



## "TURNINGS"

*Avon and Bristol Woodturners*

*Affiliated to the Association of Woodturners of  
Great Britain*

**AUGUST 2007**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS AT JULY MEETING** *(As noted by Ed)*

Chairman reported on the health status of Fred Pitt and Neil Gow and wished them both well on behalf of the membership. He then highlighted the various activities being undertaken at 'The Mill' and spoke glowingly of the programme of activity there.

He then went on to emphasise the pressing need to produce 400 Pick-a-Peg prizes in short order to ensure financial success and entertainment of the public at Westonbirt!! He pointed out that **4 from each member was all that was needed and urged us all to get into production!!**

### *Jottings from the Chairman's Workshop*

Welcome to the August Jottings from the Chairman's Workshop. If only it was from the Workshop! This month has been a hectic one for yours truly, what with my reaching the advanced age of 60 on the 1<sup>st</sup> and my son getting married on the 4<sup>th</sup>; but what a fantastic week it was! Making 60 does have its advantages - winter fuel allowance, free prescriptions, free eye tests & I understand that I will get a bus pass next March. The good times are yet to come, and to top it all I was given a Diamond Card today (Over Sixties Club Card) from B&Q. What more could I ask?

Anyway, back to the Club. 25 members benefited from Tim McEvoy's excellent workshop days on all aspects of sharpening. Unfortunately I was not able to attend, but I have been reliably informed that the days went off very well and that the attendees are now experts in the art of sharpening; so I for one will be looking for instruction from one or more of you! Many thanks to Tim for all the hard work that went into the organisation of the days! The work that he put in beforehand, and the travelling he did to get all the equipment needed to make the days a success, is an indication of his commitment to our Club. Once again.....THANKS TIM!!!

### **Model Engineering Exhibition Thornbury 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> August**

As in previous years the Club will be attending the above exhibition. We will have our exhibition stand, and Simon Keen will be demonstrating the art of woodturning. Any members who would like to attend and help man the stand would be most welcome! Please **DO** let us know if you would like to help!!

## Westonbirt

Our main show of the year is coming up fast, in fact only two weeks to go. This is a four-day event plus a set up day and **we will need as many of you as possible to help with all that is involved!!!** The set up day is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and show days are the Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday 24<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>. This is an excellent show and we see a lot of the general public. It gives you a good opportunity to sell your turnings and to see other wood crafts. I fully recommend it to every one of you! We always have a great time and lots of banter; **so please come along and help on the stand. You could also take one of the ‘one hour slots on one of the two lathes that we will be using for demonstration (even your chairman will be having a go). Please let Simon B or me know what your contribution will be ASAP so that we can arrange a pass for you. That in itself will save you £7.50 or is it £8.50? Finally, let me just emphasise that this is each member’s greatest opportunity over the whole year to get involved and to make a direct personal contribution to our Club’s esprit de corps!!** It is great fun so do come and join in, even if you are a newer member still finding your feet.

## Christmas 2007

This year’s Christmas event has now been arranged (yes, I know its only August) but this year we are well ahead of the game, and Lorraine has set up an excellent evening for us all! The date will be 13<sup>th</sup> December, so put it in your diaries! You have no excuses this year as we have given you plenty of notice.

Well that’s about it for this month; it’s now off to pack for AWGB Seminar this weekend at Loughborough University. It feels just like going back to university but 40 years on.

Best Regards.....Derek

### USEFUL ‘RANCEISMS’ (*Picked Up by Ed at July Meeting*)

1. Fast workers make fewest mistakes.
2. Use a fan to blow dust away from your face when turning.
3. Keep a hand **on top of the skew** for added safety in use.
4. Use a buffer rotating on the lathe for polishing your work.
5. When cheese wire is used for burning, fix the wire into a hacksaw shaped frame for safety! (By Ed: I wonder if the necessary pressure can be exerted by this method, but it is certainly worth a try. I’ve always used a toggle at each end of the piece of wire but have recognised that just one little misplacement of the (springy) wire could have a ghastly outcome. Cheese wire caught by the whirling chuck! Yoiks!!)
6. Never use rag for polishing! Rolls of white kitchen paper are cheap, highly effective and safe! He knew a chap who lost a finger when the rag he was using snagged on the chuck!
7. Make a ready-use abrasive holder in the style of a toast rack. (His hands flashed with precision to and from the selected space in the rack as he worked rapidly through the grades. Oh yes, and did you notice how little time he took with each grade? A sure sign of the highest tool skill!).
8. When making spigots as tight-fitting tenons for jointing, undercut them a little to give the glue a place to which it can move under pressure.

