



# 'TURNINGS'

*Avon & Bristol Woodturners*  
(Honorary Life President - Max Carey)

Affiliated to the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

CONTRIBUTIONS TO 'TURNINGS' ARE ACCEPTED IN GOOD FAITH BUT THE INCLUSION OF INDIVIDUALS' VIEWS AND COMMENTS DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT BY THE AVON & BRISTOL BRANCH

**JULY 2008**

## **INTRODUCTION** (By Editor)

Correction to last month's 'Turnings' - The member to whom Max lent his M330 lathe to enable him to demonstrate on the National Trust stand at the Bath and West Show was Colin Percy (i.e. not Ken Crittle).

## **CLUB ANNOUNCEMENT!!:**

**CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS: To those concerned!! It is truly disappointing that 39, repeat 39, subscriptions remain outstanding!!! Please let your consciences be troubled!! Then play fair with the voluntary Branch Officers who have to allocate their time to keeping track of the situation, and settle up at once, or provide confirmation that you have decided to resign your membership. It really is time to clear the air!! Please do so!!**

## **MUSINGS FROM THE MILL (NO. 100!!!!!!)** (By The Gaffer)

A week or so back, in hobbled George Baumgart struggling with a 4' X 6" branch of Cherry. He requested a quiet word with Tich and me. The upshot was that his legs have been very painful over the past few months, making it impossible for him to stand and work at the lathe. So, very reluctantly he will not be gracing the Mill with his presence. The cause of pain is baffling the medics.

George and I are about the same age, but during our formative years we were enemies. I vividly remember the blitz night after night, and George remembers being conscripted at 16, spending time digging trenches on the Eastern front. Our paths converged some five or six years ago, since when our friendship has grown. He thanked us both for the help we have given him gladly, and if the quacks can sort him out he'll be back. I am given to understand that George's colleague and sparring partner, Mike Strong has sold up and moved to Devon. Good luck to you both! We are going to miss you!

Roy Clements introduced his grandson, Gareth Jones, last week who is awaiting his 'A' level results. He has a lathe and has also produced some cabinet made items. Tich found a stud to replace one missing from his lathe, gave him the demo and he was on his way. It was a promising first day and I think he enjoyed it.

Brian Howard brought in the new, very professional-looking, Club promotion stand during Wednesday's work day. We set out, drilled and fitted the six cross rails to take shelves for DVD, Tele and table top-drawer assembly in preparation for Thornbury and Westonbirt.

Dave Ward is pecking away at the 'bird boxes' swindle. He's up to forty or so and still counting. Martin is busy signwriting. Maintenance of our show stand is vital! 'Pick-a-Peg' items are being produced steadily thanks to all our supporters! Lorraine's efforts are well appreciated and the income has gone a long way in keeping Club subs down. I remember the Committee being quite concerned when Ray Chambers ended his two years stint at hosting 'Pick-a-Peg' and turning in a good profit. We needn't have worried. Lorraine and Barry came up trumps and took us from strength to strength with a band of assistants, Becky especially, cajoling, laughing, shouting out at the prize winners, etc. This engendered a sense of fun reverberating around our marquee and has the desired effect of bringing in the punters. Dave Bearne is our Birsd Box plonker exponent. His efforts can bring in another couple of hundred pounds. At the '07 event Vicky Sander (with Melita's assistance) hosted 'The Kidz Korner. Knitting superbly presented dollies was entirely her idea, and producing the dollies and knitted ropes was all her own work. This year it's 1½" long, Yew Mice (polished and drilled for ears and tails) that children can buy, then kneel at a table to cut and glue pipe cleaner tails, glue in the ears and colour the eyes and nose. It's another excellent idea!!! Vicky has already produced the first batch of mice. **Please feel free to inundate her with dozens more!!! It is one way if you are 'Club minded'** to show your appreciation of all the things that our Club offers!!

