



SPONSORED BY HENRY TAYLOR TOOLS



May 2018

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

- ***THE OUTGOING CHAIRMAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE***
- ***VOLUNTEER NEEDED TO RUN THE MONTHLY COMPETITIONS***
- ***CAN YOU STORE THE CLUB'S DEMO LATHE?***

Please note the deadline - for copy to be included in Turnings it must reach the editor (see contact details inside) no later than the Friday prior to the next meeting. Submissions received after that time will be held over until the following month.

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**

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We now print Turnings

From the editor

First, an apology. In last month's edition I incorrectly added an extra letter "l" to Keith Woolcott's surname. Sorry Keith - I have my appointment with the opticians already booked.

Having been unable to attend the AGM I was unaware that Harry had stepped down as chairman, so I should first of all like to take this opportunity to thank Harry for all the work he has put in since his unexpected elevation to the peerage some three years ago. As he himself implies, the job of chairman, as with any organisation like ours, is not terribly onerous when compared with a commercial enterprise, but that in no way diminishes the level of commitment needed if one is to discharge one's duties to the level required. And despite his claim that "I am not a born chairman" I'm sure everyone would agree that he has well and truly earned the right to resume his seat in the front row and pontificate on the competence, or lack of it, of our guest demonstrators.

Harry's story is, in some respects, not unlike mine. Like him, I joined ABWT as a (more or less) complete novice who wanted to learn "to do things properly", and although at the Mill I was offered conflicting advice on things like the best way to sharpen tools (jig v freehand) I did learn a lot. However, having missed National Service by a whisker I didn't have drummed into me the mantra "never volunteer for anything" so, when Vernon announced that he wished to relinquish his role as Turnings editor, and because I felt that I should do something for the club, and because nobody else came forward (a crucial point!) I made a tentative approach which Vernon immediately pounced upon. The rest, as the saying goes, is history. Now, having had the honour of being presented with Life Membership I look set to remain in post forever, (barring a *coup d'etat*).

And, as with Harry, I didn't see myself as a "natural" in the role, having absolutely no background in journalism, let alone editing and so the production of the first few issues was a challenging experience. But, over time it has become less so, though the fear of failure, or at least, getting things horribly wrong still hangs over my head like the Sword of Damocles - I'm painfully aware that you can't "unprint" a glaring error - it remains there, for ever, and with it now going out on-line, for the whole world to see. **Turnings represents a permanent reminder to the whole world of ABWT's existence, and it is mainly through Turnings that the world at large will learn about and judge ABWT, its members and our activities.**

I can do no more than present, in as interesting a form as I can, whatever it is that you send for publication and although I am extremely grateful to the few members who submit articles for inclusion, I would ask those of you of our eighty-plus membership who have not yet sent in anything to put pen to paper, or finger to keyboard - my contact details are printed on the back page underneath the club Events Calendar. As I have often said in the past, do not hold back simply because you don't feel confident about your writing abilities - it is my job to ensure that any glaring errors are removed before publication - thus any such errors that do slip through ultimately are my responsibility (that Sword of Damocles again).

Finally, I should also like to pay tribute to Clive Drake who, despite suffering ill health, has worked very hard to keep the Monthly Competitions going. Wood turning, as we all know, is not a competitive sport yet in some ways it does have similarities, because all of us strive to improve our skill levels and so we are, in effect, competing with ourselves, for our own satisfaction. The club's Monthly Competitions do present us with the opportunity to both show our fellow members what we can do but they also enable us to see what they are up to as well. Moreover we can and do take away ideas that perhaps had never occurred to us, simply by observing what others have done. And finally, what's wrong in occasionally walking away with a "gong" in recognition of our achievements - who hasn't craved house-marks while at school?

Dare I suggest that winter is finally behind us at last? So perhaps, before it gets too warm in that workshop (yes, I know, it's been too cold for the past few months) is it not time to get out there and produce a masterpiece or two, or even, for starters, a few dozen Pick-a-Peg items?

**Please note the updated
events calendar on page 8**

AGM 2018 - Chairman's report

When I was first asked if I would like to go onto the Avon and Bristol Wood turners club committee I was told “Not much to it really- six committee meetings a year and just help out as much as you can at club nights”

“Right, ok”, I said, “I enjoy the club and club nights so I am happy to help”.

A couple of years later and I found I had become vice chairman –” All you have to do is stand in for John if he can't make the committee meetings or club night”, they said.

“Ok”, I said, “ anything to be of help”

Then, of course John Ruffle's wife became unwell and so John had to look after her and over time leaving her became more and more of an issue and I stood in for him more and more.

So, as vice chair I almost became acting chairman

In due course John decided his situation unfortunately was not going to improve and as he was unable to commit to the club he stepped down as chair and I was elected chairman 3 years ago.

And that is what can happen sometimes when you say “YES” to what seems like a simple proposition.

I tell you this not to warn you or put you off if you are approached to come onto the committee or even volunteer - quite the reverse.

I certainly do not see myself as a natural chairman, nor did I set out to be chairman of this club, but you know what - I am jolly glad that I did.

For without saying “Yes” to that simple approach I would not have had the opportunity to get to know as well as I have the other members of the committee or been involved in some of the decisions that needed to be made – some difficult in these changing times and some not so difficult.

It has also given me a better understanding of the amount of time and effort a good number of people give to ensure our club continues to thrive and prosper.

I have a much better appreciation, for example, of what Ian as secretary does behind the scenes.

