



March 2010

TURNINGS

Official newsletter of
Avon and Bristol Woodturners

(Honorary Life President - Max Carey)

Established 1989

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 Avon and Bristol Woodturners

Editor's Jottings

There's no doubt that those of us who were at the Mill on 21st February had more than our money's worth out of the event, with an inspired and inspiring all-day presentation by Mark Baker (where does he get his energy?), a sumptuous feast laid on by none other than Tich who, sadly wasn't well enough to stay and enjoy the day and, of course, the official inauguration of the Max Carey Trust.

I arrived armed with camera and notebook but to my very great relief I discovered that Doug had been appointed official reporter and photographer. His brief was to produce a detailed illustrated report of the day's events for publication in *Revolutions* and possibly in *Woodturning*, of which of course, Mark Baker is Editor. It will also be published as a supplement to this month's edition of *Turnings*, so I will say no more on the subject but let Doug's piece speak for itself.

In my role as editor it is my job to compile contributions from you, the club members in as attractive a way as possible. That's not to say I'm barred from voicing my opinion from time to time as an "ordinary" member, but it is upon you that the overall content depends for its interest and diversity.

I labour this point because this month, for some unaccountable reason, there have been scarcely any contributions from anyone with the result that there are very few pages to read.

Now why is this, I wonder? Perhaps you have all been far too busy beavering away in your workshops doing what you like to do best, ie, turn wood. Is it too fanciful to think that the trestle exhibit tables will on Thursday have to be reinforced to cope with the fruits of your labours?

I'm not really superstitious but would I be tempting fate and risking being overwhelmed were I to ask you to please write about your February workshop experiences and submit them for inclusion in April's edition? Or in default, would you really want to endure a long missive about my turning efforts during the past few weeks? **You have been warned.**

And just to make sure there's no doubt about the deadline for next month's edition please enter the following date in your diaries - Friday, 9th April (which, coincidentally is also Yandle's Day)

Chairman's Report

The club year is drawing to an end and Peter Oram our Membership Secretary will be pleased to take £20 for your subs for the year 2010/2011, please make his job easier and pay on time, each year he has to spend hours chasing up members for fees, and for the few who have yet to pay AWGB subs please also pay him this, as by you not being a member of the AWGB you take away our affiliation and therefore our insurance cover.

Take notice that the AGM is next month (really is this time) and I ask you to consider joining the committee, our Hon Secretary John Wilson Smith would like to step down next month after many years of support, you can make this possible by taking his place it will not take up much of your time and only necessitates a committee meeting every two months. In addition next year our Hon Treasurer Dave Ward would like to step down and we are looking for someone to step forward and perhaps shadow Dave for a while to learn the ropes. Being involved brings reward, the more you do for your club the more you get from it. Please seriously take this on board and volunteer, your club needs you if we are to survive. Applicants to notify the Hon Secretary prior to the AGM.

I am also looking for volunteers to assist in training members of the Scouts to achieve a merit certificate in Woodturning, no dates are yet set but the courses will be held at The Mill on a Saturday. Volunteers will be provided with assessment criteria and training instructions. This is a step by the AWGB to maintain the craft of woodturning into future generations and with your help we can bring these youngsters into turning, and just maybe future members of our club.

The Committee is ever mindful of soaring costs and in an effort to maintain yearly subs we are looking at cost saving ideas. If you have internet access our monthly newsletter 'Turnings' is on our web site along with all the old copies archived. To save on costs please let us know if you would be happy not to receive a hard copy of the newsletter and read it on the web. We realise that not everyone has access to the internet and for those few we will continue to produce a hard copy. Again we look for your support on this - **please don't read and forget, let a committee member know and we can reduce the printing and mailing costs.**

Dates for your diary: A chance to see Allan Batty who will be demonstrating his secret box at an all day demo with Gloucester Woodturners on Thursday 13th May 2010. As a tribute to Allan Glo's have said bring along your own turned secret box and put it on display. Instructions of how to make a secret box are available from me on request, I can email a copy. The usual fee of £13 I believe is correct for the day. Bring your own packed lunch as there are no shops near the meeting venue.

