

### **The Bucklebury Bowl Turner**

I was leafing through newsletter No. 30 recently and lighted on Gabriel Olive's article on The Bucklebury Bowl Turner, pages 16 and 17.

I wonder if members know of a book by Philip H. Dixon entitled 'The Reading Lathe' published by Cross Publishing, Newport, Isle of Wight in 1994. ISBN 1 873295 65 0. Price of about £6.

The lathe in question is the one used by the Lailey family of Bucklebury bowl turners for over 100 years. In 1959, before their workshop was demolished, it was rescued and moved to the University of Reading's Museum of English Rural Life.

The book's 95 pages in A5 format fall into 5 chapters, 4 appendices, bibliography etc. It is well illustrated. The chapter headings say it all:

- The Bucklebury bowl turners.
- Turning on reciprocating lathes.
- Bowl turning from Anglo-Saxon times.
- The economics of Bucklebury bowl turning.
- The Reading Lathe in perspective.

It is an easy and interesting read which sheds light on a once thriving industry which is now all but defunct.

*Gerald Cole*

### **An Irish Puzzle, Newsletter No. 32**

I was very interested to see the illustration of the late Regency box on a stand, with the impressed mark of Williams and Gibton on each side of the lock, as I am currently researching tea chests, caddies, teapots, tea stores and other tea related material for a book on the subject. I think that the piece of furniture shown on page 13, figure 16, is a 'TEA STORE', and is intended for the storage of tea; at least that is what the three tin canisters with lids were intended for. During the course of the last two years I have seen a number of tea stores with similar internal fittings. The design of the tea store shown in figure 16 is unusual, as the majority are sarcophagus shaped, mounted on a short turned pillar or tri or quadri partite bases, sometimes as a pair with a cellarette. At present I do not wish to divulge further information as tea stores will feature in my book; regretfully it is still a long way from publication.

I have to admit that I have no satisfactory explanation for the large tin troughs with perforations to their bases and a shallow pull out tray beneath. Storage of tea has been suggested, the perforations allowing the tea dust to fall through into the tray. Surely if that was the case these large lift out containers would have been fitted with lids to keep the tea fresh. They seem to have been popular in Ireland c1820-30. I would be very grateful for any information.

*Anne Stevens*

### **Clare Leighton's wood engravings**

I was also interested to see a reproduction of Clare Leighton's wood engraving, 'Chair Bodgers' on the front cover of the recent Newsletter, No. 32.

Clare Leighton's wood engravings are represented in the 20th Century print collection in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. Alas, 'Chair Bodgers' an illustration for her book 'Country Matters' is not included in the collection. In 1992 I organised an exhibition of her work at the Ashmolean. Her life was colourful and her childhood is described in her book *Tempestuous Petticoat*. Born in 1898 and died in the USA in 1998. She settled in the US in 1939 and never returned to England. In the late twenties and the thirties she produced some of her finest wood engravings. In the thirties she lived in a house in the Chilterns called 'Four Hedges' near Monks Risborough. She loved the woods around High Wycombe.

*Anne Stevens MBE*

### **Newspaper entries for Norwich Cabinet Makers and Upholsterers – extract from a letter by Dr. John Stabler to Phil Holland, July 2000**

#### **John Norris, Joiner**

**Norwich Mercury 25/7/1730.** John Norris, Joyner, next Door to the Sign of the two Nuns in the White-Lyon-Lane in Norwich, intending to leave off that Business, is resolved to sell his Stock of Goods...all Sorts of Walnutt-tree or Wainscot Drawers, Tables, Bureaus, Napkin-Presses, very large Looking-Glasses of the newest Fashion, and all Sizes of Swinging or Dressing-Glasses, and of all Prices; with his whole Stock of Unwrought Stuff, as Walnut tree, Wainscot Planks, Boards and Deals, either by Wholesale or Retail: Also the House and Shop in which the said John Norris dwelleth, with several Tenements adjoining...

#### **Norwich Gazette 6/4/1734.**

This is to give Notice that John Norris, Joiner, who for many Years based in the White-Lion-Lane in Norwich, is now removed into St. Simons Parish, to the Corner-House right against the Churchyard...Joiner's Goods of all Sorts, either in Wainscot or Walnut-Tree...Looking Glasses of all Sorts...

#### **John Norris junior**

#### **Norwich Gazette 18/9/31.**

John Norris, jun. Son of John Norris Joiner, having taken the House and Shop of his said Father next Door to the Sign of the Two-Nuns in White-Lion-Lane in Norwich, maketh and selleth all Sorts of Walnut-Tree and Wainscot Drawers, Tables, Buroes, Napkin-Presses, Looking-Glasses...

#### **Samuel Norris, cabinet-maker**

#### **Norwich Mercury 26/5/1792.**

Died...Yesterday sennight, aged 14, Master Norris,

only son of Mr. Norris, of St. Clement's, cabinet-maker.

**John Norris, cabinet-maker etc**

**Norwich Mercury 28/11/1818.** John Norris, Cabinet and Chair Maker, Dealer in Mahogany, Elm-Hill, Norwich...has a large quantity of Mahogany Plank...

**Norwich Mercury 20/7/1882.** No. 4 ELM HILL, NORWICH, JOHN NORRIS, CABINET AND CHAIR MANUFACTURER...large extensive STOCK... mahogany dining, card, loo, Pembroke, and other tables...

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