



September 2009

TURNINGS

Official newsletter of
Avon and Bristol Woodturners

(Honorary Life President - Max Carey)

Established 1989

Affiliated to the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

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Editorial

August has indeed been a very busy month for the club, with the Thornbury Model Engineers' exhibition followed close on its heels by Westonbirt's Tree Festival.

Anyone who has ever had to organise an exhibition stand will know that these events always demand a huge amount of preparation beforehand, a lot of stamina once the visitors start arriving and finally, at the end of the last tiring day, the breaking down and safe return of exhibits, stands, lathes and all the other essential paraphernalia to their rightful owners.

Martin quite rightly pays tribute in his report (page 2) to everyone who was involved, for without their dedication and untiring enthusiasm the club's participation in these events with the resulting publicity and additional income would simply not happen.

Your editor's own tribute to our stalwarts is in the form of a series of images in which he has attempted to capture as much as possible the spirit of these two events. He would also like to thank itinerant photographer Bryan Milham who kindly sent some of his photographs of Westonbirt for inclusion in the tableau. None are captioned but if you can think of suitable ones.....

As a reminder of the universal appeal of the art of turning, **John Wilson-Smith** has sent in a delightful picture of veteran club member Dennis Wanklyn with his grandson Josh, one of our youngest new recruits (Josh is the one on the

left!). Josh, looking positively cherubic in his spotless white smock is holding some of the items made when he attended the Youth Training weekend in April. Dennis has every reason to be proud and we all look forward to seeing more work from this young man.

The current situation in Afghanistan seems very far removed from wood turning but with deaths and injuries being sustained by British (and of course other countries') soldiers on an almost daily basis the Kent branch of the AWGB has included in its recent newsletter an article headed "Pens for Patriots". For anyone wishing to participate in this scheme the details are reproduced in full on page 3.

Yandle's has come and gone, and with so many club members seen milling around the stands and demos we must all now be fully "tooled up" for the forthcoming winter season.. [Note to Committee: (a) be prepared for an avalanche of entries in our monthly competitions and (b) the Pick-a-Peg stall 2011 will need to be strengthened to withstand the increased weight of dibbers, spinning things, rolling pins and other assorted goodies].

And in a desperate assault on the rocky path to the moral high ground and as a salve to a tormented conscience, your editor plans to divide his attention between turning out words and turning out woods during the darker months – but don't rely on it.

Chairman's Report

August, the busiest month of the year for the club is now over, thankfully in many respects, but regrettably in many other ways. The getting together of club members on set up days and the actual days open to the public are great fun and the banter and camaraderie are second to none.

Thornbury Model Engineering show went off without any hitches, and was the first public showing of the improved gallery. The new base and timber surround that held cloth screening was in my unbiased opinion the best in the show. Unfortunately the judges disagreed - we just could not compete with a working jet engine. The much - improved stand was not for the first time down to the skilled handiwork of George King. **Once again George, many thanks from all the committee and members for your efforts and commitment to the club.**

The weather was kind and the queues were stretching back across the car park each morning. As expected the majority of visitors were only into "things metal" but we had a few converts and a significant number of prospective members left with promises to join us at future club nights.

Then, almost as soon as the boxes had been packed away it was time to open up and set the gallery once again, this time for our big show of the year at **Westonbirt**, so the whole lot goes up, gallery, shop sales tables, overhead signs and demonstrations area. Pick-a- Peg took its usual pride of place in the centre of the marquee and did what we expect by bringing in the public willing to spend some money on a chance of winning one of the many prizes made by you the members, (or did you?). Never mind you now have twelve months to build up a stock for next time. The public came in great numbers but not as many were willing to part with their cash and make purchases from our sales tables, but we more than covered our costs and showed off our club to many hundreds of people. One lady actually mad a special trip back before going home to compliment us on being the "friendliest stand in the show". **And - save this one for the record books - a member of the opposition from Gloucestershire actually said the look of our stand beat theirs hands down.**

Before I close on Westonbirt, I would like to extend thanks to the 25 members who came to set up on the Thursday, **yes 25**, a quarter of the membership and so nice to see so many of our newer members taking an active part. Please keep it up - you are the future of this club. Thanks to Gareth Williams for the use of his giant gazebo providing a pleasant area for a moment's rest of the aching feet, and our members' ladies, Cathy Howard, Debbie Oram, Dee Renee , Christine Green, and Becky Heryet who once again volunteered their time to assist. Thank you all for your help - it is gratefully received.

