

Revolutions

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 147

December 2023



Dont forget to renew your membership!

see
page 15

www.awgb.co.uk

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

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

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Revolutions

Copy deadline for the next edition of Revolutions

1st February 2024

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

Real signs of Winter are approaching, the branches of leaves are becoming bare and we as woodturners move our minds and bodies to spending more time in our workshops, so every season has a silver lining. If you are contemplating the cold days ahead then a small diesel heater (originally for motor homes may be the solution you need, there appears to be a lot of discussion about them on the various woodturning forums, something I am considering investing in myself.

Our Regional Representatives have been busy attending shows, displaying our Travelling Gallery and dispensing information when requested. If you would like to see your Rep. at your club then don't be shy in inviting them along, their details are in every copy of Revolutions and also on our Webpage, <https://www.awgb.co.uk/awgb-executive/>.

I attended the Worshipful Company of Turners, competitions event at Pewters Hall in London in October together with our new South East Regional Representative, Richard Peers where we had the opportunity to meet and converse with the many attendees both members and non-members. The AWGB competition was won by Margaret Garrard with a pierced platter with was truly astounding. We were pleased to sign up a few new members and also to sell some copies of the book celebrating the Ray Key auction pieces that is a pictorial aid memoir of how Ray's rough turned pieces were transformed by turners around the world into stunning finished articles. If you are interested, they are now available, and would make great Christmas presents at a reduced cost of £10 available from our secretary Bryan Milham.

Whilst writing this I am in the midst of packing for a 4-day visit to the Harrogate Woodworking Show where I hope to have met many of you friends old and new. It's a great opportunity for members to speak directly to the Executive (We were a Committee but on becoming a Charity a number of years ago we became an Executive, different name but virtually same function). Attending with me will have been our Vice Chairman Roger Cutler and our Northern Region Representative Paul Otter. If you attended, I hope that you took the time to come and see us and pass on any ideas you may have for improving the Association.

I repeat every issue the need to find new blood to join the Executive and we have had some successes in this area with Richard Peers joining us as South Rep, with Roger Cutler taking more on as Vice Chairman in anticipation of becoming Chairman at the next AGM,

Terry Bray has taken over the role of Trade and Business Liaison where he will be very busy in the run up to next years Seminar. You will have hopefully noticed a rise in Social Media communication from our new PR and Media Rep Kate Kitchen who is doing a fine job. Chris Parker is filling the Volunteer role of Workshops coordinator, so if you get a place on a course, you will be hearing from him. I welcome all these newly appointed guys and girls and wish them well, however we believe that we need to have people shadowing the officers such that when it becomes time to change around, we have some people waiting in the wings, so if you feel that you could give a little time to support your Association then don't hesitate to contact us.

Following the kind responses to the sad passing of our former Chairman Dave Atkinson our editor has collated the comments and a few pictures into a memorial pamphlet which we will be forwarding to his family, thank you for your comments.



Finally, in closing I feel the need to remind you of our 2024 Seminar which is just under 12 months away, your Seminar Sub Committee is busy sorting the million and one things necessary to ensure the smooth-running next October. The early bird prices are still available and give a significant discount booking

early allows us to plan on a firmer footing. The webpage with links to booking and pricing of various packages is <https://awgbwoodturningseminar.co.uk/>

Remember you do not have to sign up for the full weekend but if you do then I assure you that there will be no regrets.

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.

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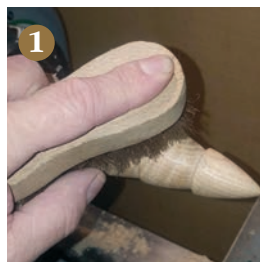
CHESTNUT

P R O D U C T S

FINISHING SCHOOL

Decorating a Christmas Tree

WITH ANDY MATTHEWS



1 Turn a Christmas Tree shape using an open grained wood such as Ash or Oak. To get the best effect from this method use a Liming Brush to open (deepen) the grain even more.



2 Stain the tree part with Green Spirit Stain using a cloth or brush, taking care to only stain the parts you want to be green. If you want to colour the 'pot' or the trunk this should be done now. Once dried, spray on a coat of sanding sealer to seal the pores of the wood, which will give a more dramatic effect later.



3 Using a cloth, apply Gilt Cream to the whole of the green area. Apply quite liberally, ensuring that it is totally covered (we've used Gold here but Silver or Copper are also very effective).



4 Wait just a couple of minutes, then using a cloth dampened with oil (Lemon Oil is great for this but most will do) wipe off the surplus Gilt Cream so that it only remains in the open grained areas.



5 Polish using WoodWax 22 or Microcrystalline Wax to seal and protect the Gilt Cream and to make the greenery shine. Now, where's the star for the top?

See our YouTube channel for more tips!
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Notice is given that the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the

ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

(A Company limited by Guarantee - Company No. 8135399)

will be held

on Sunday 14th April 2024 commencing at 1.00 pm

at

Yarnfield Park, Yarnfield, Stone, Staffordshire, ST15 0NL

Regarding Trustee positions on the Executive:

The following posts are currently being undertaken by co-opted members and unless contended will be confirmed as Trustees at the AGM: Vice Chairman, Trade and Business Liaison and South East Regional Representative.

Anyone interested in filling any of these positions or becoming a Trustee should also contact the Secretary at the e-mail address shown below.

Under Section 324 of the Companies Act 2006 and the Articles, a member is entitled to appoint another person as their proxy to exercise all, or any of their rights to attend, speak and vote at the AGM. The appointment must be in writing and notified to the Secretary before the meeting.

