



May 2019

# TURNINGS

Official newsletter of

**Avon and Bristol Woodturners**

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

## ***INSIDE***

- ***CHAIR'S REPORT***
- ***WORKSHOP RESCUE IN REAL TIME***
- ***NEXT MONTH'S DEMONSTRATOR***

Please note the deadline :- for copy to be included in Turnings it must reach the editor (see contact details inside) no later than midday on 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](http://www.avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk)

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



**A**nother month and we're still in the EU, TM is still PM and MO is still Ed - some things never change, so it would seem.

Alan's Chairman's Report makes for interesting reading for those of us who take a real interest in the club and its activities. Although income-generating is not the ethos of ABWT it is nevertheless important for us to raise funds over and above what is taken from members in the form of subscriptions, so it is regrettable therefore to learn that not one but two (ie, both) of our additional sources of much-needed revenue have now been lost. This is rather regrettable not only for purely financial reasons but also because these annual events provided opportunities for members publicly to demonstrate their woodturning skills and as such provided "way-points" during the year, something to look forward to and aim for. I've no doubt that your committee is actively engaged in a search for events to replace the Treefest and Model Engineering exhibition but as many hands make light work it behoves all of us to keep a watchful eye out for alternative events, for at the moment our Pick-a-Peg stall, a huge generator of income, lies unused (though not unloved) in someone's garage or workshop. It is down to all of us to do our best to rescue it from undeserved oblivion.

My appeal (s) for members' participation seems again to have fallen largely on deaf ears - with the exception of Pete Ravenscroft's, whose first submission to these pages (in the March edition), after some years' enforced absence marked his welcome return. Pete has now embarked on what he describes as a series which will most likely be of "infinite length", a statement which gives me cause for optimism in respect of editorial redundancy. I live in hope that Pete's example will stimulate others into action so that we will again have vibrant and varied content within these pages.

Mike

## USEFUL CONTACTS

Club website

[www.avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk](http://www.avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk)

Club email

[messages@avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk](mailto:messages@avon-and-bristol-woodturners.org.uk)

Secretary

[abwtsecretary@hotmail.com](mailto:abwtsecretary@hotmail.com)

Turnings Editor

Mike Openshaw - 41 Tyler Close, Hanham, Bristol, BS15 9NG



01179 607266

email: [woodturn89@gmail.com](mailto:woodturn89@gmail.com)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Although I have been a member of your committee for a number of years now, this is my first AGM as Chairman of Avon and Bristol Woodturners. In many respects this year seems to have flown by, and when I reflected on what has happened in the club this year for me to report on to the membership, I think that 2018-19 has actually been quite eventful.

Our monthly meetings have seen a fascinating range of demonstrators and it would be wrong of me to pick out any individual for special mention. But, from my point of view when the spectrum runs from the likes of talented pyromaniac (my words!) Liz Kent through to the differently but equally talented Richard Findlay then there must be something of interest to every club member throughout the year.

John manages the demonstrations programme and I think we owe an expression of thanks to him for organising such an eclectic and interesting programme.

However, I would make mention of those meetings that I find are really special, and those are the Hands-On events. These are an opportunity for you, the individual club members, to share your knowledge, skills and enthusiasm with the rest of the membership. I do know from the feedback that I get, many of you feel the same way and I would encourage members to share their experiences. Remember that we have a number of recent recruits to turning and any knowledge that may seem basic to you is incredibly valuable to people starting out on their turning journey. Just let John know your ideas and we will see what develops!

All successful club nights depend on the membership clearly seeing and hearing what is going on. To this end the club has recently invested in upgrading equipment such as new microphones and a quieter dust arrester to improve your enjoyment of club nights. At this point I would like to formally thank those dedicated members for their work with the audio/visual equipment and the improvements that have been achieved so far. I know that the same members are working on some further ideas to make club nights even more professional. So, thanks guys.

The committee will continue to explore what more can be done to further improve our equipment and enhance your enjoyment of club events.

We have now gained permission from the management of St Teresa's social club to store the club lathe and A/V kit here. We quickly learned that whilst the more robust kit just needs a little bit of protection when stored in the steel shipping container in winter, the same is not true for the more delicate cameras and projectors. The ST management have recognised this issue and now allow us to store the delicate electronics in the boiler house where it is warm, dry and secure. This means that we no longer have to rely on the dedication of individual club members to store and transport the equipment.

I am sure that everyone knows that the Westonbirt Treefest show is no longer being held and we have been informed that 2018 was also the last year for the Thornbury show. These shows have been the mainstay for club publicity and sales opportunity over many years and we now need to look for alternatives. Moreover, we also need fresh blood to help organise

setup and steward show events. The club has again been invited to the Frenchay Flower Show where club members sold quite a lot of work last year. However, Helen is unable to take her traditional leading role this year and we are seeking help from the membership.

