



June 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

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- This month's star raffle prize - £25 gift voucher generously donated by Ashley Iles - "woodcarving and turning tools made in the traditional way." Be sure to buy YOUR tickets at the June meeting.
- More questions than answers?
Clive Brown experiments with wood colouring
- Tool grinders were always like this
The club's latest acquisition revealed

Deadline for your articles to appear in July's edition of Turnings - Friday, 2nd July. The July meeting is on Thursday, 15th July-theme: Hands-on, Natural Form

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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Chairman's Report

It seems an age since I last penned a Chairman's report but in reality it is only the one month's respite. The club sat with Simon Keen as Chair "in loco parentis" until the committee met and voted me in for another twelve months. It was a hard fought contest with only one standing, so here we go again for another year and as ever I am sure the club will continue to grow and promote the art of woodturning.

But we still seriously need someone to stand in as Treasurer commencing next year. This seems a long way off but believe me it will be here soon and a volunteer is required months before to ensure a smooth transitional hand over. Our current Treasurer Dave Ward has served the club well and for a long period, but it is now time for someone else to step forward and give something to the club to fill this, the most important role within the club.

Last month's meeting appeared to go well - I hope you the members also believe this to be true and will let us know if we are to continue the hands on evenings. Of course, they can only be a success if **you** are willing to get involved and on that note I must thank Mary Ashton, Stuart Bradfield and Doug Alderton for their contribution to the night.

Club member Terry Bailey had a heart by-pass operation on Wednesday 2nd June and at the time of writing he is still detained in hospital. I have conversed with his wife Rosemary and although it is very early days he is making progress along the road to recovery and if all goes well will be fighting fit in three to six months. By the time we have this month's meeting Terry hopefully will be back home with Rosemary waiting on his every need. We wish you both well and of course Terry a speedy recovery.

It is with great pleasure that I inform you about Julie Heryet, who at present is in the USA, where she will be staying for ten weeks (that's not the good news that she is away as she will be missed!). Julie is attending the Philadelphia Wood Centre on a course of exploration into the design of everything wood. This course is recognised world wide and delegates can only attend by invitation. It just goes to show how renowned Julie is in the world of wood. As President Obama would ask and retort "Would you be pleased with that? - Yes I would." But Julie did not rest there - she has also been awarded a scholarship to The Queen Elizabeth Trust, yet another crest to add to her business card, such a shame she had just had thousands printed before being aware of the award. I am sure you would all like to join me in saying to Julie "Congratulations" - yours skills and tenacity are paying off and are well deserved.

Now a little reminder that the club's busy period is looming and Bryan Milham, our new Events Organiser needs the names of all who will assist with the coming shows we are to attend. Wrist bands will only be given out this year to persons who are to work on our stand for the day in question, so please help Bryan and the club by **letting him know as early as possible** what you can do and when.

In anticipation of an overwhelming response and with fingers crossed I thank you!

Martin Lawrence.

Details of the forthcoming Bristol Engineering and Hobbies Exhibition are on page 8 of June's edition of Turnings - Ed

RAFFLE UPDATE

Those of you at last months meeting will be aware that I have been specially chosen to take over running the club raffle, or to put it another way I was stood in the wrong place at the wrong time and uttered the hint of positivity!

I have written to a number of suppliers asking for donations in return for them receiving a mention in our magazine. How could they resist? Much to my surprise and delight I have received a speedy response from Ashley Iles and June's star prize will be a gift voucher to be redeemed for goods manufactured by themselves.

The supply of prizes is running a low and in order to maximise revenue for the club rather than buying in prizes I would like to ask you for donations to be used as raffle prizes. The prizes need not necessarily be related to woodturning. I am certain that a bottle of wine, home made honey, that unwanted Christmas gift still in its box never to see the light of day can all be put to good use to raise funds for **your** club.

Please support your club by the simple act of buying a raffle ticket or three or more. And lastly if you have any ideas on someone who may sponsor us for a prize please let me know. Don't forget you have to be in it to win it!

Clive Brown

Colouring – more questions than answers.

Following Mays hands on evening and having tried colouring using spirit stains with mixed results, the first one I did I was very pleased with but then did not have as much success with further attempts, I decided to have a go at using acrylic paints.