A Corporate member may nominate a person to attend on their behalf, in writing to the Secretary, before the meeting.

Branch Meeting

The AGM will be preceded by a meeting of Members and Branch Representatives, which will commence at 11.00 am and be chaired by Russell Gibbs.

If you are attending either or both meetings, please notify the Secretary by 15th March 2024 to ensure a meal is available for you.

The Secretary can be contacted at secretary@awgb.co.uk or on 07876 321293

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ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

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Will be held

**on Sunday 14th April 2024
commencing at 1.00 pm**

at

Yarnfield Park, Yarnfield, Stone ST15 0NL

Agenda

Apologies for absence

Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM

Matters arising from 2023 AGM minutes

Treasurer's report for the year ending
31st December 2023

Chairman's report

Announcement of the ballot for Trustees.

Vote on appointment of Accountants/Auditors

Resolutions

Any other business



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My New Saleable Turned Item

Ewan Dorward

My name is Ewan and I am 17 years old. For almost a year now I have been selling a variety of simple turned things that I can make quickly enough to be profitable, funding my other hobbies. After a while of turning the same things again and again however, I do become rather bored of them, so when a new idea is thought of this always helps to get me started again. I felt that this idea would make for an interesting article.

Inspiration this time came, as it annoyingly often does, from my mum. She remarked that one of my Olive wood ornaments was so nice we should try selling it and a few others as pendants. We decided that they were much too big and heavy to be sold this way but did think of reducing the size and making earrings instead, so I made a little test set to see how they looked, and to decide a shape. Liking them, we ordered more of the silver ear-hoops and wires online and I set to making more.

First of all, I had to saw up lots of tiny little blanks and cut crosses to drive them with, which takes lots more time than you would imagine. I did have a good supply of wood luckily, because years ago in a well-known discount store we saw something that I was rather horrified by: 2kg sacks of approx. 1.5" square blocks, of Olive wood, marketed as barbeque smoking wood. I get four earrings from one block. Needless to say, we bought a sack, but probably should have bought two! I've nearly run out.



The blanks end up roughly 1.5" long and 5/8" square. These are small enough that I get away with not rounding the edges before turning them, providing I'm careful to start with. Lengthwise, I would make them a little longer if possible because as you can see in the pictures, the pieces of waste are tiny, so small that there is almost no room to work or part it off.

I turn the blanks down to a 1/2" cylinder and then begin to shape them with a Spindle Gouge.

Next, I finesse the shape with a Skew Chisel and then sand the earring down to 320 grit abrasive, before applying a coat of Shellac Friction Polish for a warm shine.

That's the easy part done! Drilling the hole is by far the most difficult part of the whole process. When I made my test set this took ages and a new drill bit! I have since invested in a little mini chuck which is held in your ordinary 3-16mm chuck. It is capable of holding from 0-6mm and is wonderful; I'll never be wrapping Sellotape around a



tiny drill-bit and trying to carefully centre it again. Thoroughly recommend one.

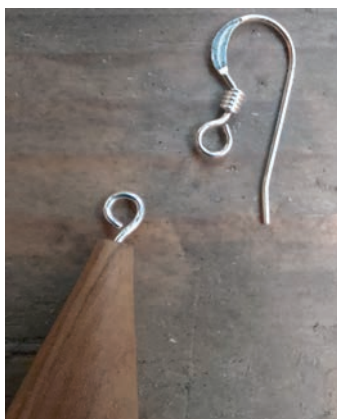
To drill the hole, I mark centres on both ends, and rest the earring in a hole in my drilling board. Before drilling the earring, I bring the bit down and get it lined up with the centre of the hole the earring will rest in, to ensure I will be drilling straight.



The bit is not quite long enough to reach all the way through so I have to drill from both ends. This is good though because it prevents me from emerging at the wrong point. This technique works perfectly well with the Olive wood but I did encounter a problem with other woods. I made a pair of earrings from a piece of Maple and proceeded to drill the holes but they simply refused to meet in the middle. I'm not exactly sure why this happens but my guess is that the drill bit is being influenced by the grain of the Maple, bending it slightly as it drills. However, Olive is very dense and has a wavy grain so who knows? If anyone does think they know, pop a wee paragraph in the next Revolutions magazine and share your knowledge :-)



Once they have a hole successfully bored in, the earrings are almost finished; all that is left to do is insert the silver wire, bend it around and attach to it the ear hook. To do this, rather than opening the wire circle on the ear hook, I twisted it to the side then slotted the earring loop on. This meant I better preserved the shape of the circle and marked it less.



I hope this has provided something slightly different to read about and inspired you to come up with a new idea and get turning again, if you feel as though you haven't done so for a while. It's also a great idea for a Christmas present – guess what will be front and centre at my Christmas sales!

**Association of
Woodturners**
of Great Britain



Discounts available to AWGB members from Corporate Members

Axminster Tools - Club only discounts

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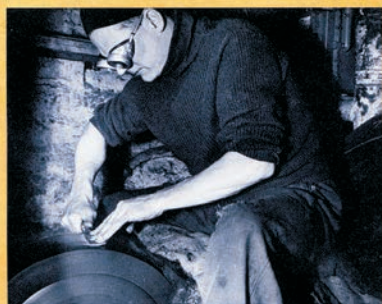
Certificate in Woodturning training course

Venue	Unit 43 Hartlepool Enterprise Centre TS24 8EY
Tutor	Dennis Wake
Dates	March 9, 10th 2024 April 13, 14th 2024 May 11, 12th 2024 June 22, 23rd 2024

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Update from the Heart of England Club in Stratford-Upon-Avon

Giles Dugmore

Following in the footsteps of recent TV programmes on pottery, woodworking, the popular Repair Shop and Bill Bailey's Master Crafters, the Heart of England club recently took part in a Heritage Crafts event at the Lifeways Wellbeing Centre in Stratford-upon-Avon at the end of the national Heritage Crafts week. The event was opened by Kate Rolfe, the serving Mayoress, with Ian Morris (Lead Organiser) and Giles Dugmore (Club Chairman).