You will have noticed that Doug Alderton's name has cropped up in the last couple of 'Musings'. He is a Club member of twelve weeks standing and an avid Mill participant. With remarkable effort at home and down here he has completed his apprenticeship in record time and with flying colours. Great effort and dedication have been displayed so 'Well Done' Doug and congratulations!! Your record speed proves it can be done but I'm certain it won't be equalled, let alone beaten, for a very long time!

Usual Kind Regards.....Max

**(By Ed: Modest to the last Max has not mentioned above that this is his 100<sup>th</sup> 'Musings'!!! He mentioned JUST TO ME last month that that was his 99<sup>th</sup>. I don't suppose that anyone else has been keeping score BUT let us not allow this occasion to pass without expressing the strongest possible message of THANKS AND APPRECIATION! As Editor I recognise, perhaps more clearly than most members, that 'Musings' is a cornerstone of our newsletter's structure, particularly in the sense that it is chatty and Club-spirited, as well as being highly informative! We could write a book about Max's performance and contribution, BUT I hope this short tribute will suffice!)**

**HINTS AND TIPS** (By Editor)

Health and Safety - I read recently of the death of a man **four days after he had inhaled dust laden with spores** from decomposing garden waste. The circumstances were rather exceptional, but the case seems worth a mention due to the received advice that turning spalted timber carries some risk of inhaling spores of the fungus that causes spalting, and that our lungs provide good breeding conditions for the fungus. The deceased was reported to have been a keen gardener who composted large quantities of leaves in sacks. On the last occasion of emptying the sacks produced clouds of what turned out to be spore-laden dust, but unaware of any risk the gardener carried on working in what proved to be a lethally contaminated atmosphere. It took only four days for his lungs to be completely clogged by the growing fungus. I should emphasise that I have no expert knowledge of spore risk, and simply pass on, for what it is worth, that which I have read.

<b>TIPS AND HINTS</b>	<b>WHAT BEES HAVE YOU GOT IN YOUR BONNET?</b> Please be sure to let Editor know any tips or hints that can be passed on in these columns!!
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**RECENTLY FELLED YEW TREE** (By Editor)

A Yew has had to be felled in Sutton Benger churchyard and the church is hoping that some cash can be raised by sale of trunk and branchwood either separately or as a single lot. I have offered to bring this to the attention of our Club, and the North Wilts one (but the latter has already had to decline interest because it still has surplus Yew for sale from trees acquired last year). So, if the A & B Club or individuals wish to declare an interest, let me know and we'll see what can be arranged. The following photographs show the timber. The trunk is 14ft long and has a bole diameter of circa 25" but it forked many years ago, part way up. It will be seen that the branchwood is neatly stacked and includes a wide range of sizes.



(Photographs by G M Wilson)

The trunk will obviously need the attention of a sawmill and is being offered to one or two. If A & B Club members have any useful contacts or ideas though, I should be glad to hear from them.

On the fundraising aspect Dick Mather has offered to make two thin-walled natural edge bowls free of charge on the understanding that the church can definitely use them to raise cash. I have also offered to make a few small items from the as yet unseasoned branchwood on the understanding that the drying process affects timing, and carries high risk of splitting at all stages. The churchwarden believes that members of the congregation will be interested in buying such items as mementos of a fondly remembered tree whilst boosting church funds at the same time. If the thought of helping the church to raise some cash appeals to anyone else I would be interested to hear from you.

**FOR SALE:** BLACK & DECKER DN 67 (old type) ROUTER complete with STRAIGHT AND CIRCULAR GUIDE AND FULL INSTRUCTIONS. Offers to 0117 9240626.

