



Editor's and Chairman's Comments

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Well the New Year has seen some changes already, our chairman Jeff Hyams has stepped down & I have taken over - so plenty to do, but the good news is that we have formed a planning committee to look after all the events and the programme for 2019. A big thanks to you Jeff, for all the hard work since 2012. In brief we are planning more craft fairs which raised over £600 for the club this year. There will be a summer BBQ and other social events.

The alternate evenings will be more structured with social chat & introductions for new members from 7.30 - 8.00 followed by a short talk or demo from one of our members. Every alternate evening will have at least 3 lathes available for new and seasoned members alike. Advice from experienced members will always be on hand. We now have an extensive library of books on turning available, at no charge to members.

Dates for your diary

At the club :- February 20th demo : Jason Smith
 March 20th - Open evening
 April - 17th - Tony Walton

Development and training workshop
 with Phil Irons 23 February / Bracknell - apply to AWGB via club
 Midlands Woodworking Show

Volunteer needed

I could do with a volunteer to help out with publicity, particularly in the area of social media, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter. Also to act as sub-editor of this Newsletter to find and write up interesting topics - it is a lot of work single handed ... anybody willing ?

Do you get REVOLUTIONS the AWGB Newsletter, if so look at page 21 of the December edition, Ghenadi Vasiliev has a mention as Bursary winner 2017

Website

www.northlondonwoodturners.co.uk
Contact me for the PASSWORD to access members page
 Lots of interesting stuff on it - take a look

Please send me your images, ideas, experiences - good & bad, designs, tools bought & sold, wood locations - anything that might interest members.

Profile - Jeff Hyams



Its only fitting that this profile is about Jeff Hyams, our retiring chairman, who has worked hard and with dedication over the last 6 years. He is an experienced turner making lovely boxes and comparatively small items. However larger items can be accommodated by working “off the end of the lathe “ (see image). His turning has always been to enhance and show off the natural wood. Why paint or decorate what is already a beautiful surface - the natural wood. His father was a furniture manufacturer, and wood has always been in his blood. His brother was also in the business and gave samples of exotic woods to

Jeff over a period of 30 years. Wood was given to the firm by suppliers in a bid to buy off them. Some of this large collection is still in Jeff’s shed. If you need a piece of Lignum Vitae or Boxwood or Rosewood, chances are Jeff would have it.

Jeff got into turning just after his 65th birthday when he and a group of friends were on holiday in Italy. As a gift they bought him a subscription to Woodworker. On the 1st



Turning “off the end”



Lidded Boxes

copy he received there was an advert from Record Power for wood lathes. He thought “right, I’ll have a go at that” and ordered a lathe, the same one he still has today. He also set about looking for some tuition and went on a course in January 2009 in the West Country, and then looked around for a local club. He found North London Woodturners based in Muswell Hill where he met Jeremy Eckstein & Dave Bourne.

Brian Tidmarsh was already there, and was running the club with Jeremy as chair. In due course Jeremy retired and Jeff took over. Jeff formed the first committee together with Brian, Terry Vaughan, Jonathan Brostoff, Ian Isreal & the late and sadly missed Monty Brill.



Threaded Box

Jeff worked in Lucas group in computers on the Leo 3 mainframe and coincidentally alongside Brian Tidmarsh who was also at CAV, but in a different division. At the same time he started a travel company together with two friends which sold Italian villa holidays. It grew quickly.



Olive Dish

Through the years and as a result of the Gulf war he ended up working with a specialised health company called Thermalia Travel, sending customers all over Europe for spa treatments. This, combined with his own clients' travel demands proved to be a successful enterprise.

It also specialized in the ethnic flight market ferrying clients to Kosovo and ex Yugoslavia after the war was over to repatriate families. Jeff had worked in the travel business for over 30 years before B.A. started to squeeze their profits, and in 2008, during the first crash of the new century, travel had slumped. It was decided to wind up the company but not before everyone was paid off - no-one suffered any loss



14" Diameter base in ply

He retired, which left him free to pursue his interest in the natural world and wood.

Asked whom he admired most in the wood turning world he said Bill Jones (now deceased) and his pupil John Berklay in thread turning and turning fine objects in exotic materials



Plywood Lamp standard

such as ivory from which they both made chess pieces. It was his interest in fine turning that prompted him to join the S.O.T [Society of Ornamental Turners] two years ago. Jeff has been married for 45 years with two daughters, one a freelance photographer & the other working in the city.