Sunday 19th Sept - a rare opportunity to see Graeme Priddle from New Zealand at The Mill, this is advanced warning and is an almost certain event final negotiations are in progress. See his work at www.graemepiddle.co.nz

Our May meeting will be a hands-on night with two lathes on the go and at least four work stations. At one such station we ask members to bring along Tools, Jigs and Gizmo's they have made, to share money saving ideas with fellow members.

Next month is the AGM when traditionally for some reason not many attend, this year we aim for the AGM meeting to last for a short period of time and the rest of the evening is to be taken up by our Vice Chairman Simon Keen giving a demonstration of different texturing techniques, so I hope to see at least the usual numbers in attendance as at other monthly meetings.

The AWGB hold its AGM on Sunday 28th March at Oddington Village Hall, Lower Oddington Nr Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire GL56 0XD at 2pm preceded at 11am by the Branch Repre-

sentatives meeting, full details in Revolutions. Would you like to represent our club, your travelling expenses are paid by the AWGB if you attend as the club rep. As this meeting is being held so close to home it's your chance to attend and give your opinions and support and to bring along an item you have turned and put it on display, a prize for the best piece is given. English Hardwoods are again in attendance and some lovely wood up for grabs along with a sales table, so take items of good quality you wish to sell appropriately labelled with sellers details and price.

Christmas Social

Finally the committee has been made aware that some members have said they did not attend the Christmas Social evening as they were unaware of it taking place. The full programme of the club events is printed each year on our club card that each member if issued with, this includes the Christmas event. It was mentioned at least twice in Turnings and I announced it at two club meetings. This year the event will be held on Thursday 9th December, entry will be by tickets bought in advance, so we know how many to cater for and not lose money, as we did last time.

Martin Lawrence.

South West Model Engineering Show-Shepton Mallet, April 17-18th.

Last month's appeal for help, items etc. got only a few responses for help, for which I am grateful, but none for items for exhibiting or selling. Lack of interest may lead to having to cancel, and hence our opportunity to publicise the club will have gone, not only for this exhibition, but the one in August in Thornbury. It's up to you.
Ray.

It would be very sad if we have to withdraw from this and the Thornbury exhibitions through lack of support - surely, with more than one hundred members we should be able to find enough volunteers - Ed

Free dust extractors?

If anyone has seen any Dyson vacs that have been thrown out, please rescue, as I've adapted a couple for use as dust collectors in the workshop. Their 1200W motor certainly shifts some air, which by the way, comes out at 40 degrees to warm me (and you) up!

Most fail due to ignorance - seldom is the motor faulty.

As most skips contain at least one, do please keep your eyes peeled - I would like to get hold of some more.

Thank you for your anticipated help.

Ray.

Ray has promised me the next Dyson he gets -Ed

Last months demo at the Mill was fantastic, but Mark did make one very good point-woodturning is far too expensive a hobby not to enjoy it! As Julie keeps reminding us, it should be fun. It was unfortunate that due to family commitments, Julie could not be present to hear Max pay tribute to her for having sowed the seeds in his mind so long ago.

Thanks, Julie, thanks Max.

Ray

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Ain't Life Peculiar

By Ray Mellett

Aint life peculiar? - full of surprises, happiness, sadness, despair, hate, hope, love, and all emotions in between. We all plod on as if life is eternal, planning, procrastinating, taking things for granted, getting bound up in our own little world as if it's the only one, putting off those visits to our friends who were once so helpful when we were struggling together, because we haven't time to spare, or got other "priorities."

Then, unexpectedly, out of the blue, some of us experience that unexpected news-which strikes at the heart of our hitherto uneventful life, which, initially causes a sharp intake of breath. It's that wake up call which will lead to a complete re-appraisal of everything we are used to doing, thinking, and will reshape both our philosophy of life and our future lifestyle, and in some cases, our bodies as we undergo the various therapies, ...ectomies and medical procedures. Its at these times we want, and need, those nearest and dearest closest to us, and it is times like these you get to know who your true friends really are! But you need them, to know they are there when you need them, and they can show their support and friendship in so many different ways. As we get older, and nearer to our "wear out" phase, so more of our friends are in the same boat, but nevertheless, we can support each other, and show we do so because we care.