**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!**

## THE JOHN BEREKLEY (RPT) EXPERIENCE (By Editor)

This refers of course to the June Club night, and it was clear from the word 'go' that we were in the hands of a master who would hold our attention for every second of his demonstration on both sides of the interval. His principal subjects were boxes with threaded lids and use of alternative materials. In case you haven't stopped to think about it I feel we should pay tribute to the quality of his verbal delivery. He gave a non-stop commentary at considerable speed and yet never a word too much, and every point or observation made was relevant and telling. Such expertise is sometimes dismissed with the comment that 'he's done it a hundred times before and must know it off by heart'. In fact, you still have to keep a very clear head to achieve his standard of presentation. More information can be picked up on his website: [www.johnberkeley.co.uk](http://www.johnberkeley.co.uk)

As always I shall aim only to pick out from my inadequate notes points of particular potential value that struck me on the night. His speed of deed and word were such that it would be more than usually difficult to attempt to tell you his way of how to make things. (NB: In any case please do remember that we are still looking for a volunteer to be the reporter on Club Night proceedings! We have been waiting far too long for that member to come forward!).

Because I've already gotten them reduced in size, and positioned, I'll start by showing three photographs taken on the night. The first lines up three perfume bottles with threaded stoppers that he had with him, although he only spoke about one of them (the one on the right of picture). Those present will recall that it was made from **shuttering ply** and inlaid with African Blackwood. The other photographs show: (left) a collection of his boxes made in alternative materials and (right) a box of blanks in various sizes. The numbers on the ends of the blanks are the prices in pounds sterling.



Here are a few snippets of his advice delivered on the night:.

1. A ¼" point tool has many uses as he ably demonstrated. In use the point must always be below the handle. He showed that it can be deployed safely using one hand. (It is a curious coincidence that one came into play during Tich's 3-day training visit to Chris Eagles - See his report below, including advice on sharpening a point tool).
2. 450rpm is the best speed for thread cutting. Perfect toolrest smoothness is essential in this work.
3. The 'Golden Rule' is close to a proportion of 2/3 to 1/3; but Ray Mellett tapped me on the shoulder to say that proportions of 5 to 3 or 8 to 5 are nearer the mark.
4. It is a good idea to doctor your chucks by taking them to bits and round over the sharp edges that come towards you. This can help **a bit** if there is contact with your flesh during turning.
5. He recommended **Muninga** as a high quality hardwood for turning, and many other purposes. (My Encyclopaedia of Wood also speaks glowingly of it! Under 'Uses' the first sentence starts Muninga, a very attractive wood, is excellent for turnery.....).
6. Carnauba wax is edible (so don't worry if your larder looks empty.....).
7. Plastic alternatives to wood – Be aware that the swarf is highly flammable (at least you don't have to keep it separate if you use your wood shavings on your fire). 'T-Cut' is his preferred polishing agent. (That was reassuring because I had recently tried 'Brasso' etc., which worked well, but that had been a guess on my part).
8. Don't use too coarse an abrasive paper on alternatives.
9. Lining up grain or pattern between threaded base and lid - the fact that thread chasers are graded by tpi means that if you apply your mind to it you can calculate accurately the minor adjustments needed to achieve perfect alignment.
10. He had his support tool used in thread chasing hanging at waist level on a shoulder cord. It came to hand in a flash whenever required.
11. When turning wood (i.e. not resin/plastic) a full face respirator should always be worn. He had learned to his cost that a mask that lacked a sealing sheet between its base and the wearer's throat gave seriously inadequate protection. (That oversight struck me as rather surprising. I have always felt a need to close all the gaps; but then, I worked on protecting RN personnel in **all** conditions in peace and war for a good many years).
12. Most efficient positioning of dust extractor hose pick-up points is very important.
13. There is nothing wrong with hose diameter reduction from 4" to say 2" on dust extractors.
14. There is a GPS website for cast polyester resin but it is expensive.