Stratford-upon-Avon Mayoress Kate Rolfe opened the event

The objective of the event was to promote heritage crafts; the participating craftspeople demonstrated their crafts and offered "Have a Go" sessions to promote their future workshops and training activities. The crafts involved were woodturning, hand built and thrown ceramics, the use of herbs in cooking and medicine, wool processing, spinning and tatting, lace making, basket and willow weaving.

Funds were raised through the sale of donated items, tickets for the "Have a Go" sessions and the sale of tea, coffee and cakes.

Around 100 sessions were undertaken across the various crafts which was a fantastic result in terms of getting people involved across all age groups. Overall attendance was around a couple of hundred people from individuals to family groups.

The club was represented over the weekend by Steve Gordon (AWGB Development and Workshop Officer), Chris Jackson (previous club Chairman), Giles Dugmore (present club



Steve Gordon, Chris Jackson and Giles Dugmore ready for action.

Chairman) and a visit from club Treasurer Tony Chitty and Vice Chairman Roger Barber with their wives.

The demonstrations covered apples, jewellery boxes and mushrooms which led into the "Have a Go" sessions; these focussed on roughing, coves and beads and inevitably onto mushrooms!

One demonstrator lathe was a new loan from the AWGB which is very welcome and will allow the club more scope for future activities including full day hands-on sessions and community outreach work. We would like to thank the AWGB for this loan.

The club had a table with donations from club members including Chris Jackson, Geoff Davis and Terry Hill. We also had a substantial amount from Dave Drummond whose pieces proved particularly popular and a lot of interest was shown in his characterful clocks shown in the picture which were both sold.



Clocks by Dave Drummond

Apart from the activities, many new connections were made which will lead to future charity and well-being activities across the member organisations and at the Lifeways Centre, specifically with service personnel and children with autism, which Steve will be following up on.

The Lifeways Centre also has a disused pole lathe so we hope to obtain help in renovating the lathe and getting members trained in its use so that we can use it for demonstrations and starter sessions as well as wellbeing sessions for the Lifeways Centre.

The total raised is being finalised but should reach around £900 which will go to The Stratford Youth Collective and The Lifeways Centre. The Stratford Youth Collective is an exciting new charity instigated by the Mayoress Kate Rolfe and brings together the local charities New Meaning Warwickshire, Escape Arts, Lifespace, iLeap and Warwickshire Pride.

As the Heritage Crafts Organisation states, from blacksmithing to basketry, from weaving to woodturning, we have an incredible range of heritage craft skills in the UK and some of the best craftspeople in the world.

The most recent edition of the Heritage Crafts Red List of Endangered Crafts has been released and although woodturning may be in good health, the other categories range from extinct (cricket ball making) to critically endangered (bell founding) and currently viable (blacksmithing).

In addition to this event, the club is working with Stratford-upon-Avon churches to help them with their woodturning needs. We have a stock of downed cedar branches from a tree at Holy Trinity Church, grown from a seed from the Garden of Gethsemane. We are turning this into pieces for sale at The Holy Trinity Church shop, Shakespeare's resting place. We are also turning small plugs for the Christmas candlestick holders at St Gregory's and we have designed and built a wooden Christmas tree for entry into the United Reform Church Christmas Tree Festival this December.

This year we hosted the AWGB AGM at our previous location and would welcome any future visits to our new location in Bearley Village Hall where we meet on the second Friday of each month. We have recently been visited by Barrie Fisher, the Midlands Rep, and we appreciate his help and support; we look forward to working with the AWGB in the future.

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Abrasives specialist and sanding equipment supplier.



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Because Christmas isn't always white

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The 18th International Woodturning Seminar will take place at **Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre**

Stone Staffordshire ST15 0NL

from 4-6 October 2024

The event runs from Friday lunchtime to Sunday afternoon



We have 10 amazing International Turners showing their skills and passing on their experiences and knowledge, freely and with passion.



Rolly Munro
New Zealand



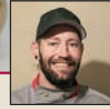
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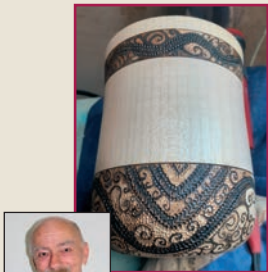
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David O'Neill
Ireland



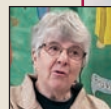
Neil Joynt
New Zealand



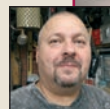
Yann Marot
France



Margaret Garrard
UK



Mick Hanbury
UK



Simon Hope
UK



The Seminar aims to offer something to all levels of turners, from beginner to expert.

The programme is guaranteed to inspire, educate and entertain!

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.

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We look forward to seeing you there! You can book on the website at

awgbwoodturningseminar.co.uk

The early bird rate is open until the 31st March 2024

	Price	Early Bird price
A Full weekend including accommodation & meals	£490	£460
AT Full weekend incl accom. & meals with twin room for two people	£900	£840
AD Full weekend incl accom. & meals with double room for two people	£900	£840
B Full weekend incl lunches. No accommodation or evening meals	£355	£335
C Friday including lunch. No evening meal	£105	£100
D Saturday including lunch. No evening meal	£155	£145
E Sunday including lunch	£115	£105
F Saturday including lunch & evening meal	£170	£160
G Full weekend accom & meals only - no access to demonstrations	£235	£220

Keep an eye on the website & Facebook for more information.