### MUSINGS FROM THE MILL (*By The Gaffer*)

Hot news from ‘the hive of activity. Martin Lewis, Alan Aldous, Eric Sewell and Peter and Ann Grigg either have, or are about to, become Club members. They have all made themselves at home down here at ‘The Mill’, and are very welcome.

The 'Journeymen' of the AyeBee academy are enjoying the participation and challenge. There are 19 members in total on the list.

Tim McEvoy's intensive grinding/sharpening 3 days was well researched, well presented and very much appreciated. We had reservations re the Saturday session as only one name appeared on the availability sheet. In the event, 7 members attended; a few others were on hols and expressed disappointment at missing it. However, 27 in total gained valuable knowledge in what is the most important part of woodwork.....SHARP TOOLS! The course, if I may term it that, may be repeated in 6 months' time.

Our long-suffering Works Manager, Ray Mellett, hosted a well researched and informative day with a whole variety of wooden MT drive centres and wooden revolving centre sleeves. This presentation was very well received, so Thanks Woodentop!! (Editor's Note: Ray has sent me a copy of his personal speaking brief on this subject, which also incorporates several detailed drawings. It runs to 4 X A4 pages in point size 11; i.e. a little smaller than the '12' normally used for the newsletter. It will probably be possible to include a summarised version in a future issue of 'Turnings' but it will first be necessary for us to sit down together at a desk to hammer out an abridged version. Incidentally, long-standing members will recall that a video was shot of a very good presentation given by former chairman Colin Hazell on 'make-it-yourself' chucks and other accessories. If a copy of that could be turned up it might prove to augment Ray's work to members' advantage).

Lorraine's stint as host over the last two Wednesdays has been invaluable as well as productive. Speed was the challenge and it was ably accepted; the Pick-a-Peg items came flowing in - more than 80 bird box flat packs and 60 plus apple or fat ball feeders have been produced. The Pick-a-Peg column has been reconstructed, 'Front of Marquee banners' have been sourced and Flag Poles have been produced. The overall appearance should be quite striking.

But the best news comes last! Vicky Sander has accepted the challenge to join 'The Mill' staff as the 'Journeymen's coordinator. I am certain that her input will be invaluable so please feel free to inundate her with your support as well as your innovative ideas!!

Kind regards as ever.....Max.

**LORRAINE EXPECTS THIS DAY THAT EVERY.....** (By Conshun Stricken)

.....branch member will do his/her duty, and make at least 4 Pick-a-Peg prizes for Westonbirt. These are the little consolation prizes that take the sting out of not winning a first or second.

I have to confess to not having been much of a maker of these novelties over the years, but Chairman's mathematical skill in working out and telling us at the July meeting that it only amounts to 4 items by each of us caught my attention. So, I'll have a go thought I. Where do I start? My approach was to ring Lorraine to ask her what items she would find most useful, and it has all 'turned' out beautifully. I've made 20 pieces, just in case a few folk don't do their bit for whatever reason. There are several direct benefits for the turner in taking part. It fires up the imagination, gives an opportunity to work at speed on items that do not have to be to gallery standard, enables you to use up bits of timber that have been on the shelf for too long, opens up design opportunity and, best of all, provides an ideal opportunity to get a good finish straight from the tools. In my case the spindle gouge was the main tool, and working those glorious curves with scarcely a ripple of unevenness was very satisfying.

Now then.....why have I chosen to come out of my dark corner of inactivity to provide Editor with something for the newsletter on this subject? The reason is to help Chairman and the committee in focussing every member's attention on this activity, and the value to the Club of getting **everyone** involved. I understand that the crew at 'The Mill' have put a lot of effort into bulk production, and

congrats to them for their efforts. I suspect though that they have to do that only because many of the once-a-month 'Thursday Nighters like me' may not have been meeting their quota. By getting every Club member to do their bit would contribute to an even stronger Club spirit.

**Open Suggestion to Chairman and Committee:** How about setting up as a standing exhibit for display on Club nights, a set of samples of the type of item required? Attention could be called to it every so often and 5 or 10 minutes could be devoted to the subject on appropriate Club nights to highlight the objective and the value to each member and the Club as a whole of getting involved. There would also be scope to reintroduce Lorraine's practice of declaring 'a production item of the month' if so desired.