I don't know what the average age of our club is, but I suspect it is nearer the "three score" than the "ten", and I know many who have gone through, or are going through, this phase now, so if you have some friend you haven't seen for some time, just make that little effort to find the time, and make contact again. It's most rewarding, and anyway, that is what our club is about-that is Max's philosophy and is its ethos - a sharing, caring club, so lets keep it that way.

As my second anniversary of my my first big operation approaches on May 1st, I am reminded how I benefited from that warmth, love and kindness, which kept me going, and if it wasn't for that, I would not be writing this now.

However, I was able to reciprocate, and visited Vicky in her lovely home in Larkhill, Bath, last Saturday week, as she had recently come out of the RUH. She was bright in herself, but we both agreed that although the medical care was A1, hospital was the unhealthiest place to be. So when she goes back in on Monday (15th), her aim is again to get back home as quickly as possible. I passed on your good wishes, for which she was thankful, and she looks forward to seeing us all again. For me, I too look forward to sharing her laughs and that old treadle lathe again as soon as possible. Like me, she too, collects items around her, and when I said I was going to write up the stories behind some of the more sentimental items, she showed me her beautifully illustrated book she had done for her mementos! She'd beaten me to it. I've decided to live with my "clutter" that I love so much, as it holds so many memories for me, and anyway, it will only be scooped into a skip when I "pop my clogs", and as my mother used to say "If they cant be bothered to come and see me when I'm alive, I don't want 'em prancing behind me coffin when I pop me clogs"

This brings me back to the beginning, because we tend to visit people only when they are unwell, then, as they get better, we ease off, until eventually, we fail to visit at all!

Aint life peculiar!

Ray.

So here is that message from Vicky - Ed

Dear fellow and fellowess woodturners,

Thank you so much for all your messages and tokens of concern. You are most kind and supportive. My mastectomy is done, but I now need to have another operation to take out the rest of the lymph glands. It is called a 'scrape'. I think I will take my own grinder to make sure the scrapers are properly sharpened!

I will need to re-think some of my woodturning practice. With no lymph glands, I must not let my right arm get damaged because I will have no infection filter. I will need to turn in gloves. I gather that mechanics' gloves are tight fitting and strong. Do any of you turn in gloves? I will have to stop turning large uneven logs, as my arm will be less strong. I don't really mind about this. I was intending to return to box making which I can do in soft box-wood on my little Vic-mark. I also want to make more of my strange little part-turned figures. I have done a lot of Eve with her snakes and apples. I think I will make Amazonian women with bows and arrows and only one breast, to celebrate my new status. Right breasts were removed because they got in the way of pulling the bowstring. Thank God for modern surgery! I can't imagine the primitive process with no anaesthetic. There is always something to be grateful for!

Doug showed me photographs of the launch of the Max Carey Trust. It looked a very splendid day. Congratulations to Max and to everyone involved in setting up such an excellent provision. How lucky Avon and Bristol woodturners are.

Hope to see you in April.

Very best wishes,
Vicky

Our thoughts are with you Vicky and we look forward to welcoming you back into the fold in April
Ed

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our Membership Secretary, Peter Oram has asked me to remind all members that Avon and Bristol Woodturners Club subscriptions of £20 will be due on 1st April. If paying by cheque please make payable to "Avon and Bristol Woodturners". Peter will be more than happy to accept your sub at the March meeting!

Also, echoing Martin's comment, if anyone has not yet paid their AWGB subscription would they please do so now.

NOTICE BOARD

For Sale

Axminster Perform Lathe 5 speed with extension bed.

Fruit chuck, Rexon Bandsaw 10" throat plus Rip and Fine blades, Bench Grinder CCBGDL 120mm.

For further details please contact Jason on 07818454893

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Phil Irons (left), discusses a technical point with a club member at last month's meeting.

(Right and bottom right) some of Phil's beautifully designed and crafted work-



Club chairman Martin Lawrence welcomes members to the February meeting



I said I wouldn't comment on the Mill demo day but I couldn't resist the temptation to include this one image (left) which illustrates a number of interesting facts: (1) Mark's skill and confidence (2) the strength and rigidity of the new lathe and (3) the bravery of the front row of the audience