And finally our thanks to two young men who relentlessly coerced visitors into parting with their money and helped make Pick - a - Peg another resounding success, well done Ben and Reece. [*I can vouch for that - they got me, too - Ed*]

From Chaos to Order in 40

To be there at 5pm on the last day is sight to behold, members scattering every which way possible in what looks like total chaos. But I think another record for the club was achieved, because within 40 minutes every single item had been packed away, wrapped up and loaded into cars and trailers, again with many new members being party to the take down. All this already makes me think ahead for next year with the fervent hope that more of you will become involved in displaying and selling your work and joining in the fun and interaction with the viewing public.

My only sad reflection of both of the above shows is the number of members who take part in displaying their work. Our membership is always around the 100 mark but when you look at the gallery only about 6 or 7 members are represented. The display should ideally represent a complete cross section of our membership at all levels of competency. I know that within the club we have many skilled craftsmen and ladies who, if they offered their work we would snap it up for future displays. So my plea is, next year please submit examples of your work so that our displays will truly represent the club and not just the "few" who, with true Battle-of-Britain spirit are at present carrying the full weight of responsibility. That does not of course mean that they should stop exhibiting!

Welcome back

It was nice to see Brian Oram at last months meeting. Welcome back, Brian and I'm glad to hear that your foot is getting better, albeit rather more slowly than you would like.

First Aid

Congratulations to Tich Renee who has attended and passed a first aid training course. So if any of you are thinking of collapsing at the meeting Tich will be the one administering the kiss of life.

Club Exchange

During Westonbirt members of Cardiff District Woodturning and Carving Club came up to me and asked about an exchange visit. They proposed a visit to one of our club events together with an offer for us to attend one of their club events. Since Westonbirt I have had a phone conversation with their Mr Cliff Harris and he hopes to hire a mini bus and bring a party to visit us. What I would like to know is whether any members are interested in being part of the returning group. If you would like to participate please drop me an email or phone so that I can make the final arrangements. My email is martin@lawrence5.orangehome.co.uk and home telephone number is 01454 269733.

Turner of the Year

Can I take this opportunity to remind everyone that next month's meeting is the time when you should be submitting your three turned items for consideration in this year's "Turner of the Year" competition. To be eligible you must show competence in no fewer than three disciplines – I'll leave you to decide what those are! So, if you haven't yet started there's ample time to get cracking (perhaps that's not the right word to use in this context but I'm sure you know what I mean). The more entries we get the more meaningful the result will be – and the more practice we'll all get into the bargain.

EGM.

Finally notice is now given that the EGM to finalise and vote on the updated constitution will take place at the October club evening.

Martin Lawrence.

The following appeal has been reproduced from the September edition of "Counter Revolutions" - the magazine of the Kent branch of the AWGB.- Ed

Pens for Patriots

Under this scheme Woodturners will be encouraged to turn pens, and accompany them with a letter of support, to be forwarded to members of our forces serving in war zones, notably in Afghanistan. Non-pen turners can also contribute by purchasing a 7 mm pen kit via Styles and Bates, which will then be made up by a member of the group. Kits can be ordered by post, phone or 'On Line', we will collect them from Styles and Bates. The Canadians have found their scheme to be a great morale boost for their troops - our troops need our support too. For further details and to get involved contact Ken Petty on **01322 668547**.

NOTICE BOARD

Free! to a good home

I have a small (5") Draper bench grinder that is surplus to requirements. It is in good "used" condition but it was bought for use with metal-turning tools and is not really suitable for woodworking chisels and gouges. It would be heartbreaking to have to dump it so if you or anyone you know would like it please give me (Mike Openshaw) a call on 01179 607266.

Members' Comments

Due to a lack of interest we have withdrawn the Members' comments page from Turnings. However, that doesn't mean that the committee are not anxious to hear from you so please - if, as my predecessor was apt to say, "you have a bee in your bonnet" about anything relating to club matters then don't keep it to yourself. Remember the old adage - "A problem shared is a problem solved"

SHOW AN ITEM (formerly Bring and Tell)

Please don't be shy - you **MUST** have turned SOMETHING during the past month **SO LET'S SEE IT**. Remember, you won't be asked to say anything (unless you want to, of course)

AVON & BRISTOL WOODTURNERS

Proposed amendments to Constitution to be discussed in open forum by club members at a full meeting to be held on Thursday, October 15th 2009

AIMS

- a. To foster friendship amongst woodturners in the area.
- b. To impart knowledge and expand the craft of woodturning

CONSTITUTION

NAME

1. The club shall be known as **AVON & BRISTOL WOODTURNERS**.
2. The club shall be affiliated to the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (**AWGB**), and ALL club members are required to be individual members of that association.
3. Branch rules as laid down from time to time by the executive committee of the AWGB shall apply in full to this branch

MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership shall be open to any member of the AWGB on payment of the subscription set by the committee and approved by the AGM.
2. The Club Year shall end 31st March
3. All members may attend all meetings and all activities. [Extra payment may be required for some Seminars and workshops.](#)
4. Potential members may attend two monthly club meetings without charge.
5. All members may attend the AGM and be eligible to vote and offer themselves for election to any office.
6. [The Committee have the power to make any person a Life Member or an Honorary Member, provided they are members of the AWGB.](#)
7. [Life Membership may be awarded to someone who has made an outstanding long term commitment to the running of the club.](#)
8. [The Honorary Membership may be awarded to someone from outside the club who has contributed significantly to the club in some way. They have full access to the Club's facilities and events, but they have no voting rights.](#)

COMMITTEE

1. A committee elected at the AGM shall manage the affairs of the club.
2. [Committee Officers shall comprise Chairman, Vice Chairman, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Events Manager, and a Mill representative.](#)
3. The Committee shall meet as necessary and shall be empowered to appoint sub committees and co-opted members.
4. [Co-opted members only have voting rights if approved by the membership](#)
5. The committee shall elect the Club Chairman from amongst its members at the first meeting after the AGM each year. The other Club Officers ([apart from the Mill rep](#)) are elected by the club members.
6. [Committee quorum shall be FIVE](#)

7. The Club Committee shall produce any other rules it feels necessary for the running of the club, with the approval of the members.
8. The Committee shall have the power to suspend any member or members who act in such a manner as to disrupt meetings, events or act in such a manner to bring the Club into disrepute
9. Tenure of Committee members. Each member shall be elected for a minimum of three and a maximum of four years. The Committee shall organise its affairs so that approximately one third of its members shall retire each year. Retiring members may offer themselves for re-election.
10. Within this rotation process, at no time shall both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, nor, both the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer retire at the same time. In the event that this is dictated by the three year rule the two members concerned shall, by the toss of a coin, decide which one shall continue to serve for a fourth year.
11. Cheques drawn on the club account shall require two signatures from any of the three nominated Committee members.

AGM/EGM

1. The AGM shall be convened within SIX weeks either side of the end of the club year.
2. The date of the AGM will be in the programme card and members shall be reminded in writing at least 3 weeks in advance
3. Motions for the AGM signed by the proposer, seconder and at least FOUR other full club members are to be received in writing by the Hon. Secretary **One** week prior to the date of the meeting.
4. Nominations for officers or committee members duly proposed and seconded **may** be notified in writing to the Hon. Secretary prior to the meeting.
5. An EGM may be called by resolution of the committee or by written request of FIVE members, and shall be notified to all members of the branch at least THREE weeks prior to the date of the EGM.
6. Motions to change this Club's Constitution may be submitted to an AGM or EGM if FIVE members support the motion. All members will be notified in writing THREE weeks prior to the meeting.
7. Motions will be approved on a majority vote by eligible members present.
8. A quorum at an AGM or EGM shall be a minimum of ten percent of the branch membership.

<i>Website</i>	www.avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk		
<i>Email:</i>	messages@avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk		
<i>Turnings Editor:</i>	Mike Openshaw		
	41 Tyler Close	Hanham	Bristol BS15 9NG
	01179 - 607266		
<i>Email:</i>	mikeopenshaw1941@googlemail.com		

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WESTONBIRT TREE FESTIVAL 2009



Captions, ₆ anybody?

THORNBURY MODEL ENGINEERS EXHIBITION 2009





Max congratulates Mary Ashton on receiving her award

A new wardrobe for Mary

In recognition of Mary Ashton's recent elevation to the Registry of Professional Woodturners a group of ABWT members got together to provide Mary with the distinctive brown smock complete with the exclusive insignia of the Worshipful Company of Woodturners. The Worshipful Company does not dish out memberships willy-nilly so Mary's achievement deserves our praise and congratulations in equal measure. It might also serve as an inspiration to those others of us who sometimes feel that we can't, when in fact we can!

The founding of a dynasty?

Dennis Wanklyn's grandson Josh recently attended the club's Youth Training Weekend at the Mill and emerged two days later with flying colours and not a few pieces of well-turned work to show for his labours. Josh, seen here with proud grandfather Dennis and some of the pieces he made is now well on the way to upholding the family tradition in the fascinating world of woodturning.



Photo (left) depicts a finished example of Steve's work

You skew if you want to

Guest turner Stephen Heeley (see photo left) demonstrates his skills at last month's meeting. Steve's professional, no-nonsense approach ("I won't waste words, I'm here to demonstrate") was a refreshing change and although some found his presentation to be a little austere than they would have liked there was no doubting his skill in the execution of his work and merely observing him in action inspired at least one member! Steve's "minimal" use of the skew evoked a comment from the floor but his response to the implied criticism was that he does use this tool when necessary and he then proceeded to do just that. At the end of his presentation Steve presented the almost-finished stand (but not his skew) to the club for members to complete as they saw fit.