Booking enquiries contact Jeff Belcher 07798 746296 • seminar@awgb.co.uk

You may pay a 50% deposit and the balance 4 weeks before the Seminar or you can pay in full.

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

AWGB International Seminar 4th to 6th October 2024

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)

Early Bird Discount applies if you pay 50% before 31 March 2024.

Package	Description	Cost	Early Bird Cost	Quantity	Total Cost
A	Full Weekend incl Accommodation and Meals	£490.00	£460.00		
AT	Full Weekend incl Accommodation and Meals with Twin room for Two People	£900.00	£840.00		
AD	Full Weekend incl Accommodation and Meals with Double room for Two People	£900.00	£840.00		
B	Full Weekend incl Lunches, No Accommodation or Evening Meals	£355.00	£335.00		
C	Friday incl Lunch, No Evening Meal	£105.00	£100.00		
D	Saturday incl Lunch, No Evening Meal	£155.00	£145.00		
E	Sunday incl Lunch	£115.00	£105.00		
F	Saturday incl Lunch & Evening Meal	£170.00	£160.00		
G	Full weekend for second person - shared room accommodation & meals only - no access to demonstrations.	£235.00	£220.00		
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. Your data will be used and stored in accordance with this policy.

Payment:

Early Bird: 50% deposit on booking before 31 March 2024, remainder due 4 weeks prior to the seminar

Non-Early Bird: 50% deposit on booking after 31 March 2024, 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

Signed:

Date:

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

Bank transfer to sort code 09-01-28, Account number 41132390 (use family name/2024 as reference) or

From overseas IBAN: GB88ABBY09012841132390 (use family name/2024 as reference)

Please send this form (with cheque if appropriate) to: Jeff Belcher Oak House, Hanley Castle, Worcester WR8 0BJ

Tel: 07798 746296 Email: seminar@awgb.co.uk

The Irish Woodturners 40th Anniversary and Seminar Turning Turns 40.

Roger Cutler

In October I had the honour of representing the AWGB at the 40th Anniversary Seminar of the Irish Woodturners Guild held in Monaghan.

Founded in March 1983 the IWG is the oldest woodturning guild in the world and to celebrate this anniversary the IWG laid on some interesting events.

The Seminar was attended by many of the surviving founders and early members of the Guild and during the Seminar a special panel was assembled to remember the beginnings and to explain the growth of the Guild through the years.



From L-R Josua Friend (Managing Editor American Woodturner), Mike Summerer (President AAW), Roger Cutler (Vice Chair AWGB), Emmet Kane (President IWG)

The Ash Cube Project.

As part of the "Turning Turns 40" celebrations and to highlight the serious nature of Ash die-back, prevalent throughout Ireland, Guild members were given a 6" cube of Ash and invited to create a turned piece. These pieces were exhibited during the Seminar and from these pieces 40 of them will be chosen to become a travelling exhibition during 2024. The exhibition will also include some selected pieces and memorabilia of the IWG over the years. - We hope to have the exhibition with us during our own Seminar at Yarnfield in October next year.



The Turning Turns 40 Ash Challenge

The Demonstrators, Gallery & Trade Area

Obviously with any Woodturning Seminar the main attractions are the demonstrations and this year the IWG had an interesting selection of demonstrators. We had: Barbara Dill from the States, exploring multi-axis turning. Ulf Jansson from Sweden revealing the mysteries of the ring tool and also looking at the interaction between turned objects and

trigonometric functions! From the UK we were educated into the art of Kintsugi by Phil Irons who also explained and demonstrated his process on how to create the perfect hollow form, breaking it down into quite simple steps. Also, from the UK we had Richard Findley taking us through spindle turning with a barley twist, a box with an alternative ivory insert and a bowl from a board. The final, and home grown, demonstrator was Joe Laird with a square bowl, an 8-pointed star and the building of a small, laminated bowl.



Phil Irons



An example of Kintsugi

All of the demonstrators were excellent in their field and well worth going to see.



Richard Findley

The Trade Stand area, though small, covered all the essential needs of the woodturner. We had Emma Cook, Simon Hope, The Carpentry Store, The Wood Shed and The Hut – the final three probably more well known to the Irish turners.

As well as the Ash Cube Challenge and the Members Gallery there was also the Chapter Challenge where Chapters were



Joe Laird

asked to turn a lathe, together with tools and equipment – imagination being the only limit! These entries were truly magnificent.

Outreach

Whilst at the Seminar I took the opportunity to have discussions with the American Association of Woodturners with a view to fostering a closer relationship between our two associations. At the Seminar were Mike Summerer the President the AAW, Joshua Friend, Managing Editor of the American Woodturner Magazine and Sally Burnett Executive Board Member. We had an interesting and informative meeting exploring how, as two individual associations, we can learn from each other.

My thanks to Emmet Kane (President of the IWG), Imelda Connolly (Chair of the IWG) and to all IWG Executive Committee for their hospitality over the weekend, certainly the "craic" was fun, entertaining and enjoyable – the demonstrations inspiring and educational.

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(details on page 3)

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Eden Valley Woodturners Open Day

Pete Osborn (Chairman)

Eden Valley Woodturners is based in the Eden Valley in Cumbria. This is on the eastern side of Cumbria; the club usually meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at Brampton Village Hall, near Appleby. Most members live in the Penrith, Appleby and Kirkby Stephen areas or local villages.

