

**1987/8 ~ 2012**



**Sunday 2nd December, 2012**

**A celebration meeting to mark  
25 years**

**of West Sussex Woodturners**

## The FOUNDERS

West Sussex Woodturners was formed by six Woodturners who met in each others workshops, initially to view and discuss their work and to share ideas and working practices.



**Bill Hughes**

Bill took up woodturning as an evening relaxation from daytime commercial pressures. It was soon to become his main pleasure.

*(Editor regrets quality of these pictures in pdf).*

**Keith Faulkner**

Keith introduces a youngster to the pole lathe.



**Peter Coxall**

Peter began w/t in 1943 (at a very young age) which eventually led him to become a member of the AWGB. In 1987, he was invited by Derek Berry, also a member of the AWGB, to a meeting from which the WSWT club was formed.

**Fred King**

Fred had always been interested in woodwork, but started turning after visiting a woodworking exhibition in London - round about 25 years ago!



Of course, Bill and Keith are no longer with us.

To these four, we must add Derek Berry who acted as the club's first Secretary, closely followed by Peter Parker, a professional woodturner, as Treasurer.

## "Quick Thoughts!" by Peter Coxall - Founder



The Chairman?

of which was held in Worthing Assembly Hall where everyone in the club showed various items to show our progress and in many cases, selling to the punters. A very successful time!

After this we continued for some time as a club, following numerous requests to exhibit and sell at fairs, festivals, craft shows, etc. Unfortunately, this has disappeared leaving a handful of members who have converted their hobby into a commercial exercise, purely to sell; not as an exhibition showing the overall skills of our members which used

to advertise the WSWT to all and sundry.

### Quick Thoughts!

Looking back, I don't think any of the founder members thought that 25 years later the WSWT would still be functioning, let alone to see it grow from 6 to 120 members, many of whom have such turning skills.

We were basically, apart from Peter Parker who was one of the first professional turning instructors at the time, a bunch of amateurs who could turn a bit, such as light pulls, garden dibbers, small bowls and other simple items. We all improved as the club grew, each helping one another along the way. This meant we had to find bigger and bigger accommodation, eventually arriving at the one we have today.

During this period, we held exhibitions on a regular basis throughout the area in places such as village and church halls, the largest

Over the years, we have had a number of demonstrations by well known professionals from around the country which has helped us along and made us into "experts" ourselves. The standard of work by all members is now such that other clubs find it hard to follow in the main. I have been told by members of other clubs and professionals, that we are considered one of the best clubs in the country. This I can believe, but who would have thought that such a hobby would become so popular nationally over the past 25 years - when woodturning really began.

Finally, the skills of our members, including the youngsters, ladies and recently joined, never fail to impress and surprise me. With this in mind, I know that the WSWT will still grow from strength to strength, perhaps for the next 25 years!

### Ted Hickford - a former Chairman - reflects:

My immediate thoughts of my time as Chairman are:-

1. The club was active and there was always a waiting list for new members.
2. The club had many members who were not active turners but they valued their membership.
3. The standard of turning remained high and many beginners produced very high quality work.
4. The Club became less formal and relaxed.
5. The Chairman thoroughly enjoyed his term of office and was amazed at the tolerance of members to his jokes and lack of organisation.

**Founder Fred King remembers—25 years on.....**

Who would have thought 25 years ago that spending the day in London with one of my daughters and ‘popping in’ to the woodworking exhibition would lead to writing these few memories? I only went to have a look and maybe buy some new sandpaper and French polish (my then current hobby).

The previous Christmas my wife bought me a ‘Wolfcraft’ lathe attachment for my drill so I was interested in the woodturning. The guy who was demonstrating on the Multico stand was very good, he assured me that the lathe would arrive on the following Wednesday and that carriage would be included, he would also throw in a set of chisels. Very helpful, as was the chap on the Craft Supplies stand who sold me the band saw and one or two other ‘Must Haves’, the Grinder, another very necessary piece of equipment for the aspiring turner came via the ‘Bosch’ stand, again with the assurance of 7/10 days delivery. Surprise, they all did, them were the days!.

