

# Galloway Woodturners

## Chairman's Report 2024

We have had another very good year, with our finances in good shape and our membership stable. I would like to thank all of you for your support and Christine, Jimmy, Bryan, and many others have been helped with sorting and selling Ian's tons of tools. Some other members sold off their surplus tools and the club helped do this, taking a small percentage. Hugh's football cards also brings in quite a bit of money, thanks Hugh. Jimmy and Freddie have done a great job in running our shop which sells items at a reasonable price, is convenient for our members and also profitable for the club. Christine does a great job as treasurer taking shop money, donations, and ticket money, paying invoices for rent shop items and professional turner's fees. It is a great responsibility looking after our finances and I thank her for that.

Whereas other clubs and organisations sometimes struggle with member numbers we have always been strong, and this is down to the good facilities the membership has built and maintained over the years and also to the support we give each other and especially new members. You have been friendly and welcoming, freely offering advice to each other and keeping an eye on new members, keeping them safe and happy. Sarah has done a marvellous job in keeping our membership list up to date and compliant with data legislation.

Admin is so important, especially today, and we are extremely fortunate to have Sarah as our secretary. She is very competent and efficient, working in the background keeping things running smoothly. Thank you Sarah.

When Roger was chairman we made major improvements to the workshop, and a team of or members have maintained and 'tweaked' things ever since. The 'Wood Prep' team have worked very hard keeping things tidy and safe, fitting cupboards and sorting out lathes & tools. There is a board in the kitchen with a big list of tasks that Phil J and his team are constantly working on, if you have not noticed it please take a look, you will be impressed. I am extremely grateful to this team who also set up the lathes and seating to suit Turning Tuesdays and Wednesdays as well as for our demonstrators and classes.

Our professional demonstrators this year have been Mike Poole, Emma Cook, Mick Hanbury and Margaret Garrard. We charge modest ticket money for the demonstrator days and masterclasses to make it affordable for all, we do not make any profit from these visits, and occasionally make a small loss. Thanks to those who attend, they are always entertaining and encouraging. If you have never attended one of these days

please do, they are so much better than any internet based demo. Live demos are like live concerts, infinitely better experiences.

Our outreach to the community and other clubs has been modest, but constant this year. I demonstrated again at Troon to the Ayrshire Woodturners (who often come here to see our professional demonstrators) , and have been invited to Culzean castle in December to demonstrate to the team of volunteer gardeners (I will be showing them how to make their own seedling pot makers) I have also done demonstrations at various Guilds and Rurals, but we did not have a pitch at the Kirkcudbright Country Fair this year, despite Arthur organising it for us again, I just completely forgot about it until Arthur phoned on the day I was supposed to set up, sorry. I did however remember to represent the club at Threave Gardens Open Day where several local people took business cards and enquired about membership and courses.

Three days ago I finished the third beginners course this year, and do not envisage doing any more courses for the club. We have two or three long-standing and experienced turners who are well on the way to becoming accredited AWGB tutors and I want to stand down to let these new tutors take over. It is important to have a rolling succession of new tutors who bring something fresh and new to the courses we can offer.

Although I have been chairman this year I am acutely aware that I am not the one who makes and shapes the club. I have named some, and omitted a great deal more, of our members who have done so, and will continue to make and shape the club. It is hard to think of any member who does not have a significant role in the club, and as such I am content to resign at this AGM knowing there are several good, and better, replacements.

I thank you for electing me as chairman, and for not shouting at me or throwing things this year, or in previous years, and ask that you do the same for the new Chair.

Rolf Buwert

**Galloway Woodturners**  
**Chairman's Leaving Report**  
**November 2018 to October 2024**

Galloway Woodturners Club has been going since 2007 and I am the third chairman, having been elected, or chosen, in November 2018, and it has been a genuine honour to serve you as chairman. It had always been my intention to serve for only 5 years because I am convinced there is someone better than me to do the job.

Knowing this, and that I had a limited tenure, I acted as chairman in such a way that I created conditions where I was the minor partner, encouraging others to take on vital roles. It would have been easier for me to do much more myself as I have always been a lone worker or ran a business as sole trader and sole employee, it is against my nature to ask for help or work as a team, but the role of a good chairman is to identify good people and let them shine. You have all done so.

My ancestral, Teutonic (German), sense of order meant that I wanted nice, neat rows, of smart tools for all the lathes, and uniform sets of accessories for each individual lathe. The turning tools have been achieved with the Ashley Iles tool rolls, but I have failed to get you all to keep each lathe with one live, one drive, one chuck (with the right key) two tool rests and one brush. You seem to insist on moving things around until one lathe has two chucks and no drives, brushes just disappear and tool rests don't fit. Sometime you just hide stuff. My ancestral Teutonic solutions for such un-Teutonic behaviour is not acceptable in 2024 so the next chairman can maybe resolve this one.

My 5 year tenure has been 6 years because March 2020 to August 2021 we were effectively closed due to Covid-19. Although I was chairman during this time we did not meet physically as a club I tried to keep things going by having Zoom meetings, a newsletter and through social media. Thankfully the vast majority of us survived the pandemic and our membership numbers did not drop at all.

Sadly during those six years we lost some good members, Bill McCoskry, Bobby Lees, Ian Spencer and Mick Fenton.

While I was chairman we have been visited by the following professional demonstrators who also held masterclasses ; Eugene Grimley, Peter Osborne, Chris Pouncey, Colwin Way, Phil Irons, Rick Dobney, Gary Lowe, Les Thorne, Richard Finlay, Helen Bailey, Emma Cook, Mick Hanbury and Margaret Garrard. Each month we have also had our own

members demonstrate to us and I am extremely grateful to everyone who did this, even if you just did it once. A way of improving our own turning is to practice but also to demonstrate in front of our friends, yes, it can be stressful, but it really sharpens our focus on our process. I love seeing other members turning, especially if it is something quirky that I would never have thought of myself.

We have had good relations with our neighbours at Ayrshire Woodturners and they have attended a number of our meetings over the years, and I have demonstrated three times at their meetings. Sadly Borders Woodturners no longer exists as a club as they are now just a part of the community centre with no assets or committee. This is a shame as we used to attend their interclub competitions. We have had a good relationship with several local organisations over the last 6 years with some organisations visiting our workshop for meetings and demonstrations, and with me/ us attending their meetings or Country Fairs (or in one case the National Sheep Dog Trials) I have travelled to Castle Kennedy, Lockerbie, Closeburn, Moniaive, Shawhead, Springholm, Carsphairn, Kirkcudbright, and Dumfries.

I've lost count of the numbers of students who have come to all my Beginners and Intermediate woodturning courses, some students just came for the course others have stayed and become regular members, I love that.

As I step down from the role as your chairman, and return to the 'back benches' I thank you all for supporting me, and each other.

I look forward to the new chairman and the bright future of this club.

Rolf Buwert.