Bill Jones - Ivory turner

Demonstration

Paul Howard

November 21st 2018

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TqESfO8EBY>



Start of Sphere turning



Indexing Head to create eyes



Finished Owl

Paul Howard, a well known turner, demonstrated how to turn a sphere and how to subsequently make an owl by indexing a router to create the large eyes . The above You Tube Video gives a full and perfect demo of the sphere turning process. The work piece seen in the first image above is divided into three sections. A centre line at 50mm for a 100mm sphere, and two further lines at $0.297 \times$ the diameter, ie 129mm in from either end, also 129mm in from the flat ends on the end grain towards the centre of the lathe . The jig shown below has 6 positions for the cutter to be mounted depending on the diameter range of the spheres to be made. The cutter is set at 90deg to the centre scribed line and backed off till the cutter just touches the outer edges of the prepared piece. Then with lathe running, the cutter is slowly wound and swung around taking a small cut off each time until the sphere is almost finished. The cutter angle is re-adjusted to get as near as possible to the centre. Remove the sphere, and cut off



Jig for sphere cutting

the spigots. Mount the almost finished sphere between a prepared cup at the headstock and a smaller one mounted over the point on the tail stock. The waste wood left by the spigots should not be in line with each other when rotating, so each can be worked on separately. Cut back with a bowl gouge until round and finish off with sandpaper down to 240

grit. For larger spheres add extra guide lines at $\times 0.11$ diameter.



The Eyes have it

Paul then went on to cut large eyes into the sphere to make an owl. This was done with a special indexing plate and a router. A process too complex for this article but well described on YouTube. All Paul's jigs are commercially available from his website, and can be purchased world wide.

The most useful tool I ever bought

Have you tried tightening a nicely finished piece of exotic timber , (or any timber) onto a screw chuck without marking the surface? It requires a great deal of effort even with a stilson wrench which will



definitely mark the timber (unless protected by tape) - and can you can find a big enough stilson that doesn't weigh 1/2 a ton ? Well I came across this brilliant tool in Wickes and thought I can make good use of it, and so I can. It will wind a blank effortlessly tight onto the chuck, and is infinitely adjustable. Just tuck the rubber strap into its slot and it is held firm by design. It helps to swing the head at 90 deg

to the bed so the lever can make a full circle. To undo, just turn it over !

AGM - 18th Dec 2018

The AGM was part of the December meeting, during which the auction took place. [see following article] The officers remained the same with the exception of David Gerrard who took over the chair from Jeff Hyams. It was also decided to form a sub-committee to plan and programme events including finding demonstrators.

Julian Markson became chair.

The finances were in better than anticipated shape due to successful craft fairs, and the unexpected windfall of finding Bouncy Castle blowers in the store room (which we were given permission to sell) brought in £180. We also increased our membership.

How NOT to turn a bowl

We read lots of great articles in Woodturning & Revolutions and on the web about how to make a lovely bowl. What we don't get so much is How to ruin a good bowl !

Below I describe how, after spending £24 on a nice bowl blank in Purple Heart and two days work, making a salad bowl to commission, I ***** it up Mind you, it was well worth the cock-up as I learnt some valuable lessons!



Lesson No 1 : Don't assume that tightening a bowl in Cole jaws means its going to stay there !

The bowl was well fixed in place and rotated at no more than the recommended 600rpm . I was finishing the base, when - crash!- the whole lot landed at my feet - lucky it didn't break my toes !

Why ? Because I had stopped & started the lathe several times and the momentum of the heavy chuck & even heavier jaws, kept the chuck and work piece rotating after the spindle was slowing down to stop . The chuck was slowly unwinding itself off the spindle until it fell off. The chuck was never in reverse, but effectively it was unwinding itself relative to the spindle.

Cure : Make sure there is a grub screw in the chuck flange and it is tight on the spindle. I had assumed it wasn't necessary - it is !



Paper thin base - 1.71 mm !

