

Wizardry in Wood 2016

by Robin Goodman

This is a major 3 day event in the UK turning calendar and only takes place every 4 years, so there was every incentive to visit it, as did several other club members. It is put on by the Worshipful Company of Turners in London in the Carpenters' Hall, City of London, **photo 1**.



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26 top UK turners were showcasing their work for sale and most were there in person, so that anybody attending could chat to any of them – a very rare chance with so many in one place. At least half a dozen of them have demonstrated at the club over the last few years and many others have done so at one of the Loughborough Symposiums. Some of those at Wizardry who do not

demonstrate or who are unlikely to demonstrate at the club include:-

Richard Kennedy, photo 2a, is not often seen down south, since most of the time he lives in Argyll in the west of Scotland, where he has a gallery. Many of his pieces have very fine piercing and some of his bowls have much cut away such as in **photo 2b**.



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Eleanor Lakelin is a former teacher who retrained as a cabinet maker in the late 1990's. In 2008 she took up woodturning and now does it full time. Many of her pieces are hollow or sculptural forms that have

been carved and sand-blasted, such as in **photo 3**.

Joey Richardson has won many awards and is now well known internationally for her delicate complex coloured forms, usually inspired by nature, **photo 4**.

Carlyn Lindsay went to art school and always wanted to be a 'maker'. She started her business with the help of the Prince's Youth Business trust in 1989 and is now best known for her bold

and innovative use of coloured veneers that she laminates with hardwood to create striped blocks that she then turns. One of her hollow forms is shown in **photo 5**.



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2b

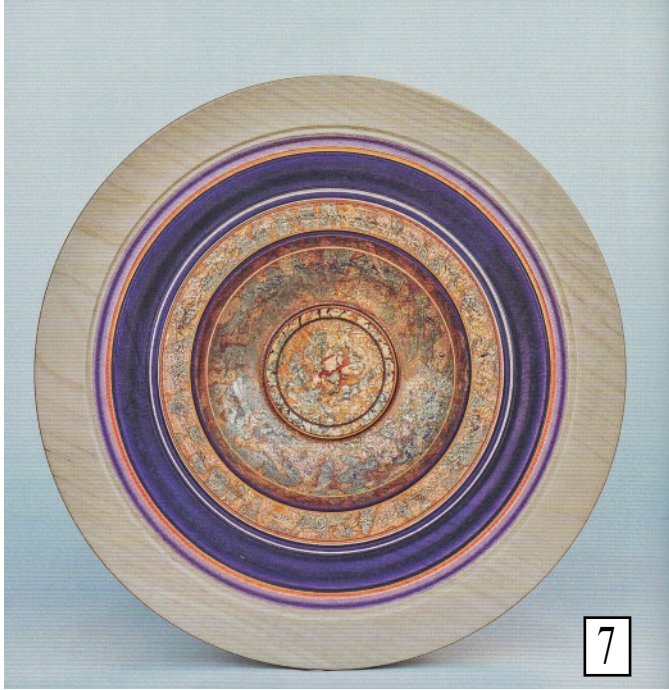


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Sally Burnett used to specialise in design and manufacture of glass vessels and large ceramic installations, but more recently she has become fascinated by wood and now produces a variety of artistic turned pieces, see **photo 6**.



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applies gold leaf to enhance his pieces, such as the bowl in **photo 7**.

Louise Hibbert, photo 8, now lives in Anglesey after 7 years in the USA. Since she does not teach or demonstrate, it was a rare opportunity to speak to her and admire at close range some of her intricate pieces, so often inspired by the natural world, in particular marine life, insects, plants and insects. The

Dennis Hales uses local sycamore and holly that he turns and then carves, textures, colours or



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detail in some of her pieces is amazing.

Apart from a large **AWGB** stand with a number of pieces from the Loughborough symposium, there were 48 lovely pieces from **the Daniel Collection**, including a beautifully decorated hollow form by **Michael and Cynthia Gibson, photo 9**.

An unexpected addition to the show was from the **Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew**, that provided us with a rare opportunity to see some of the wooden treasures from Kew's Economic Botany Collection that now holds 100,000 spec-



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imens, including about 5,000 wooden objects and 35,000 wood specimens.

There were a number of “Wizardry in Wood” turning competitions, including the Masters Open Competition (plain turning) won by **Colin Priddy** with a pair of Japanese style lidded bowls, **photo 10**.



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Our club member **Andy Mason** is to be congratulated for winning the Felix Levy Open competition with his beautifully turned and carved “Pirene”, a ring-shaped fluted bowl with central column and finial in Sycamore and African Blackwood, **photo 11**. If you come to our club night on 16th February, you will probably hear from him about

how he made this winning piece.

Andy was also commended for his pair of “Enigma Variations” fluted bowls, **photo 12**, in the AWGB Plain Turning Competition (Senior).

All in all it was a worthwhile trip to London both to meet so many professional turners and to see a large number of excellent turned pieces on the stands and in the collections and competitions. 4 years is a long time to wait until the next Wizardry in Wood event..



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