### **MY TIME WITH CHRIS EAGLES** (By Tich Renee)

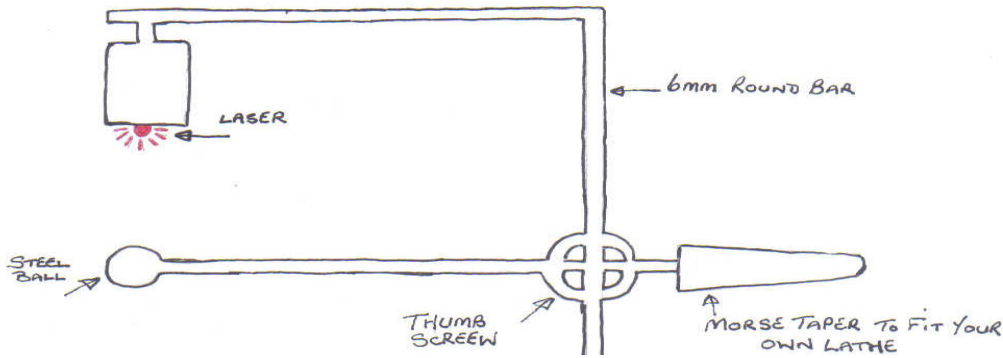
I drove up to my digs on the Sunday afternoon. After unpacking the car and settling in by about 5pm I decided to go for a drive and do a recce on the route to Chris' place. Upon arrival I made my presence known. Chris welcomed me into his workshop and I must say that it was immaculate. We should all have workshops like his. There was a place for every tool, and every tool had its place. Once I had got over how clean and tidy the workshop was Chris welcomed me in for a chat about what we should be doing for the next three days. After about half an hour I left with a strong sense of anticipation of what was to come, and I must say I was excited. Nevertheless I returned to my digs ready for a good night's sleep. On the Monday morning I woke at 6am but breakfast started at 8 o'clock so I had plenty of time to contemplate and try to anticipate.

Chris had told me that we could start at 9.30am. Excited and tooled-up I walked into the workshop on the dot and was greeted with a cheery 'Hello, Tich, Come on in!' Chris has a way of making you feel at ease, and that helps everyone. He introduced me to his wife Pat and we sat down at his dining room table with every Englishman's staple diet - a cup of tea. Pat kept us going throughout the day with plenty more of those. Over that first cuppa we discussed our day's turning schedule. An agenda was hammered out, and

then in the workshop Chris measured up to my elbow and found that I needed a 4" plinth so that I could use his Vicmarc '300' whilst he used the '100' and we would both be turning a project at the same time. Chris has a calm and comfortable way of teaching, and I learned a different way of using Skew and Bedan tools which can only help me to enjoy my turning even more.

Tuesday - Day Two

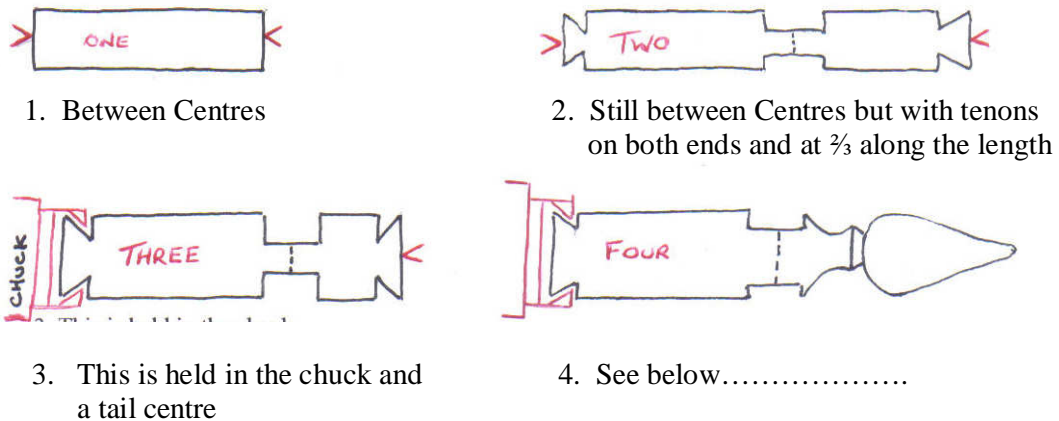
We started off by doing what Chris calls 'Thumbnails'. This is drawing what you want to turn before you put timber on lathe. So I did a simple drawing of a vase using the 'golden rule' (very roughly  $\frac{2}{3}$  and  $\frac{1}{3}$ ) and then we started to work. We had turned a nice shape on the outside but Chris then came up with a very good recommendation. This was to set up a laser pen light in a homemade jig so that you can see how far you have drilled in with either a spindle gouge or a brad point drill. The laser light will give you a more accurate mark on the outside of the hollow form (see diagram below).