The club was set up just over 20 years ago by a few woodturners from the Appleby area who thought there might be enough demand for one. It quickly got established with the help of a grant and for many years ran with a membership of between 20 and 30. Like most clubs, there was a balance of 'Hands On' nights and demonstrations with the finances being taken into consideration. We have had a good number of demonstrations by well-known experienced turners and we have also been lucky enough to have a number of members and local turners who have demonstrated for us.

When Covid disrupted the whole country we were forced to close, like all other clubs. Just as things were beginning to get back to normal there was a big outbreak in the Appleby area and we were forced to delay the restart until early in 2022. Understandably, the attendance numbers were initially low but we got going again and eventually returned to a full programme. We found that for various reasons some members did not return but we did have new members starting to join. Of course, all the costs had to be met and then prices started rising rapidly, from hall rental to demonstrators' fees and travelling expenses.

At the AGM in January, one member suggested that we hold an 'Open Day'. We have found at other events that we have often met people who own lathes but didn't even know that there was a local club. The 'Open Day' was planned for a Saturday in September. Our Village Hall is in a small village in the countryside, so we decided that it would not be a good venue. One of our Committee Members has contacts with an organisation called Eden Arts, who operate in the old Penrith Fire Station. They agreed to let us use the building for our Open Day. We then had a big advertising campaign with posters in various places in the 3 towns and on village noticeboards, adverts in the local paper and information on local radio.



One of the Sales Tables



John Parker helping a visitor with the Timber Identification Quiz

The day arrived and we had a sales table as well as a display table with members' prized turnings which were not for sale. We had a timber identification quiz, a Tombola and a table with books and magazines etc. We also had 3 lathes set up for demonstrations and there were members demonstrating all day. Of course, there were plenty of club members around all day to talk to visitors. The number of people that came was very pleasing and the interest that was shown made the whole thing worthwhile. Time alone will tell, but if the people who showed genuine interest all turn up, we may possibly have up to 10 new members. Anyone who showed interest was given a business card with the club's details and website address.

We always welcome visitors to our meetings and have had woodturners from elsewhere come along when they have been holidaying in the area.

Our programme can always be found on our website: www.edenvalleywoodturn.wixsite.com/edenvalleywoodturner



Dave Henderson discussing the Club with an interested visitor



One of the members' display tables

To all members

You may or not be aware that at the AGM held On 29 April, the Executive announced that this year would see membership fees being increased for the first time since 2016. I know that this rise of £3 may not be welcome, however like everyone else we have seen the cost of providing benefits to members rise.

The executive when making this decision have tried as hard as possible to keep the rise to a bare minimum, and we will continue to work to ensure that membership fees are kept as low as possible.

I hope that you will continue to support the AWGB.

John Peachey Membership Secretary
On behalf of the executive

A Quick Guide to renewing your membership for 2024.

Here is a quick guide for individual members renewing this year. If you renew through a club please speak to your membership secretary.

Check your current membership card. If it doesn't say 2024 then you need to renew now, using one of the following methods.

Juniors – If you are under 22 on 1st January 2024 then simply send an email to membership@awgb.co.uk with renew as the title, your membership number, and name

By Cheque

Write your membership number on the back and post it to the membership secretary.

You do not need to complete a form or any other paperwork. See page 3 for the address.

Make your cheque payable to 'AWGB'

Bank Transfer/ Standing Order

Check the amount of your standing order is £21 for single members £32 for family membership. Please contact your bank to amend your standing order.

In the payment reference quote your membership number and name eg 12345 /Smith nothing else.

You do not need to complete a form or any other paperwork.

Bank account Santander, Business Account
Sort Code : 09-01-28,
Account Number : 32277785,
Account name:
The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Via the website

Complete the on-line form in full – please don't forget the Data protection section.

Complete the payment screen – you do not need a Paypal Account to use this facility.

If you have previously completed a Gift Aid Declaration then you do not need to do so again. Your letter with your new membership card will tell you whether you have signed a Gift Aid Declaration.

If you no longer pay Income tax or Capital Gains tax then please email me to cancel you Gift Aid.

Any queries please to John Peachey the Membership Secretary – membership@awgb.co.uk



Development and Training

Young Turners Training Programme

Date	Topic/Technique		Venue
20th April 2024	Workshop Health & Safety with Basic Woodturning Skills	Dennis Wake	Unit 43 Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, ST24 8EY
18th May 2024	Workshop Health & Safety with Basic Woodturning Skills	Dennis Wake	Unit 43 Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, ST24 8EY

Applications are invited for places by 12-21 year old Young Turners on 'Young Turners Training days'

**For application forms and information visit... www.awgb.co.uk
Or contact... Ron Caddy - 07903 313065 e-mail youthtraining@awgb.co.uk**

