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July 2016

TURNINGS

Official newsletter of

Avon and Bristol Woodturners

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

INSIDE

OLIVE ASH MAKES A WELCOME RETURN



Don't forget you can read all the Club History to date in one place on our website at:

www.avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk

Simply go to the **About** tab and choose **Club History**



Editor's jottings

This, the July edition of your monthly newsletter is the first electronic-only version which may or may not set the seal on future editions.

Being of a certain age and, in common with many others of my contemporaries, I grew up in an era when the printed word was king - our only source of information, apart from what we could hear on the "wireless" and later, hear and see on our television screens was newspapers and magazines.

Now, in the short space of twenty or so years the world of information dissemination has been turned upside down, with our cherished (and in some cases, not-so-cherished) newspapers and magazines fighting what is probably a losing battle for survival.

Or are they? There is something about the tactile nature of a book, newspaper or magazine that no computer-generated gismo can replicate, so perhaps they will survive. And, maybe, in the far-off future, someone will "discover" books and they'll become fashionable once again.

But - and it's a big "but", whether electronic, printed on paper or carved in stone, in order to be worthy of its name a newsletter such as Turnings does of necessity have to rely on input from the readership.

Joe Page is not only keeping us all informed about our monthly meetings but he is also performing the invaluable service of creating a record of club activities which can be accessed at any time by past, present and future members.

The importance of this is exemplified by Roy's detective work in bringing to our notice the writings of a much-missed turning guru, Olive Ash. History is being made all the time but unless someone is prepared to write about it there is the very real danger of its being lost forever, which is a great pity because even the most seemingly mundane events can often be of great interest to others - both to our contemporaries and those in the future.

So, with a membership of some eighty or so is it not inconceivable that among us there is no one who has anything interesting to say, no tips to pass on, no pitfalls to be wary of, no funny or perhaps embarrassing experiences, or perhaps even a photograph or two to share?

Simon Keen

Last week I visited Simon Keen at his home in Alveston. As many of you will know, Simon was in at the early days of the club and has been a stalwart supporter ever since, having served on the committee, written numerous articles and compiled training programmes. Not only that, Simon has an amazing capacity for producing not only beautifully crafted "conventional" pieces of work, but he has also turned his hands to creating what might be described as "quirky" objects, as anyone who has attended club exhibitions will know.

Sadly, Simon is now bedridden and physically unable any more to apply his skills. However, his mind is as sharp as ever, as is his wry sense of humour, and despite his debilitating illness he takes a lively interest, as he always has done, in anything and everything. I think it's true to say that Simon benefits immensely from receiving visitors, and would particularly welcome those with whom he can "talk shop" (which, as I've said, is pretty well anything!). If you would like to pay him a visit do please get in touch with me on 01179-607266 for contact details, or email me on woodturn89@gmail.com. If you already have his telephone number do, please phone him beforehand.



Finally, and on a more frivolous note, the photograph of me that I included in last month's edition was taken earlier this year on board a boat in a Norwegian fjord. We were told by our guide that having a rain-free day, as we did on this occasion, is a bonus in a land where on more than 250 out of the annual allowance of 365 days we can expect rain to be falling (unless of course, it's snowing). True, it wasn't raining but neither was it particularly warm either - hence the mode of attire.

Mike

Last month's demonstrator - Mick Hanbury

By Joe Page

Mick Hanbury is a professional wood turner and has more than 20 years' experience of woodturning. Best known for his artistic and decorative designs on his turning, he isn't bothered about what people think of his work and has a saying, "I do what I like and like what I do".

He gave us some great tips on turning, perhaps the most fundamentally important of which was always to use sharp tools, and to regularly sharpen them during any turning session. Over the course of his presentation he sharpened his tools 5 times, which approximates to once every half an hour.

Mick was turning an ogee shape and recommended finding the cutting edge and then letting the tool drift across the wood. If the tool is getting hot then it is losing its cutting edge. He sharpened his tools with a grinding wheel and, in his own words, "Remember, we are not grinding the tool away - we are putting on a new edge".

When standing at the lathe he recommended keeping the arms locked against the body and then moving the upper body as a whole - this provides a better, more controlled movement and therefore reduces the amount of force you use.

Mick used an 80/20% combination of liquid paraffin and beeswax as a dust inhibitor and also a sealer, this ratio is climate-dependent and needs adjusting for different countries. Mick uses this also as a finish. If it has not all been sanded off any residue can be removed using acetone.

He tends to store his timber upright in the direction of growth as this reduces the risk of the sap discolouring the wood, and prefers winter-felled timber as this has less sap and therefore is less likely to discolour. His preference is for air-dried wood and therefore has to take into account the fact that this "natural" drying rate takes approximately one year for every inch of thickness.

