

# CHISEL & GROOVE



Volume 2, Issue 2

1st April 2009

## DAVE WILCOX WOODTURNING

### Editor's Waffle

Well these editions seem to come around quicker every time and it is more difficult to find items of interest to put in, even though they are only snippets.

So what's happened in my World since the last newsletter.

Did I mention last issue that I had volunteered to take on the post of West Region Representative for the AWGB? Well I did. The West Regions main complaint was lack of communication, I hope by now that all Clubs have been able to put that behind them.

I have almost visited all of the Clubs in the West Region and have to say what a friendly bunch we have. Mind you I think this goes almost without exception across the board in the

World of Woodturning. So I give a public thank you to all who have made me welcome.

My first venture into the World of commercial shows as an Official of the AWGB was the Scottish Woodworking Show in Glasgow with the Northern Rep, Dave Grainger. Hard work but a real eye opener. There are a lot of Woodturners up North who need pulling together, I was surprised just how many I spoke to who were not aware of the Association, any Clubs or other turners near to them and felt they were isolated apart from the big shows they attended when possible.

By the time you are reading this the Yandles Show in Somerset will have been and gone and



A babies rattle made from Chake Te Coke. The rattle is filled with blue semi precious stones.

Woodex will be looming, this one is In my Region and it has fallen to me to organize the AWGB participation, fingers crossed, watch this space.

### West Midlands Woodturners

The West Midlands Woodturners is a group of enthusiasts, of which I am one, that meet approximately once every 5-6 weeks. At the meetings we either have a professional turner come along and show us some of the tricks & tips that they

have learnt over the years or we have a Club hands-on day. Both meetings are excellent value and usually well attended.

If you have always wanted to have a go at woodturning but not known where to start or who

to ask, come along to a couple of meetings as a guest and have a look or even have a go..

Check the [WMWT Club website](#) for meeting details. The frightening Homepage picture has now been changed.

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## Updates



A Cherry birdbox with removable base

This seems to have taken the spot for computer related updates. I don't see this as a problem we use the state of the art technology in woodturning and I believe computers have their place in this. So what's new? We had Graham Ball from Coombe Abbey Woodturners register on the Forum after my visit to the Club. As a result of this the Forum was rejigged, it now has a closed forum for West

Mids members, a closed forum for Coombe Abbey members and a common area for banter between all. Sad to say the uptake is very light, the potential is there but only time will tell. You need to email before registering to prevent you being blocked. This is necessary to prevent Eastern Block spammers who keep on trying to get into the site for sex, drugs and gambling adverts.

For those who are inter-

ested there is a freebie program produced by the Google team called Google SketchUp. I repeat, this is currently a freebie. It is a 3D drawing package, is very friendly to use, has a quick learning curve and more importantly to us it can be used to generate 3D images of your turning patterns so is in effect a 3D virtual lathe. See what you think, perhaps someone would like to write a small review for me?

## Upcoming Shows

Confucious say, man who drive like hell, bound to get there.

As I said on page one by the time you are reading this Yandles Show will have come and gone. I hope the attendances were good, we cannot afford for the organizers to be disheartened like the Stoneleigh Show last year and Alexandra Palace this year, Stoneleigh has now been cancelled and we have to wait and see regarding Ally Pally.

Woodex is on over the

long weekend of 24th to 26th April at the Fosse showground in the Midlands. They are now charging an entrance fee of £2.50 but parking is still free.

The AWGB Seminar is booked for 7th—9th of August with some of the Worlds top turners doing their thing along with a variety of top UK turners. There is a dealers marketplace where they will

be trying to get you to part with your money for their special offers. Also for the first time there will be a live online global internet auction of turned items. This alone should prove very interesting and entertaining. If you are interested in this one drop me a line and I will send some details, however all details can be found on the websites.

## New Collaboration



Carl at work in his studio.