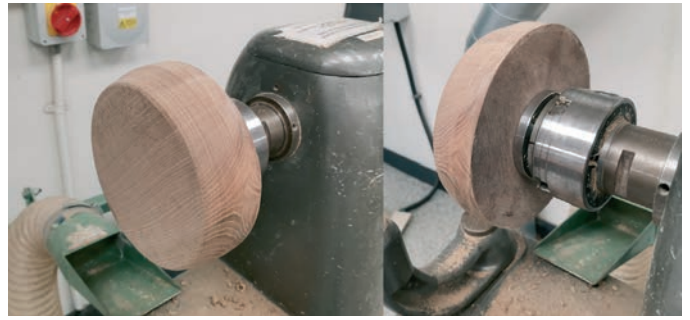
Elm Bowl

Harry Rodwell

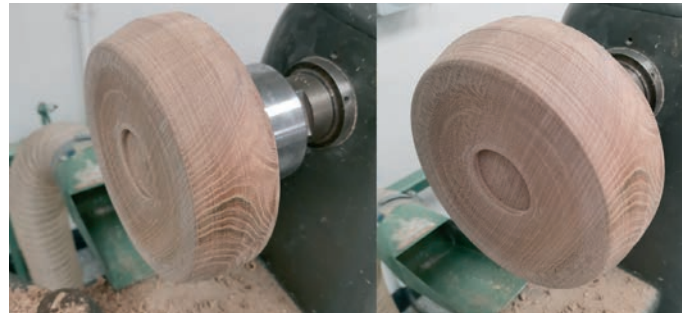
Hello, I am currently a 17-year-old sixth form student. I embarked on this project independently at my school, where I use their Union Graduate lathe, a valuable resource for my woodworking endeavours. When I initially conceptualised this project, I aimed to create a piece that exuded simplicity and elegance, with a deliberate avoidance of sharp edges. My vision for the bowl was to achieve a wide, shallow shape reminiscent of a dish. Fortunately, I had an Elm bowl blank readily available, which I acquired for a very reasonable price - less than £9 - from a local woodworking supply shop.



1. This is the blank in question; as I mentioned earlier, I bought it from a local woodturning supply store, primarily drawn by its budget-friendly price tag. Initially, in its pristine, untouched state, this blank might not have stood out as an exciting choice. Its surface appeared rather plain, and the grain patterns were not immediately discernible, giving it a somewhat unassuming and simple appearance. However, as you will soon see it has more character than appears on the surface.

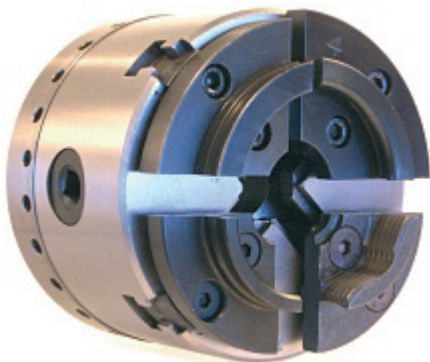


2. Once I had the Elm blank on the faceplate, I had to get it centered to start the shaping; I always take care at this stage as although the bowl is still in its rough form, I find the fact that the blank is still somewhat off-center increases the chance of a catch or something going wrong, so I always go very slowly when rounding off, even though it is tempting to press hard and get down to the point. When I had it rounded and centered I decided on a shape; as I said before I wanted it to be fairly simplistic so I decided on an "oval" type shape, narrowing at both the top and bottom of the bowl to create that dish effect.



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3. Before I turned the piece over to start hollowing out the inside, I created an attachment point on the base of the bowl so it could be securely gripped in the chuck in expanding mode. I usually have to leave the recess in the end product but I find that it doesn't look too bad out of the options I have available, and it helps to keep the bowl sitting flat. However if I had equipment such as Cole jaws or a vacuum chuck to remove this attachment point at the end of my process then I would take it off. That said, I also like the fact that if I don't like something in particular about the finished product such as the surface finish I still have the recess to put the piece back on the lathe and re-finish it.



4. This is the bowl once I had the inside hollowed out. The bowl is fairly shallow but I didn't want it much deeper as it was getting close to the base. It is more "bowl-like" than "dish-like", but I am happy with how it came out: the inside edge protruded past the top edge which I like, as it gives the bowl a spherical look and makes it much nicer to hold and look at. This is prior to final finishing but I believe I had sanded it up to 400 grit at this point.



5. This is the bowl once I had finished it, sanding up to 800 grit and then finished with Danish Oil. Once it had dried it had a very nice texture and was nice to hold. I forgot to finish the underside to the same level of finish but it was adequate for me and the topside and inside was my main focus.



6. This is the finished dried product. I like the way it looks; it is less complex and colourful than some of my other bowls but I think this adds to its simplicity and minimalistic look.

Things I would change if I were to do it again:

1. There is a slight divot in the center which you can see if you look very closely; I wish I had made the bottom of the bowl a flat surface but I was worried about lathing more when I only had a thin amount of material left.

2. I would maybe try and obtain Cole jaws or a vacuum chuck to remove the attachment point at the base.



Volunteers required!

Temporary Assistant to the Treasurer

while he undergoes a surgical procedure.

Vice Chairman

as the current VC will move up to the Chairman position at the next AGM

Development Officer

To develop ideas to a point that they can be presented to the committee to be voted on and to look for new venues for training, one day workshops, youth training venues and to organise the next years workshops.

It is also the responsibility of the development officer to submit relevant costings to the treasurer for budget use.

Anyone interested in the positions or just helping out should contact the Secretary for further details.

Contact Bryan Milham (Secretary)
at secretary@awgb.co.uk
or telephone 07876 321 293

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Silver Jubilee

Peter Knapman

In 2023 the Trafford and District Woodcraft Club celebrated the 25th anniversary of its foundation. Trafford is a borough in the south of Greater Manchester and is famous for its cricket and football grounds. In November 1998 the woodcraft club had its first meeting with about half a dozen interested people attending in response to an article in the local newspaper. All of these founder members were men (mostly middle aged) from South Manchester or North Cheshire.

The club began with a few tools and just one portable lathe belonging to a member, in a classroom of a local school as someone knew the Headteacher. She was happy to provide the room in return for members helping the school with odd carpentry and joinery tasks which were too small to invite a professional to do. Soon the group moved into the woodwork shop in the school where there was equipment such as a band saw available for use. In addition to the equipment provided by the school the club was able to buy some lathes and tools through a grant from the Millennium Fund associated with the National Lottery. This was matched with a similar amount from Trafford Council.