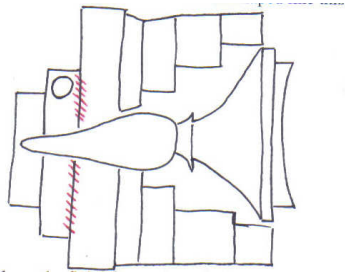
Chris also mentioned that if you take your white marker board and put it behind the lathe you can see the shape of your turning much better, and believe me 'it does work'! So ended Day Two.

Wednesday - Day Three

The day seemed to pass like lightning. Talking over breakfast to my landlady she asked if I had a good three days tuition. My response was that I received more than I expected; the only problem was going to be remembering it all. I can only hope that I have done Chris proud with this report! Now, let's get back to the start of the day. The day's item of choice was small boxes. Yet again Chris showed me a new way of how to make boxes with a wooden chuck so that you only have to turn and take the box out of the chuck once if the thumbnail drawing is followed in order.



4. is still held in the chuck while the lid is turned down to about 10mm. That is just the right size so that when you part through, the 10mm finial will go up inside the headstock. A wooden chuck will hold the outer side of the lid. This allows you to hollow out the lid later on. The wooden chuck is made up of four layers of MDF and fixed to the chuck travellers, and then shaped like this:



As I hope you can see, the finial fits up through the chuck and into the headstock. Note: if you have a No. 2 morse taper the finial can be as big as 10mm thick, but if you only have a No.1 morse taper then the size must be altered to suit.

There's one last idea from Chris. If you have a 6mm point tool and you have different sides, take a piece of MDF, cut out an equilateral triangle and drill a 6mm hole through the middle. Using a flat plate on the grinder you should be able to grind a perfect point.

Well, at this 'point' I have just about covered everything. So, with all that said and done 'Thank you Chris and Pat for all your help!!!!.....Tich

### **ODDMENTS FROM NORTH WILTS JULY CLUB NIGHT** (By Vernon Hughes)

The small chair (photo 1) and selection of pieces (photo 3) below are of items displayed by the visiting demonstrator, Nigel Porter from Somerset (somewhere near Burnham-on-Sea). The segmented hollow form (photo 2) is yet another piece by Club Chairman, Ian Hooker.

The 'Ray Jones' chair is small in size (see photo 3), having been scaled down accurately from Ray's drawing. It is a little beauty. The drawing can be purchased from Ray, and it struck me that anyone wanting to make a 'Pudsey Chair' in response to Martin Lawrence's recent initiative need look no further than this design.





It was very interesting to see that Ian Hooker is just as talented with solid segmentation as he is with the open style. Isn't the piece superb? The diameter was not less than 12 inches I would say, if memory serves me correctly after eyeballing the piece on the night.

**Excellent News** - The Club has succeeded in securing a grant to enable it to replace its old 'Record' with something modern and swish. Full details, including how much, are due out any minute now, but full marks for hard work by Chairman Ian Hooker and Brian King-Fisher. I will keep you posted on the essentials; BUT is there a message here for A & B Branch too? Could we make out a case for something badly needed? Over to 'the management'. Oh yes, the old lathe which had been obtained on loan from Record but does not have to be returned will be looking for a new home. I expect someone from North Wilts will qualify for first refusal, but you never know until the fat turner turns.

