

John Leach – Woodturning

For my 25-year Long Service Award, I chose half a woodturning lathe and was asked, “Are you planning to retire?”

Seven years later I did retire, and since then many interests have filled my time. Several of these were based on wood and are described below.

Making Wooden Items

Woodturning is using a lathe to make round things from wood such as pens, bowls, platters and commemorative platters/discs. In addition I have made fund-raising items for organisations, such as fridge magnets for the Gardens of Easton Lodge



Combining STL background in optics with woodturning

Drawing on my STL background in Optics and combining it with woodturning, I laser engrave on wood and Perspex, using ribbon LED illumination of some of the latter.



Member of Clubs

I am a member of the East Herts and Cambridge Woodturners clubs, and also the National Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (AWGB).

I was formerly Treasurer of the East Herts club, and am currently its Vice Chairman.

Introducing Young People to Woodturning

The East Herts club organises hands-on woodturning to raise awareness of the craft amongst young people, which is now done on behalf of the AWGB.

I have organised hands-on woodturning at Scout Jamborees, 10 one-day events and 5 week-long events. Over 3400 young people have experienced hands-on woodturning at these Jamborees.

This photo was taken at a Cambridge Scout Jamboree.



And this photo was taken at Gilwell 24, a 24 hour-long non stop event organised nationally for Explorer Scouts (14 to 18 age range).



These events have been supported by:

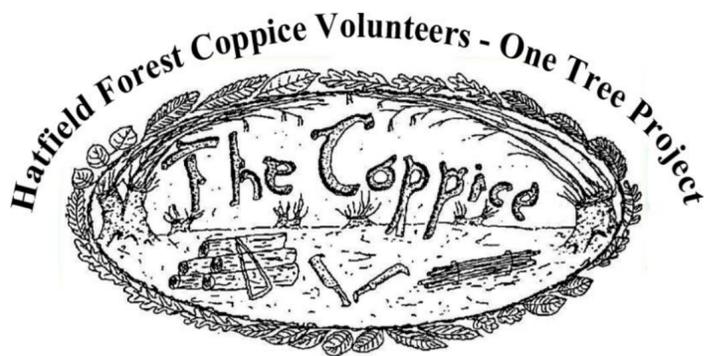
- The AWGB,
- The Worshipful Company of Turners (a London Livery Company),
- Axminster Tools and Machinery,
- Henry Taylor Tools,
- Chestnut products,
- Many other companies.

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One Tree Project

Robert Penn, an Author and Broadcaster, bought an ash tree in the Black Mountains and set about having as many things made from it as he could. Ash is a versatile wood, which has found many uses over the years.

Rather than make things himself he used craftsmen in the UK and other parts of Europe make things for him. Having written a book about the activity, his story was serialised on Radio 4 in the autumn of 2015. This was heard by Bob Reed, Leader of the Hatfield Forest Coppicing Volunteers, who then had the idea of finding a suitable ash tree in Hatfield Forest and making as many items as possible from that tree.



ASH - 2016

Early in 2016, as part of the Coppice management an ash tree was felled. The Hatfield Forest Coppicing Volunteers One Tree Project was born.

It was decided to use this tree to make as many different items as possible and sections of the tree were distributed amongst the Coppice Volunteers for them or their friends to make things.

As the wood was wet, larger items can only be made once the wood has seasoned (dried) for some time. The display is 'work in progress' on the project. Further items will be added in the future.

Coppicing

I am a member of the Hatfield Forest Coppice Volunteers, which involves the woodland management of the Forest's Coppices, including the protection of the coppice stools from deer and rabbit damage



Have You an Interest in Woodturning?

If the above fires up an interest in woodturning, please contact me at:

woodturningsurf@aol.com

or for further information go to the web sites of the East Herts Woodturning Association:



www.easthertswoodturning.co.uk

or the National Association - The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain:



www.awgb.co.uk