Another development in 2018-19 for the club was the transfer of our Turnings newsletter from paper copies to electronic copies that are emailed to members. I am aware of just two glitches with the email addresses of members but, on the whole, the transition seems to have been 98%-99% successful – which is unheard of in most IT projects!! There are just 4 members without email and we make sure that a paper copy of Turnings is posted to them each month.

Also, with regard to Turnings, I am reminded of a little sign that has appeared in many Thornbury shop windows, “Use it or Lose it”. This seems very apt for a club newsletter that relies on input from members for content. The more contributions you make to our editor the more interesting Turnings will be. Again, thanks to Mike for his sterling work as Editor.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to recognise and thank your committee members for their dedication and work over the year: -

John, for his support as Vice-Chair and managing the demonstrator program.

Robin, for managing the accounts and paying all the bills on time.

Ian, for his secretarial role and running the club library.

Peter, for welcoming visitors and members alike to each meeting and keeping membership records straight.

Stuart, for supporting the club and maintaining close links with the Mill.

Helen, for organising and managing external events for the club to attend.

Richard and Vic who as fairly recent recruits to the committee are willing to take on numerous support roles when needed.

And, although they are not committee members, I must also thank Debbie for running the raffle every club night, Lorraine for her sterling work running Pick-a- Peg, and Chris for running the club competitions.

If I have inadvertently overlooked anyone then I apologise in advance and hope that you will put the omission down to declining memory due to advanced age.

Alan Griffiths

\*\*\*\*\*

# Workshop Rescue

## *Part one of probably infinity.*

**By Pete Ravenscroft**

So the story is in 2009 I was made redundant, but due to my age and a brush with cancer I was pensioned off. It was December when I had no work to go to, so I broke ground on my garden workshop to live my dream of playing with wood, specifically woodturning.

The workshop ground was broken, slab in and walls going up, and a Myford Myster lathe bought from Ebay, before I came across the Mill and a way to learn my desired craft. Never worked with wood, just wanted to and viewed it on YouTube in hotel rooms all over the place while too busy working to actually do anything real.

I spent many happy Tuesdays thanks to Max Carey going through Apprentice and Journeyman, returning home to play in my workshop.

But I built it without knowledge - added dust extraction as an afterthought when dust became a problem, collecting machines and many many (but still not enough!) clamps and this and that and the other... but the obvious mistakes of a novice planned workshop are showing, I am tripping over stuff that doesn't have the space, reaching the limits of my lathe, and thinking it's 10 years, time for a rethink.

I know that I enjoy writing for the ABWT newsletter, so I figured I would share my journey with you all - hopefully some of you will contribute rebuttals and maybe express horror at my ideas and sharing your own solutions that may help me towards my goal.

## ***So we start with part one... I know I have too much stuff and not enough land.***

I have to clear out, BUT it is storm season and I have 4 trees down in friends and relatives' gardens which I can't resist, especially the holly, I can't say no to that - I love holly! Plus ash, alder, beech, sycamore.... Damn - I need to process this before I can start! Electric chainsaw (I live in an urban area) Be selective then there is so much! I can't keep it all... but that 12mm thick board... maybe I can do something with it!

NO! time to be stern with myself, chop it, paint the edges of the best bits I want to keep, clear out junk wood and store it outside under cover, it's not timber for 2 years+ yet... let's get back to this year's focus.

## ***Extraction***

OK, so when I empty and rebuild my workshop layout I want to rethink the extraction and start with it before machines go back in.

My current system is a Record Power DX1000 in an acoustic foam-lined cabinet stepped down to 78mm ducting installed around the shop with an RF-controlled socket that I can turn on and off from the relevant machine remotely. Nice idea, doesn't really work well except when using the belt sander or the lathe when sanding.



So I am playing with a cyclone extraction idea to start with. I bought from Ebay a 60 litre airtight barrel, actually bought 2 for £22 delivered so if the first fails I can have another go... Bought from Axminster 2 x 100mm 45 degree bends for another tenner and will start my experiments to get a low cost cyclone operational. Photo story of this experiment will be first step to reorganising my workshop. And the first article in this series, I am writing this intro before I have all the components, so success, or fail you are on my journey with me...

### **The Cyclone:**

Components ordered:-

60 litre drum with sealed lid - £22 for 2 on Ebay, delivery included

2 x 45 degree 100 mm bends from Axminster £11 plus £3 delivery

Tube of silicone sealant from Proper Job at £1.95,

Bit of plywood I had in the workshop, and some fixings yet to be decided on.

The components, simple as possible, the lid is not good - it has shapes in the plastic moulding, obviously to give it strength and I am going to cut through it to get my inlet and outlet installed.

I intend to add a circle of plywood to reinforce it along with a lot of silicone sealant to hopefully get over the shaping of the top.

