the rim area, push them all through the same place as you will find some fibres bend more easily.



Turn the platter so that the balls are clear of the wetted area. By using a warm iron over a piece of brown paper quickly dries out the fibres allowing them to return to their original position.



Don't over cook this, make frequent checks and if an Iron is not available a hair dryer will do but make sure the heat is localised.



Half way through the drying process and you can just see a small indentation where the balls were pushed through, about an inch in from the left hand masking tape.

Within in minutes this disappeared completely.

The 5 stainless steel ball bearings were rolled back to their position of insert, and the wood checked for marks ...alls well.



You can use any sizes of balls for this exercise. I was first told how to do this by Tom Kittle, a member of my club and he has turned platters using balls from 5 to 40 mm.

Please do not use marbles, yes they are cheaper but never of the same size.

This platter was finished with 2 coats of oil after the balls were in place.

Have a go, it's a good conversational piece



p.s. I am aware that I have concentrated on inserting the balls and not on turning the platter, I have assumed you all know how to do that, or am I wrong?

## *Note from the editor*

Thanks to everybody who has contributed to this newsletter over the last few years.

I love to receive all your ramblings and tales, stories and tips, jokes and yarns.

Are you working on a project you can write about - how you are doing it?

Don't forget to include photographs, maybe some illustrations and any supporting materials if applicable.

This is **your** newsletter and I need your contributions please.

We pay for your "How to" and "turning tips" articles.

Send to: [editor@awgb.co.uk](mailto:editor@awgb.co.uk)  
or my address is on page 3.

Happy Turning

*sheila*



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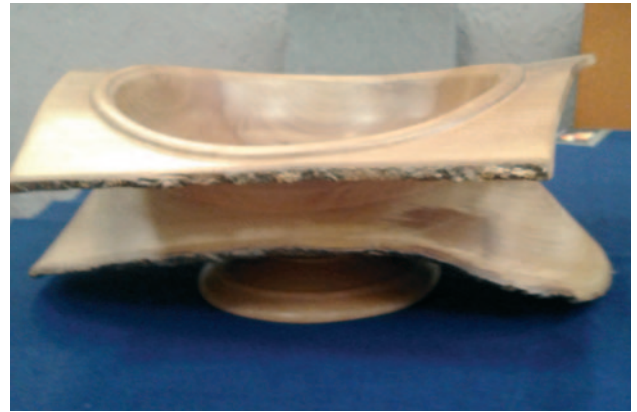
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## Alan Griffin (1940 – 2022)



It is with great sadness I report the passing of Alan on 03-06-22, a founder member of his club and the AWGB ( Membership No. 495).

Worcestershire Woodturners owe much to his dedication to the club, his knowledge, education, commitment and encouragement to less experienced turners and promoted woodturning at every opportunity. I would describe his preferences as natural, rustic, often natural edge with impeccable shapes and generally, oiled finishes.

After leaving his engineering career behind and enjoying success in motor sport as British Champion I believe, his later love was his turning, setting himself up in a local garden centre, taking on commissions making 1000's of pieces over the years.

Alan travelled all over the world including wood turning cruises, visiting places and people, often returning with a cherished piece of unusual timber in his suitcase, always legal and signed for, I must add.

He also enjoyed driving and showing his treasured original, unrestored 1300 Anglia Super until his failing eyesight meant he had to rely on friends driving him to visit shows in later years.

Alan leaves behind his Wife, two Sons and his Daughter, A truly lovely man, a real friend, a real loss, RIP Alan.

**Roger Borwell**





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