I have a very good friend who is an outstanding airbrush artist (see picture left) We are currently organising a collaboration between woodturning and painting initially to produce high quality airbrushed artwork onto wooden bowls. (hopefully of equal quality :-))

We are still in the early

stages of sorting the details but hopefully this will help both of us to weather the recession so if you are interested in a commission drop me a line and we shall see what we can quote you. In the meantime have a look at Carl's website and his exceptional talent. <http://www.airartbycarl.co.uk/>

Results will be posted to both our websites when available.

## WMWT Open Day

Another note for your Diary, 16th August 2009. It's a Sunday so no excuses.

West Midlands Woodturners are having an Open Day at Water Orton Primary School, Vicarage Lane,, Water Orton. Details of what's on etc are still being fixed, but I have booked the AWGB Roadshow hot on the heels of the Seminar so there will be some really nice exhibits on display only ever seen

before at the Seminar. There will be lathes running with club members doing exhibitions of turning. There are lots of plans being made but I will not announce them until we can confirm.

The basics behind the open day are to let people see their local club and to encourage people to have a go and potentially join the WMWT and the AWGB, to help further the interests of woodturning as a whole.

It promises to be a very enjoyable and interesting day.

Go to Google Maps and search for West Midlands Woodturners.



West Midlands Woodturners Badge

## Ornamental Lathe Update

The project has been on hold for a while now due to my other commitments but having relinquished the Chairman's Challenge event I can now give time to the organization of the lathe again. I think we have the majority of the bits we require, we now need the group to sit down and set about allocation of tasks towards the construction. We did apply for funding through the

AWGB but were unsuccessful in this, so instead of new parts we have had members going around searching their cupboards for the bits we want. The response was good and I say a big thank you to all who responded to my requests.

## Special Offer

If you look at my website you will see a menu option for 'Holiday'. Yes it is similar to a time share system but don't be put off, read on....

Let me explain, I can give you a voucher which will let you and your family have a Club La Costa holiday of your choice. You can have either a week in Spain

on the Costa del Sol or in Tenerife, or a 4 night midweek or 3 night weekend break in Britain for £150.

All you have to do is agree to listen to a promotional talk. If you say no thank you to the deal from what I have seen you will be left alone to enjoy the rest of your holiday.

What do you have to lose? Get a really good top class apartment for a week in the sun for a low price and a commitment of 90 minutes of your time.

Try it, what have you got to lose, email me for a voucher now and get your weeks cheap holiday.

Confucius say,  
man who eat  
too many  
prunes, get  
good run for  
money.



One of the Club La Costa catamarans.

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If you have missed any of the previous Newsletters and wish to get a copy, they are available from the [Woodturning Section](#) of my website.

Any comments please feel free to email me.

If you have an idea for an article or wish to provide an article relating to woodturning please contact me and we can discuss it.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter please email me and let me know.

Complaints:

Don't have a complaints department, bad luck.

We're on the Web!

<http://www.dave-wilcox.com/>

## Say NO to 0870 and charged calls



Say NO!

Still pushing this one so no apologies for leaving this in . I think it is important for people to dig their heels in with these big companies especially in light of the recent enormous profits they all seem to be announcing.

When you get one of the 0870 numbers or other charged number go to [http://](http://www.saynoto0870.com/)

[www.saynoto0870.com/](http://www.saynoto0870.com/) click on the search to find alternative number on the top left green banner and see if there is any alternatives you can try before the payment option. They have alternatives listed for 0800, 0808, 0844, 0845, 0870 and 0871 numbers. Funny thing is how these companies always manage to answer the 0800 number almost immediately yet the same office leaves you waiting for ages on a payment number. The worst I have come across for this so far in my experience is Virgin, you are given a number to phone to organize a disconnection of broadband. I phoned it 4 times and was kept on their computer ansafone for 1/2 hr each time. I was also forced to listen to obnoxious

sounds they said was music which was very loud, obviously designed to drive you away and thereby preventing cancellation. I dug around, found this site and an associated 0800 number. Tried it, it was answered immediately, I assume as they are paying for it, and my cancellation organized. Out of order Virgin.

Bookmark it ! This site will save you a load of time and grief.