Lesson No 2 : The verneer gauge reads 1.71mm for the base thickness. One more cut and I would have been through the base. This looks an easy one, but it isn't straight forward. I had cut an internal spigot to a depth of 7mm. The 100mm Mega Jaws gripped it very firmly. I could measure the internal depth of the bowl, but it was not so easy to check the over-all depth with the jaws in the way. There were some ridges inside and I used 60 grit discs on a power drill to smooth the base. Dust was flying ! (into my extractor and around my extractor hood) I sanded all the way to 300 grit when BOOM the whole lot fell off as described above.

In a way it was a good job it did, as I may have made a salad bowl with a paper thin base.

Cure : Make an external spigot and measure the distance to the top edge of the bowl, or an internal spigot and deduct the spigot depth to give you an actual depth.

Then deduct the target thickness of the base ... say 15mm. This is now the max depth of the finished bowl after sanding. Remember coarse grits can remove up to 5mm of wood ! Then I suggest you take a Forstner bit and drill a hole up to say 1" in diameter to the depth calculated as described above. By removing the internal wood to this depth (including sanding) you will know where you are, and won't turn and sand past the bottom of the hole made by the Forstner drill. I would not have made the mistake I did with the Purple Heart bowl if I'd followed my own advice !

Craft Fair Burgh House 02 . 12.2018



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North London Woodturners

**Xmas Craft Fair
02.12.2018
New End Square
Hampstead
London
NW3 1LT**

**Come along to get that special
handmade Xmas gift**

**Bring your friends
Over 30 stalls of
lovely gifts
including turned items from our
club**

Christmas Craft Fair

**This long awaited craft fair took place in
Burgh House, Hampstead on 02.12.2018.**

However it wasn't the only thing going on in Hampstead, the whole of Hampstead was a fair with stalls in the main streets and all over the place. No traffic - all of Hampstead was a fair. This was a good thing as it brought 100's of people into the village all looking for Xmas gifts. The image above shows the club clan who were there all day or in shifts. We are truly grateful to all club members who donated pieces for the fair. Many were already donated to the last fair but few sold . Not so in Burgh House .. of a notional value of £1200 for all the items [we'd priced each item] we sold £625 worth .. over half the items. Bowls of all sizes went, Terry's mice sold out. The show closed at 6.00pm sharp. and at 5.59 & 45 secs I had a customer who was eyeing a lovely dish. I said, "do me the honour of being our last customer " and he did. A Mahogany platter for £45 .. a give away. It had been hard work with months in the planning but it paid off. We now still have a lot of items in store, and we plan two more craft fairs this year. So, we'll be asking you to donate again, but this time we'll share the profits with you if you wish. Nothing fixed yet and Burgh House is a lottery, so it may not happen there. But it will certainly happen somewhere in the spring and at Xmas

Auctions

We owe Josephine Coleman, former wife of Peter Coleman, a one time club member a big thanks. Sadly Peter died shortly after he took up turning as a hobby. He loved making toys for family & friends. He invested £1000's in machines, tools, wood, jigs, books. The majority of it was still brand new when he died. Peter was a friend of Robert Craig who suggested that she sell off the contents of his workshop to the club members either directly or by auction. Many members took up the offer and bought themselves beautiful brand new machines at half the list price which was Robert's pricing suggestion. Once the majority of the main machines had gone, [lathe, pillar drill, bench, power tools etc..] there was still dozens of smaller items to dispose of. Over a period of two monthly club meetings, every item was sold - some for as little as a £1. We raised a total of £680 at auction, half of which went to Josephine, to a charity of her choosing, the other half was for the club. She took all of the money for the larger items - that were not in auction, for a cancer charity in Peter's name. Once again, many thanks Josephine.

Membership

We want to expand the club and its membership, now that we have a large hall and 3 - 4 lathes. To that end, George Hampson & I have printed flyers to put in appropriate places so that interested people may pick one up and contact us.

The list includes supermarket notice boards in the Borehamwood and Barnet area , Libraries, U3A locations, Shop windows, etc...

Check your supermarket notice board, and ask to put a flyer in place . It may cost, so get approval from us first.

The web site is still our best location and we get e-mails now & again. asking for more information.

Get into conversations with groups you mix with, I have for instance found new members from my local swimming pool and also a primary school where I am a volunteer teaching assistant .

I will e-mail the flyers to all club members. You can also have printed A4 & A5 flyers to leave wherever you wish. Just let us know if you want some.

The aim is to have 40 members this time next year !

Help make it happen and grow the club.