

## NORWEGIAN WOODTURNING CRUISE

What a delight to a keen woodturner to go on the Verktoy woodturning cruise up the Norwegian fjords. To attend for 12 days a woodworking show with some of the worlds first class woodturning demonstrators.

Firstly Richard Raffan showed me how to produce beads by rolling a spindle gouge. I then went and did a natural edged green bowl by using his techniques. Then Jimmy Clewes who is a first class instructor showed me how to produce a platter with his perfect chiselling skills, concentrating on the right curves without any flats. Again I immediately went and did my own platter using these new skills. Action now is to return home and keep practising.

There were many other demonstrators with a variety of skills and crafts on show. Stuart Mortimer was doing his spiral work. Bob Neil the burner, with pyrography showing us how we must just stroke the pen on the wood to get the best effect. Nick Agar from Totnes with his art coloured woodturning. Many other craftsmen doing carving, dyeing, sharpening and painting. Trade stands from Tormek, Trend, Sorby, Chestnut, etc.

One with a more serious and organic approach was Gavin Phillips with his pole lathe, turning bowls, not chair legs, a very stress relieving and energetic hobby.

Also we had a good talk by Johannes Rieber a well known Norwegian woodturner. He informed us of how as a boy aged 10 years he went into workshops, swept up the shavings and watched people at their craft, such as making wooden wheels. He recently used this knowledge to repair a wooden wheel for a veteran car. He said boys of today are probably not allowed to go into workshops or are more interested in computers. All this discussion was of great interest.

The whole purpose of this trip was for Odd Eric's company - Verktoy to sell woodworking tools to his customers up and down the coast who are not easily accessible in all the towns. So when we docked in port all the local woodworkers attended the show and demonstrations on the ship paying an entrance fee, while we went out and explored the town, or went on a coach trip in the surrounding area.

All this on a trip that Jenny and I had been planning for years to go up the fantastic Norwegian Fjords all the way up to the North Cape. Because the ship was not a ferry it had time to explore the most amazing narrow fjords and Islands.

This for a keen woodworker this was an ideal holiday.

John F. Lawson  
11<sup>th</sup>. to 24<sup>th</sup>. August 2008