- **Of how much effort Robin our treasurer puts in to ensuring our finances are in order.**
- **Of how big a task Peter, our membership secretary undertakes to make sure we all pay our membership fees on time as well as checking people in each club night (admittedly with the invaluable help of his wife Debbie)**
- **Of what work Helen does to get us to shows and events, making sure the stand gets there and looks as good as it possibly can, as well as being properly manned..**
- **Of the knowledge, experience and understanding Stuart brings to the table at each and every committee meeting .**
- **Of Clive's contribution this year looking after the competitions despite the health issues he has encountered**
- **And Alan's input, both as vice chairman and undertaking to store, transport and set up the audio visual equipment each club night.**

I thank them all for the help they have given me and I think you should thank them too for the work they put in, as it is they that keep this club running successfully.

One committee member is not here tonight otherwise I would certainly have been thanking him too.

John McLellan has taken on the task of organising the speakers and demonstrators for club night and of course also organises our attendance at the Thornbury Model Engineering Show . He was also about to take over the role of chairman.

Unfortunately he recently suffered a rather spectacular accident at the Steam Railway where he volunteers resulting in some seriously heavy metal objects landing on him which broke at least 4 vertebrae.

He is now out of hospital and he told me on Tuesday that he is making the progress expected, but clearly he is going to be out of action for some considerable time and I trust that you will join me in wishing him a full and complete recovery. We hope to see him back at club nights in the not-too-distant future.

I would also like to thank each and every one of you non-committee members who have helped in whatever way over the last three years - it's our club and as I have said on a number of occasions before, if we each do a little bit to help no one person has to do a lot.

I used to enjoy sitting there where you are each club night watching the demonstrators and having an opinion on whether they were any good or not - and I look forward to be able to do so again after tonight.

But I would suggest that there is a great deal of enjoyable experiences to be had if you volunteer as a committee member or offer to help in any other way.

Like me, you too might just find the experience to be much more enjoyable and rewarding than you thought it might be.

Harry

Important PS to Harry's report HELP WITH THE CLUB LATHE

One thing is for sure - John McLellan won't be able to store the club lathe and lift it into his car to bring to club nights any time soon so if you can help with this please contact one of the committee members. Very few demonstrators bring with them their own lathes so we are heavily reliant on members' willingness to do what they can to avoid the nightmare scenario of having a demonstrator but no lathe on which to demonstrate.

Next month's demonstrator

Rick Dobney

For our June meeting we're delighted to welcome Rick Dobney.

Rick is a member of Sheffield Woodturning Club and has been turning since 2008. He says he finds turning therapeutic as a change from his day job in IT. He does not believe in tying himself down to any particular style of turning and believes that his "I'll do anything" approach is the only way to develop a broad skill base – who could possibly disagree?

On this trip Rick is demonstrating at the Worcester and Forrester of Dean clubs as well as our own. He tells me he plans to demonstrate two pieces, one aimed at relative newcomers and one at more advanced turners; the latter using an off centre jig which he has developed exploring methods and styles other than the 'Round and Brown' we're often tagged with.

To find out more about his work go to www.rickdobney.uk. The photos (below) included with this article are from Rick's website and are reproduced with his kind permission.

John MacLellan



Last month's competition (A plate or platter)

By Clive Drake

We had NO entries in the Beginner/Intermediate class!!!

We had five entries in the Advanced section, and I would like to say a big "thank you" to all who took the trouble to bring something along!

The winner was Harry Childs with his Pyrography platter, a stunning piece, well done Harry!

Runner-up was Paul Brooks with his huge platter, which many 'voters' remarked on the sheer size of the piece, well done to you too.

Not forgetting the three unplaced entries, thank you for entering and good luck in the future.

This was the AGM, which is an important date in our annual calendar, but numbers are often left wanting, as it was with the competition entries. I sincerely hope that we have an increased number of entries in May. If present, I shall be bringing another piece!

This (April) is my last official night in my capacity of running this competition table, and I hope that someone else will step into the breach to take this role over. I have had an eventful year, with too many hospital visits for my liking, but when I have been present, I have enjoyed meeting many of you, even if I am terrible at remembering your names - I blame middle age, ahem!

So, I would like to end on a positive note, and thank each and every one of you for either entering, or even just voting and passing on your individual views on the pieces on display. Remember, if we were all equal turners, we might all just produce the same style of piece, and that would not be interesting. It is therefore important that we have a diverse selection of pieces, such that we can each take away the possibility of a new idea, or technique. This is exactly what I see as the biggest benefit of entering and reviewing, it is not the winning, although that is flattering, I would agree.

So, please keep it up, and we will all hopefully benefit!

Thanks for all of your support

Clive

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Club events calendar

Venue - St Teresa's, Filton @ 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated	Event / guest demonstrator	Monthly competition themes (Advanced and Intermediate - single theme)
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2018

January 18th	Martin Saban-Smith	A pair of.....
February 15th	Roger Gubbin	Textured, coloured or pierced... or all three
March 15th	Richard Findlay	Anything you fancy, as long as it's turned in wood (and legal!)
April 19th	AGM	A plate or platter
May 17th	Keith Woolacott	A turned box
June 21st	Rick Dobney	A bowl
July 19th	Liz Kent	Any spindle-turned item
August 16th	Hands-On	Something artificially coloured, textured or pierced, or all three
September 20th	Mary Ashton	Candle holder, any shape or size
October 18th	Roger Gubbin	A toy or puzzle
November 15th	Carlyn Lindsay	A Christmas ornament
December 13th (?)	Christmas social	Woodturner of the Year competition, max. of 3 entries per member, can be mixed between the two categories

2019

January 17th	Mark Sanger	One of your favourite pieces
February 21st	Hands-On	Something with an inlay of perhaps resin, or wood, or stone or metal.
March 21st	Jay Heryet (TBA)	An egg - as you like it!
April 18th	AGM	Something with two types of wood incorporated into a single object
May 16th	Gary Rance	A "food item" (made of wood, of course) Sounds fruity!

USEFUL CONTACTS

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