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## FOR SALE:

1. Copy lathe built by MEJIX of France; can also be used as a normal lathe with 4 speeds. Spindle Steady and stand included. £450 ONO.
2. All components to assemble a large bowl turning lathe with variable speed gearbox. Sale includes a quality remote tool rest. £50 no offers.

Call Colin on 0117 9565739

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## WORKSHOP ONE-LINERS *(By Editor)*

During those solitary hours at the lathe the mind fills up with thoughts about working practice and how to be more efficient (does it not?) Here's an opportunity for all members to share some of their best thoughts with the rest of us, so please fill my postbag with yours, and with your comments on other people's ideas. Here are a couple to get us going:

1. If the vacuum cleaner or extractor can pick it up (and it is not dust or shavings) it should not be on the bench; e.g. pencils, abrasives, sheets of kitchen roll etc., steel wool, drill bits, faceplate screws, paper such as sketches and drawings, any small tools or lightweight accoutrements, etc., etc.
2. The bandsaw is one of the worst producers of fine dust in the workshop and careful thought should be given to combating the health risk!

<b>TIPS AND HINTS</b>	<b>DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?? Please let Editor know any tips or hints that can be passed on in these columns (Time was when a few members did this).</b>
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**NOTE By Archivist/Ed:** That well intended question 'Do You Know Something We Don't?' goes back to the first issue of 'Turnings' in **May 1993** and was repeated faithfully for years. (I'll look up the end date some time). Taking a fresh look at it today I wonder if a different choice of words would help members to chip in with constructive thoughts and observations. The original question may seem daunting to all but the finest turners in the Club. The rest might feel it most unlikely that they have a unique or interesting thought or piece of knowledge to share with others; many perhaps expect only to **receive** hints, tips and advice. So, for next month, I'll re-work that old question. Meanwhile, though, let's be clear about the original purposes, under the hand of the late Chris Lindup, in posing the question. The first was/is to winkle out any original ideas, knowledge, thoughts (or perhaps even 'good questions')

from members at all levels of skill within the branch. One of the best ever was from Fred Pitt on how to ensure that the tail centre is in perfect alignment with the drive centre on lathes with rotating headstocks. However, because we all spend a lot of time working alone and thinking all the time about, and sharpening up, our working practices, workshop layout and organisation, tooling policy, etc., any one of us may hit upon something useful or interesting to others. Just take workshop layout and efficiency in space utilisation as an example! I may produce a few thoughts on that in future issues, **BUT** please don't leave it to me! Do chip in with some of **your** thoughts, ideas and suggestions!

That leads in to the second purpose (or deeper concept) in asking the question in the first place! This is all to do with the esprit de corps and comradely spirit that should come from membership of an organisation, but especially one such as our Club in which a passion for a craft is shared. The words of one of the AWGB's spokesmen a couple of years back come to mind. "Membership is not just about taking – i.e. information, or services, or whatever. The enjoyment of membership is enhanced by participation and contribution by the individual." Get involved! That's the spirit! **If it succeeds, the invitation to members of the Branch to chip in with useful or interesting snippets helps to foster Club Spirit and a feeling of togetherness in our enterprise.** That can't be bad can it?

Oh yes, and let's not overlook the fact that a little humour can work wonders. Something funny must happen now and again on the way to the woodturning forum, mustn't it? Do share it!

### **THE JULY PROJECT** *(Ed's notes of Julie Heryet's assessments)*

The subject was 'A Novelty Box' for which there were four entries - two little threaded beauties by Ian Guy, one by Gary Rance's son Luke and last but not least one (or should I say 2?) from Vicky Sander. The last mentioned conjured up a 'Russian Doll' impression, there being one box inside another, and it was picked by Julie as the one that most took her fancy. (I presumed, but regret that I did not manage to check, that Ian's were 2 of the 15 about which he wrote in the July newsletter?)

**SHOW & TELL** *(By Ed)* - Yours truly exhibited 'the steadiless stick' described in 'Turnings' and repeated my request that the Club's work steady be brought in one Club night soon for own personal and general interest. (There are 2 possible developments on steadies. Look out on Club nights!)

### **RANDOM THOUGHTS** *(By Ed)*

Is there to be the usual barbecue on the Saturday night at Westonbirt, and is it 'open house' provided you bring your own 'stuff'?

**ADVERTISE HERE! If you have tools, equipment or materials that you wish to sell, or want to acquire, please contact Editor to advertise in this newsletter.**

**FREE TO MEMBERS!**

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