Mick also teaches his students the "2C's" and "2P's" of wood turning - these are "**Confidence and Competence**" and "**Practice and Persistence**".

Prior to the break Mick had turned two sycamore ogee platters and whilst we had coffee etc. he painted them both black and then lacquered them.

During the second half Mick then went on to show us what he declared was his favourite operation - how to use acrylic colours on the wood. He very kindly invited a couple of people to choose which of the iridescent colours he should use, pouring a small amount of each into a paint palette. When they came out they were all white but you were just able to tell each colour, a small amount of flow was then added and he stressed how important it was to be very accurate when applying the paint to the wood, which he promptly did without looking and, to be perfectly honest it looked a complete mess when he had finished - almost as if a toddler had done the painting! He then followed this up by using "the Wife's" (his words!) cake cover to cover the work, switching on the lathe to mix the colours up. After a quick inspection it was felt he needed to spin some more so after increasing the revs he repeated the process.

To add texture to the paint he then used the router mat, bubble wrap and cling film to add different types of pattern to the paint, this was then dried and lacquer applied.

After the painting he then hollowed out the centre leaving a natural wood centre and an amazing painted edge to the platter. He repeated the process with the other platter and used different colour paint on that one and again an amazing finish was achieved.

This demonstration was yet another illustration of how a combination of imagination, skill and persistence can result in innovative and unique creations - something which cannot be achieved by mass-production techniques. Thank you Mick for a thought-provoking and inspiring evening.

Last month's competition winners

Sadly no photos this month

Advanced - Winner - Richard Lane

Runner-up - Clive Drake

Intermediate - Winner - Alan Griffiths

Runner-up - Mike Neave

Next month's Demonstrator - Alan Thomas

(www.atwoodturning.com)

Alan was born in Middlesbrough and served a four-years fabrication apprenticeship in the chemical industry. He says in his website that in 1988 he saw a wood turner demonstration at a local game fair and as it looked to be fun he made what he describes as “a fatal mistake” and decided to have a go himself.

So, in 1995 he decided to change career and relocated to Cornwall to take a one-year course in cabinet making. He later took on small woodturning production runs and gallery work and also began teaching and demonstrating wood turning. He is now a full-time wood turner, is on the UK's Register of Professional Turners and has work in private collections all over the world.

Alan says that he derives a great deal of satisfaction when he can see that he has fired up someone's enthusiasm and imagination.

Our August meeting promises to be yet another inspiring and entertaining event, so don't miss it.

Ed

[More "Tips from Olive Ash"](#)

(This one is from January 2002)

Roy Stewart makes a welcome return to these pages with another information-packed offering from Olive Ash.

Before you read Olive's piece, do remember to bear in mind one very important precaution - if you switch off your grinder, **never, ever**, switch it on again, no matter how strong the temptation, until the wheel has come to a complete halt.

Looking after your Grindstones

It is well worth spending some time maintaining your grindstone and keeping it in good order. It needs regular attention if it is to grind accurately and effectively.

*An important reason to look after it is because it is more difficult to grind accurately if the surface of the stone is irregular and uneven. It needs to be flat if you are going to grind easily. **A flat surface is particularly important for grinding skew chisels.***

Another important reason, although less obvious, is that the steel particle debris that is ground off the tool can and does become embedded in the surface of the grindstone as a result of constant use. The stone then becomes “clogged” with the steel particles, which are then in contact with the tool being ground and so prevent the grindstone from being in contact with the steel. The grindstone cannot cut if it has steel particles between it and the tool. Not only will it not cut effectively but it will generate even more heat because of the friction caused by steel rubbing on steel at 3000 revolution per minute.

The wheel can be cleaned by several methods.

- *A grindstone "devil stick" is rubbed against the face of the wheel until the debris has been removed and the face is 90 degrees to the side of the wheel.*
- *A "star wheel" cutter can be used in a similar way to a devil stick. It consists of several star shaped wheels of hardened steel that are mounted in a handle. It is applied to the grind stone and moved across the face, until the debris is removed and the face is flat and square.*
- *Another type of diamond dresser is made from a steel head that is about the same width as a standard grind stone. The head is impregnated with diamond and is used in a similar way to those already mentioned. It is very quick and effective. Because it has a wide head it will traverse the face of the wheel and achieve a flat surface easily.*

There is a considerable range in price for each of the methods

(The prices given were 2002 prices. Readers may wish to contact 'Axminster Tools', 'Robert Sorby' or similar outlets.....RS)

SAFETY is a major consideration when maintaining your grindstone. Ensure good eye protection. I recommend a visor. The debris generated from the wheel trimming process seems to get everywhere and particles leave the wheel at a speed too fast to see. Ricochets can easily get behind spectacles.