### **JULIE HERYET AT A CONTEMPORARY DESIGNER CRAFTS EXHIBITION** (By Editor)

Julie has sent in some flyers advertising an exhibition in which she is participating:

The Gloucestershire Guild of Craftsmen's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibition  
At  
The Painswick Centre  
Painswick Glos GL6 6QQ

26 July - 25 August 2008 (Open Daily 10am – 6pm)

She wondered if it was worthy of a mention in our newsletter. She herself is a 'flyer' and was in a dash to fly to America for the third time this year, but I had no hesitation in deciding to publicise the event. For one thing, if Julie is involved then so is woodturning, but secondly it looks like being an interesting event in its own right, and something that members might like to know about with a view to paying a visit. Work by 'some of the finest craftsmen in the county and further afield' will be on display. The small stock of leaflets will be available to those attending the July Club Night. Admission £1.75.

See website: [www.guildcrafts.org.uk](http://www.guildcrafts.org.uk)

**ODDMENTS FROM THE MAY CLUB NIGHT** (By Editor)

Barry Surplice (Henry Taylor Tools) gave such a masterly talk on his company, its products plus the effect of market forces and metallurgy that it proved impossible to summarise it. However, I jotted down a couple of his weightiest points which were:

1. Overheating **DOES** damage high speed steel by causing a change in its structure. I picked this out because we have been told the opposite by numerous non-metallurgists over the years.
2. Cryogenic (KRYO) tools have a cutting edge that lasts three times longer than M2 steel.
3. One effect of rocketing commodity prices caused (he felt) by manipulation of the markets is that he is having to pay £1.30 each for brass ferrules. Also, the cost of steel has risen dramatically.
4. He is a believer in *honing* turning tools. We don't **have** to go to the grinder as often as we do.

Background Info: His company was established in 1834, and in recent times bought 'Hamlet Tools'. Their registered brand names are 'Acorn', 'Diamic' and 'Kryo'.

**CONCLUSION** (By Editor)

It strikes me as odd that no one from 'the management' has given a plug to the **DAVE SPRINGETT Seminar** at The Mill on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of this month – i.e. a day and a bit after Club night!! So, I thought, I'd better step in and do it. I've checked that it is still on so that is the first thing. It is a few years since Dave was last with us, and I remember him bemoaning the fact that his great book 'Woodturning Wizardry' had been allowed to fall out of print, but I'm pleased to see that it is now available once more. For the benefit of many new members who may not have picked up yet on the sheer magic of this wizard I should explain that he takes us into the far reaches of woodturning skill, and a fascinating day is guaranteed. It's worth every penny of the day's subscription, so **I hope to see you ALL there!!**

**Looking Further Ahead** - As there is some space available it may be worth checking on what's coming up. In **August there is no Club night** but there will be Thornbury Model Engineering Exhibition (fascinating) on 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> and Westonbirt Festival of Wood 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> plus **setting up on 21<sup>st</sup>!!**

An aspect in our Blue Programmes of Club Activity that we never concentrate on is the '**Monthly Theme**'. **It always strikes me that there are far too few contributions to this so why not pay more attention to it and be determined to have a go??** It takes a little planning and organisation by the individual member so here's a reminder of the themes for the next few months after August:

- September.....Something Delicate
- October..... Block and Gavel
- November.....Timepiece

OK - That's it for this month!

<p>Website:<a href="http://www.avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk">www.avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk</a>  Email: <a href="mailto:messages@avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk">messages@avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk</a></p> <p>Editor: Vernon Hughes  "Si-Rusa" 6 Little Sands Yatton Keynell Chippenham Wilts SN14 7BA</p> <p>Tel: 01249 782971</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Avon and Bristol Woodturners gratefully acknowledge the support of Magnox North (Oldbury Power Station) for the printing of 'Turnings'!!</b></p>
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