My next stop was the AGWB stand (I had the feeling it was one of their first) where I was quickly enrolled with a promise to put me in touch with others in my area. It was quite a surprise when some few days later I had a phone call from Derek Berry, who had received details from AWGB, asking if I was interested in meeting with others who had been at the show with a view to forming a group. I said yes and we subsequently met at Pullborough village hall in the caretakers ‘Cubby. I remember it was freezing cold and we consumed enormous amounts of tea from grotty old mugs. It tasted wonderful.

Resulting from this informal meeting was the decision to form a club; Bill Hughes was Chairman, Peter Parker, Treasurer, Derek Berry, Secretary, Keith Faulkner and I to handle publicity and programme. Jim Beeching, Jack Hill and Peter were available for technical advice, although I do not think Jim or Jack actually joined as paying members.

The first ‘Club’ meeting was seven of us in the caretaker’s small room (no fee) but clearly as more members joined we had to use part of the main hall, membership increased rapidly so it was not very long before we needed to utilize the whole hall. Later, renovations to the hall meant finding a new venue so we moved on, first to Storrington village hall and then after a while to our current home at Sullington.

The early days were very different from today, we were not in a position to run machines and demonstrate so meetings were mainly about disseminating information on chucking, tools, grinding, new ideas and supplies of wood, etc. It soon became quite clear however that a more ‘hands-on’ approach was

necessary so we sought, and eventually obtained permission to use machines.

At the time Peter Parker had a large car boot and a semi- portable lathe so this worked well for a time but the club was growing in numbers and members were looking for more actual instruction. To cover this a yearly programme was arranged with the more skilled members instructing on various aspects such as sanding, colouring, tool grinding, and segmented work and to supplement this outside demonstrators were brought in for specific subjects.

Alongside the above activities some club members took part in local craft fairs and school fetes under the club umbrella. These were at local venues, usually village halls and the like, the more notable being Worthing Library and eventually The Weald and Downland Museum where, unfortunately, on the second occasion we were sited outside in a field in the intense sun which caused the wood, to distort and bowls to crack. This called for some committee re-think hence our marquees at Duncton and Brinsbry College

Our connection with Amberley started some time before we actually moved in. I made representation to the management on a number of occasions but Andy the resident turner was against opening the turners’ shop to others (us). It was not until he left the museum some time later that the opportunity arose for the then committee to negotiate our involvement.

Our stay there has been a great advantage to us as well as to the museum. The rebuild of the hut a few years ago allowed far better access to viewers and a better opportunity for our members to show their dedication, skills and knowledge. I have not been of late but understand a revamp is again in hand, best wishes for the future.

**Gil - our valued wood provider since the beginning!**



**Sunday 2nd December, 2012 - Programme for the day**

Open Meeting  
Awards 2012  
Competition  
Presentation of Prizes

Presentation to Founders  
Refreshment Break  
Demo by Mark Baker  
Raffle

**The Chairman and Members of the Committee wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and eventful New Year of woodturning And here's to the next 25!**

Chairman - Martin Shephard  
Secretary - Colin Smith  
Treasurer - David Parfoot

Committee:  
Keith Greenfield  
Bob Eastabrook

Newsletter & Webmaster  
John Byford

Terry Hooper (Events)  
Beth Shephard (Competitions)

**Did you know.....from Denys Dollin ....**

I think it was about 1997 when it was decided that it would be nice to have a club logo printed on the table cloths we were using at shows and on letterheads. The current letter heads had the club name and an outline drawing of a vase and a goblet either side of the name, so the members were asked to submit designs for the new logo. Several suggestions were submitted and the final design chosen was by Peter Warwick. (At that time he was a commercial graphics designer).



An outside ring of bark with growth rings inside surrounded with the club name all in Black and White. I was just starting as the programme organiser and in setting up the letter heading to book



demonstrators on my computer, I found the growth rings of the logo tended to merge into one another so edited out some of the lines. As the logo was in black and white I wondered how it would it might look if the outer ring with letters was coloured red (as it would be printed on the red cloths we were using on the tables) and changed the lettering to gold. I showed the idea to Peter and he gave his approval to my vandalism of his design. (photo Peter & Denys).

**This programme will be archived on our website on the About Us page. Ed**