The best advice I can give is be cautious

And now, This and That

I think I should explain myself: It sounded quite dramatic reading that I had had eye surgery (these were the Editors words not mine). But I shouldn't grumble as it generated quite a lot of sympathy, which soon disappeared when I said that I had had my second 'cataract' done. "Oh is that all, I've had both mine done". What happened was that on Thursday evening there was plenty of time to meet Mike's deadline. My 'procedure' was due on Friday morning - I should be home by lunch time so I would have the whole afternoon and evening to find a few words of wisdom from 'Olive Ash'. I'd forgotten that my eye would be 'padded up' and I wouldn't be able to wear glasses.

For those of you who can't drive at night because of 'headlight dazzle' (I know of one member) it may be that your cataracts are causing you trouble. I'm not yet driving but as a passenger I note that it has made a big difference.

Back to the 'Grind Stone' I think I can hear Simon exclaiming 'He's not said anything about the most important thing:- Never, ever switch the machine back on before it has stopped rotating'.

(Roy, you can rest easy now - you will see that after you contacted me about the omission I have prefaced Olive's piece with the necessary warning, and Simon was very appreciative of your insistence on getting things right. Ed)

Last month's demonstrator (Mick Hanbury) oiled 'his' platter before power sanding. This ensured that he wasn't enveloped in dust. It's the first time I've seen this technique demonstrated or even suggested. I suspect that there must be a 'down side'. Please will one, or two, of our more experienced members pen a few words on the subject. I'm sure that our editor will find space somewhere. *(I will try, Ed)*

Our email 'In - baskets' show that the teams who organise our club's efforts at Thornbury and Westonbirt are already active and reminding us that there is 'not long to go'. As you know, John (he with the booming voice) MacLellan and "huggyhellen at hotmail" (chance would be a fine thing) require our input.

You'll also note that on the 'Westonbirt Form' there is a box marked 'Pick- a -Peg'. I don't know whether this is a Yes/No box or an invitation to say how many items you have. For your guidance I quote:- "Five in the next twelve months, well that's doable" **"No! No!! No!!!!!! Five a Month" she said.** If, like me you have fallen behind you'll have some catching up to do.

Roy Stewart

I think having cataracts removed qualifies as an acceptable excuse for not making your quota of Pick-a-Peg pieces, Roy.

Turnings would be interested in hearing excuses from other members so that these could be put to the vote by the membership - a referendum, if you like, and a record kept so that they can't be used again. Is there anyone out there who dares submit himself/herself to the supreme court of public opinion? Or even judgement meted out by Lorraine. No? Then perhaps it might be easier to get on and make a few pieces instead.

Ed

Club events calendar

| Venue - St Teresa's, Filton @ 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated | Event | Monthly themes (Advanced and Intermediate single theme) | <i>Deadline for articles in Turnings</i> |
|--|---|--|---|
| 2016 | | | |
| January 21st | Mark Hancock | Lidded pot | Ten working (week) days prior to date of meeting. Late submis- sions will be held over until the following month. |
| February 18th | Hands - On (members' demos) | Bud Vase | |
| March 17th | Steve Heeley | Natural-edged | |
| April 21st | AGM - Mary Ashton, Chestnut products | A baby's rattle | |
| May 19th | John Aitkin | On the Queen's 90 th birthday | |
| June 16th | Mick Hanbury | Turned from a 4 inch cube | |
| July 21st | Richard Lane | Multi-wood - a turned item that includes more than one type of wood | |
| August 18th | Alan Thomas | Olympic Games - Rio | |
| September 15th | Bob Neill | Something useful for the workshop, stating rea- sons why | |
| October 20th | Paul Hannaby | Pyrography or pierced* | |
| November 17th | Colin Simpson | Woodturner of the year | |
| December 15th | Club Social | Ball-in-cup competition - see Turnings of competi- tion table in October for more details | |
| 2017 | | | |
| January 19th | Colin Fullbrook | Pen pot | |
| February 16th | Hands-On | Spiral-stemmed goblet | |
| March 16th | Les Thorne | Coloured and textured platter | |

***Please note - September meeting - please bring an item on which to practise pyrography**

NOTICE BOARD

For Sale. - APTC dust extractor

It is in full working order and has a fine filter bag inside the upper coarse bag that was initially supplied.

It also has a flexible reinforced hose of approximately 2 metres in length.

The unit is mounted on castors for easy movement.

Wood dust is the most insidious of the hazards that we woodturners have to deal with so if you do not already possess a dust extractor this effective piece of equipment may be what you need.

I think that £50.00 is a fair price but I am open to sensible offers!

Please contact me either at a club meeting or via the following email address:

abwtsecretary@hotmail.com

Thank you.

Ian Burke



USEFUL CONTACTS

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Deadline for articles to be included in Turnings.

Please ensure that your copy reaches the editor no later than FIVE WORKING DAYS prior to the club meeting. Articles received after this date will be held over until the following month