Now as we enter our 26th year we have a membership of almost 40 men and women of all ages. Meetings are held each Tuesday evening in a local community centre. Although there are a small number of other woodcraft clubs in Greater Manchester and North Cheshire we do not know of any which meet weekly as we do. On the first Tuesday of each month (apart from December and January) we have a demonstrator, (usually a well-known professional), who introduces us to new ideas and techniques. Recently we have had visits by Emma Cook, Dave Atkinson and Chris Fisher (The Blind Woodturner). We also have had demonstrations of pyrography, spoon carving, basket-work and pole-turning green wood. Guests are welcome to attend these demo's on payment of a small fee. The view of what is happening is enhanced by having three cameras which display a close up of the action on a large screen behind the demonstrator. Sometimes one of our own members will do the demonstration free of charge and this helps with club finances. Indeed some other nearby clubs found that membership drastically reduced during the Covid lockdowns and the net income was now insufficient to pay for as many professional demonstrators. This led to a new scheme whereby we have co-operated with three other clubs in holding joint demonstrations and taking it in turn to act as hosts. We now get four demo's for the price of one.

Often the demonstrator or a visitor is invited to judge our monthly competition. There are no specific criteria for the judges - they might choose to assess quality of craftsmanship, or originality or complexity or most decorative or just what they 'like' best. There are no prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd, but it is a useful opportunity for all members to see what others are creating in their own time at home. It is a very good source of ideas. There are three classes – turning, carving and general woodcraft and often there will be a theme for the month e.g. a bud vase, fruit, a box with a finial, something with decoration, something for Christmas, something smaller than a 3" cube. Occasionally there is no theme and members are invited to submit their favourite

creation. This is the case for the competition on the last meeting of the year when we have a Christmas party instead of a demonstration. The monthly raffle to raise funds is also held on the demo' evenings.

On the other three evenings in the month the members have access to a large range of equipment (a band saw, a table saw, a planer, a pillar drill, sharpening systems, seven lathes and a multitude of turning tools) to do their own turning, carving, whittling, pyrography etc.

Beginners are given help by the more experienced members and as is the case with other craft clubs there are many members who come just for the chat over tea and biscuits.

We set up a large stall at many local craft fairs and summer festivals to sell what we have made and to attract new members by having a working lathe in operation. Members give 10% of their takings to club funds to help pay for the stall expenses. One long standing member made dozens of exquisite rocking horses during his lifetime and gave these to local charities to raise funds by auction. A new venture is a pop-up stall once a month in a nearby suburb. Prospective members sometimes find us through our website.



Each month we publish an on-line newsletter which contains short articles by members and gives information about future demonstrators, competition results and dates for external events. It also includes a detailed illustrated account of the previous month's demo' so that those who wish to attempt that project have something other than memory to act as a guide. This newsletter proved to be an excellent way of keeping contact between members during the long break due to Covid. In place of the demo' and competition reports there were wood based quizzes and accounts of what people were doing to fill in the days under the tight restrictions. During this period the annual fee was suspended.

Sadly many of the founding members have now passed but new enthusiastic novices arrive regularly. The club is now thriving with healthy accumulated funds and is looking forward to its Golden Jubilee in 25 years time.



A woodturners kebab!

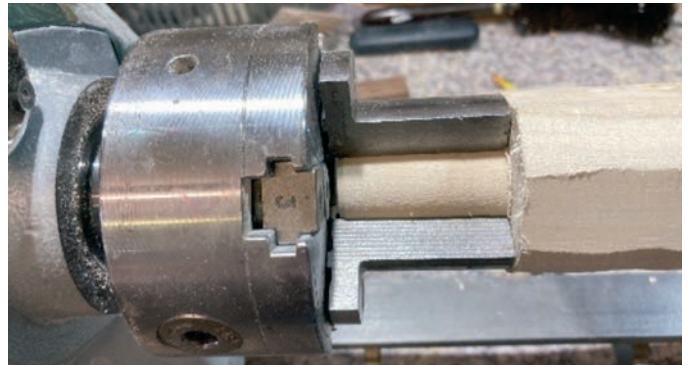
Ron Davis

As a woodturner, I occasionally get some offbeat requests. This one came from someone I had worked with before, and all I had was this photograph.

Not the clearest photo, but someone wanted a replica of the display unit and I was asked to do the turning. I quoted for the job and suggested Poplar for the job. A softish wood, sometimes called Cottonwood.

The customer approved the job and the wood was bought and prepared for me.

It was a bit daunting when I got the wood, and I realised what I had to do, convert this to sixteen wooden kebabs! Plus, feet and finals.



I then made use of the supplied rod. I have long used a simple jig for marking out with a rod of this length, I turned a piece of wood to fit the banjo and fitted it to a cross piece. I can then attach the rod to this and leave both hands free for marking out. Please note that this is NOT a tool rest and you should use nothing but a pencil on it.



I then went in with a 3mm parting tool to just a bit (woodturners measurement, not an engineer's!) larger than the finished depth and repeated this along the blank.



I made a template by drilling a hole in a piece of scrap hardboard, the same diameter as the finished sphere (globe, ball, bobble, round bit? You choose!) after a while I made another, you can work out why for yourself.



Fortunately, I also got the rods and one part of the job was done for me.

I started by roughing down the blank, just enough to take the corners off, and then turned a tenon on one end. Because I needed to drill a 15mm by 50 mm hole I had to consider mounting the blank, and I decided to use my pen jaws, not a conventional way to work, but hey it did the job! By carefully putting the centre point of my Forstner bit in the point left by the drive centre I was able to drill an accurate hole.