Versatility on display

Once again members have shown that they can rise to any challenge. Last month's competition was "A piece of jewellery". Jewellery is not the first thing that comes into most people's minds when thinking of woodturning but nothing daunted, the little grey cells were put to work and the result was an amazing display of imaginative and exquisitely delicate designs. Well done to all who submitted their work. Let this be a salutary reminder to the rest of us (including the editor)



ABWT-Snippets

By "Sniffer"

FLOPPY BITS.

I used to believe that man's first instinct was self preservation (fight or flight stuff).

I also used to believe that accidents were accidents-unavoidable by definition.

I learnt that "pride goes before a fall", that "familiarity breeds contempt", "a wise man learns from his mistakes, but a clever man learns from other people's" and "if you know what you are doing, it won't happen to you", etc. etc. **How wrong I was, as a recent incident proved.**

Accidents are caused by a chain of interconnected, but not necessarily interdependent events, which, on their own are seemingly very insignificant, but which all come together and inter-react.

Applying this to our turning, we all go through the mental checklist - lathe off, belt on correct range, tailstock tight and locked, tool rest correct height and tight, (not fouling work when turned), area clear, job held in chuck tightly, etc. Now we can begin, but all this we do, like driving, subconsciously.

We start, and discover that the tool rest needs tightening. Then later on we find that the tool rest clamp is not so tight. Then we start to turn, and discover the tool is not as sharp as we would like, but think, well, we will stop and sharpen it later.

Each of these "annoyances" we can cope with on its own, correcting as we go, and get on with the job.

But imagine that but for some bit of mind wandering, we get the dig in, the tool is jerked out of our control, the work stops rotating momentarily, the tool rest can't take the extra load so turns and jams into the jaws of the chuck, the work is dislodged from the chuck, and due to its inertia, flies off, smacks you in the face, goes across the workshop, bounces and smashes the window. We have had an **accident**.

BUT IT WAS AVOIDABLE. If only we had applied a little more effort to ensure that our mental "risk analysis" results had been implemented in a systematic manner, and we had applied that **Plan** (decided what needed doing), **Do** (did what we had planned to do) **Check** (that we have done what was planned) **Act** (correct anything that was not done), **Cycle**, to each of those adjustments, and had started with a sharp tool, and paid attention to what we were doing, the chances are that it was far less likely to have happened.

Why all this?

I went to use a kitchen knife. I dropped it onto the floor, and banged my head on the open drawer when I retrieved it. It was blunt. As it was a cold day, I had put on one of my many now oversized long sleeved and very floppy fleeces, and went to the workshop to grind it. I moved the grindstone to a convenient position, but left it "free standing". Having ground the knife, I switched the grinder off, and in reaching over, the floppy bit of my sleeve caught the edge of the wheel, which dragged the sleeve and my arm into the grindstone. Luckily, it was running down, and it is only a low powered small machine. **BUT** had it been bigger, I hate to think of the consequences. **IT WAS AVOIDABLE.**

So what is the "Lesson for today" (apologies, John!)

Yes, we all have been told of the importance of the correct and appropriate work wear. So **Remember it.** Leave nothing dangling, or hanging out. Adopt the Deming PDCA way of thinking in everything you do, but, above all, keep your floppy bits well covered and out of danger, and hopefully you will avoid both complacency and accidents.

[Thanks for that timely warning, Sniffer. I'm sure we all remember with affection that other brilliant monologue, "The Barrel of Bricks" by the late and much missed Gerard Hoffnung which took poor Risk Assessment to new depths of incompetency - Ed]

TIM'S GIFT TO THE TRUST

A tribute by Ray Mellett

Many of us got to know Tim McIlvoy well during his spell with us, and especially at the Mill. His work as a trainer was amazing, and many have benefited from his deliberations and tuition.

Tim always advocated the keeping of a notebook, for making notes, recording tips and other useful information, and all his projects were well planned, backed up not only with drawings but examples of the various stages of turning, from the blank, roughing out, detail stages to the finished products.

Now Tim has decided that he has to "de-clutter", and as he is now less involved, he has kindly donated his amazing stock of examples and other pieces, which represent hundreds of hours of work, to the Club and the Trust for use in our educational programmes.

I know we are very grateful, and a lot of his family will be pleased now that they can have their biscuit tins back that he kept them in!

It is a magnificent gesture, and through Turnings, we express our heartfelt thanks to Tim, and wish him well in his future.