So off I went to a local store and knowing very little about this medium I asked the staff for some assistance. They were very helpful and gave me a useful little leaflet about acrylic paints. (I'll tell you who they are if they come up with a donation for the raffle!) Then I went home and finished off some small sycamore bowls I had roughed out some months earlier whilst still wet. The grain I didn't think was anything particularly exciting to write home about and they had discoloured in the drying process, so they were good candidates for some experimentation with colouring. One of the bowls I textured on the side, this took several attempts before I had a finish that I was happy(ish) with.

I realised that careful planning was needed to have the best order of procedures. By that I mean was it best to paint first and sort out the rest of the bowl afterwards and then how would that be best achieved, or was it better finish the bowl, mask off and paint? I tried a combination of sorts of the two methods. I realised that I should have asked Simon a few more questions particularly about sanding sealer, should it be applied and if so at what stage. Could it be applied under the paint? Would I need acrylic sanding sealer? As it happens I didn't have any so I was very, very careful in the application of cellulose sanding sealer. I have a sneaking feeling that should have been a no-no, but I got away with it. Next time I won't mix, I'll use acrylics with acrylics.



The application of the paint I found quite a fun thing to do. I'm not a particularly arty person and don't know much about the theory of what colours should go with what, but I had a go. I put a base coat on and it dried fairly quickly. Then I flung on some other colours and started up the lathe, don't forget lots of newspaper - it goes everywhere. I had to experiment with the consistency of the paints to get the desired effect but after a few trials I just about got it right for my purposes. If you work quickly the paints will merge into one another, then leave them to dry and they will show as individual colours.



Personally I think it can add something to an otherwise fairly ordinary piece of work, but of course I wouldn't try it on everything. I will be doing some more. The bowls will be on the table this club night (June). I would be interested in some feedback. What do you think about colouring? Have you tried it and what tips do you have to pass on and share?

Clive Brown

These are not rhetorical questions posed by Clive but a genuine attempt to tap into the considerable resource at his disposal - ie, you, the members who will have as many answers and more as there are queries. So, please, let us share your thoughts on this sometimes controversial but always interesting subject - to colour or not to colour?, that is the question. Ed

Tool Grinders of the Past (and the Future?)



At June's meeting my predecessor, Vernon Hughes brought along this fine example of a homebuilt treadle-operated tool grinder and honer. It was given to Vernon by a friend who wondered if the club might like to have it as a gift. Would we not? - within seconds of its unveiling Ken Dolling descended on it with the unerring accuracy of an eagle. "It's perfect - it'll go well with our treadle lathe!. With a little bit of care and attention it will add to the interest always shown in the treadle lathe when it appears at exhibitions and shows, notably at Westonbirt."

Because of lack of room in his already overloaded car and because I also live in Hanham I volunteered to transport it to Ken's home after the meeting. Although Ken is heavily engaged in numerous time-consuming projects which would make a man of half his age quail at the very thought I am sure that (tasteful) restoration work is already under way and that we will be seeing this lovely piece again very soon. Some may well snigger at the idea of pedalling a machine but when the oil runs out (and it's running out very fast in the Gulf of Mexico at the moment) or if some unforeseen disaster overtakes humanity, pedal-power may well be all that's available to the survivors, so do please take care of those machines Ken - you could be in even greater demand some day. *And our thanks must go to Vernon's friend for his generosity. Ed*

June's "Hands-on" night

Once again and by popular request we were treated to demonstrations by our membership, demonstrations carried out in an informal manner allowing a continuous dialogue/banter between demonstrators and audience.

Formal demos by acknowledged "experts" have their place and are of course vital if we are to improve our skills and knowledge in and of the art of turning. And while I am sure that they will remain fundamental to our yearly programmes, if the club is to remain "ours" as opposed to being merely a showcase for outside "experts" there is also a vital need for members to actively participate in whatever way they can. So we all owe a debt of



Mary Ashton (above) makes the intricate carving of a large platter look so easy



Martin Lawrence (above) shows how to do (intentional) offset turning



gratitude to Mary, Stuart, Doug (sorry Doug, I omitted to take a photograph of your excellent cabinet-scraper demo) and of course our chairman, Martin, for the terrific amount of work they put in to ensure that last Thursday's event was a great success.

Stuart Bradfield (left) demonstrates that there are many more ways to securely hold a piece in the lathe