I took this back to the firm which took on the job and they assembled it, and sent me this photo, they were happy with the work and as a bonus filled my car with some lovely off cuts.

I followed this along to the end, ten spheres and two semi spheres, then I turned the tenon which will fit in the next 'kebab'. The gap is to allow a 25mm board for the shelves.

I tried using Spindle Gouges at first, but the nature of Poplar lent itself to a scraper, which I found much the easiest way, with light sanding I got a smooth finish.



That's one done and fifteen more to do!



Note from the editor ... hopefully somebody else will comment!

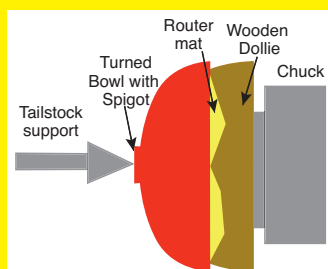
To Ewan

Yes the drill bit will follow the grain, hence the holes not lining up. The timbers' summer and winter growth rings have different densities.

Can you drill the holes whilst the timber is still square stock and before you turn it? It makes the drilling easier, especially when trying to line the hole up from each end.

To Harry

If you don't have Cole jaws, a vacuum chuck or a Longworth chuck (which you can make, free instructions available online) you can use a scrap piece of timber to turn a 'dollie'. This is held in your chuck with a



faceplate ring or a spigot, and using a piece of router mat or similar, you can place your bowl on it, using the tailstock to give some support and turn away, **carefully and gently** the foot on your bowl, leaving a small stub which you can remove with a sharp chisel and then sand. It does work better if you have a spigot on the bowl in the first place rather than a recess. The spigot is less to turn away, taking the recess away will require you changing the external shape of your bowl quite considerably.

Everybody, 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 or my address is on page 3

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

sheila



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Member Training Workshops

Gary Rance

Wendover, Buckinghamshire

8th March 2024

Beginner/Intermediate
Small Plate, Apple & Pear

Simon Hope

Great Bromley, Essex

9th April 2024

Intermediate
Thread Chasing

Darren Crisp

Shaws Burn Woodturning Studio, Larkhall

18th May 2024

Beginner/Intermediate
Improving Tool Techniques

Les Thorne

The Woodturning Shop, Four Marks. Hants

18th May 2024

Beginner
Basic Bowl

Dennis Wake

Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, County Durham

1st June 2024

Intermediate
Table Lamp

Kate Kitchen

Tingley, Wakefield

11th July 2024

Beginner/Intermediate
Novelty Animals

Dennis Wake

Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, County Durham

7th September 2024

Intermediate
Platter

Colwin Way

Crow Valley Woodturners, The Highway, Croesyceiliog, Wales

27th September 2024

Intermediate/Advanced
German Nut Cracker

These workshops are subject to restrictions at the time and unfortunately may need to be cancelled at short notice. 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 - email at development@awgb.co.uk.

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

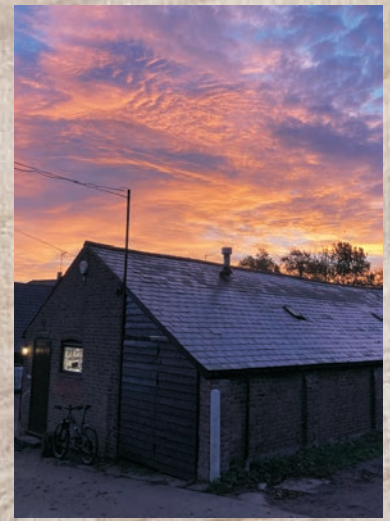
To apply - visit the AWGB website: www.awgb.co.uk and download an application form and send to the coordinator shown on the form. Or complete a 'Training Workshop Application' web form. Only fully completed application forms will be considered.

Stiles & Bates

The Woodturning People

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

**After 27 years of hard work and fun,
we have decided to cease trading
from Upper Farm from March 2024**



From April 2024 Dalmann UK will take over our timber/woodturning blanks business. We first started trading with Dalmann UK in 2014 and they have become almost our sole supplier of quality 'Exotic' timber and blanks.

We know they share our no-quibble attention to detail and service, so we are delighted that our legacy will continue.

From November 2023 we will be offering online and in the shop, discounts on ALL items except woodturning blanks which will remain at 2022/23 prices.

Uniquely among our 'Exotics', Aussia burrs, Banksia Pods, Indian Ebony and Olivewood will be discounted too. ALL machines will be at Clearance Prices.

Prices and clearance prices are based on those we published in January 2023

Our main reason for calling it a day is that with the huge surge in customers we now have, we are finding it impossible to find planks or round timber stocks of the quantity, quality and variety we need to keep up with an ever increasing demand and justify our annual catalogue.

The same applies to accessories and machines across the range.

Opening in September 1996, it has been hard work and a lot of fun. We have made numerous friends among our customers and will miss their friendship, the yacking and banter, so we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your business, your trust in our advice and your loyalty to us over the years.

The team we have here is the best we have ever had, running a very smooth operation at the busiest times and keeping the place spruced up during the lulls.

We will miss them too.

Please check out the Home page of our website:

www.stilesandbates.co.uk

**For details of discounts from 15% to 40%
in our shop and online.**

**Additionally, for callers to our shop at Upper Farm,
discounts on all planks, oak burrs and oak beams.**

Upper Farm, Church Hill, Sutton,
Dover, Kent, UK. CT15 5DF UK
Tel: 01304 366 360
sales@stilesandbates.co.uk



<https://www.dalmannuk.com>