Tested with no sealant and just a small bit of sawdust, it works! I installed the inlet pipe with the 45 degree bend on the top of the lid, and the outlet had the bend inside the lid.

Slavered the whole plywood edge, and around the 100mm pipes with sealant.

Going to let it dry and then will do some more testing with both the DX1000 vacuum high pressure and also with a chip extractor for high volume low pressure. Based on these experiments I will design the next steps.

More will follow in future articles, I want an end system that can be run most of the time with as little noise pollution as possible that leaves most of the dust in an easily accessible container and probably vents outside.



“Slavered the whole plywood edge, and around the 100mm pipes with sealant”.



*All photographs by Pete Ravenscroft*

## Last month's competition - "Using two types of wood"

Unfortunately, due to a computer failure I am unable to attach photo's so they cannot be included in Turnings. They will be included in the June edition.

There were 6 entries in the competition, all from the 'Advanced' turners category. The items included a large winged vase with lid and finial, a selection of bowls with lids and finials, a box with inlay on the lid, a small bow with black rings and a small box with a black top.

### Competition Winners for April:

**Advanced - 6 entries.**

1st Richard Lane with the large winged vase.

2nd Ian Burke with a lidded bowl with a tall black finial.

Thank you all for your entries.

**The theme for June will be a 'Plate or a Platter' so see what you have made recently or get turning for June. Lets see some entries from both categories.**

*Chris*

## The Weaker Sex?

Being an only child, Charles was due to inherit a furniture factory when his sickly father died and he decided that he needed someone with whom to enjoy his fortune.

On visiting a singles' bar he spotted a woman whose beauty took his breath away.

"I know I'm only an ordinary man," he said, walking up to her, "but in just a week or two my father will die and I'll inherit a £20 million business"

The woman went home with Charles to the family mansion that very evening and the next day she became his stepmother.

*Anon 1*



## Hear hear

Will, an older gentleman woodturner, feared his wife, Becky, was getting hard of hearing.

So one day Wilf called her doctor to make an appointment to have her hearing checked. The Doctor made an appointment for a hearing test in two weeks, and said that meanwhile there's a simple informal test the husband could do to give the doctor some idea of the state of her problem.

Here's what you do, said the Doctor, "Start out about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response.

That evening, Becky was in the kitchen cooking dinner, while he's in the living room. He thinks to himself that he is about 40 feet away. "Let's see what happens," he mutters.

Then in a normal tone he asks, "Sweetheart, what's for dinner?" No response. So Wilf moves to the other end of the room, about 30 feet from Becky and repeats, "Sweetheart, what's for dinner?"

Still no response.

Next he moves into the dining room where he is about 20 feet from Becky and asks, "Sweetheart, what's for dinner?"

Again he gets no response.

So he walks up to the kitchen door, only 10 feet away. "Sweetheart, what's for supper?"  
Again there is no response. So he walks right up behind her.  
"Sweetheart, what's for supper?"

She replies, "For God's sake, Wilf! - For the FIFTH TIME, **CHICKEN!**"

*Anon2*

### Our June Demonstrator – Les Thorne

Our June meeting sees a welcome return of Les Thorne. Les last visited at our club in March 2017, although he has also featured in sessions at the Mill more recently.



Les has been involved in wood for most of his life and was accepted into the Register of Professional Woodturners in 2001. Based in Old Arlesford, near Winchester (and handy for the Watercress Line heritage railway) he is primarily a production turner – so expect a few tips on how to turn quickly and on repeatability. Many of our members speak highly of Les's ability as a tutor both at his workshop or on his occasional visits to the Mill. He has also produced some DVDs and has a range of signature tools.

During his previous visit Les showed us techniques to produce a textured bowl. This time he plans to show us how to make a TaDa box, so I'm sure we can look forward to an evening of inspiration and learning, with some humour thrown in. Hopefully we'll have a few questions to ask Les as the evening progresses – remember that the only silly question is the one that you were too shy to ask!

For more information about Les go to his website  
<http://www.noturningback.co.uk/>.

John Maclellan

*Photos used in this item are courtesy of Les Thorne.*

# Charnwood Road Show & Sale - ONE DAY ONLY!

8th June 2019

The one day show! In store at Yandles.

SAVE on Charnwood Woodworking machines, visit the Charnwood Road Show & Sale - ONE DAY ONLY!

- Exclusive Show Deals Available
- FREE Expert Advice On ALL Charnwood Machines
- Save 15% Off All Self-Select Timber!
- Demonstrations available on request
- Knowledgeable and friendly staff will be offering expert advice on the use of all products
- We will be offering a HUGE 15% off our unbeatable range of Timber Planking and Turning Blanks in our self selection area

*Please phone for availability if you have specific requirements as all offers are subject to stock*

TIMBER | TOOLS | MACHINERY | HOBBIES | GIFTS

## Club events calendar (revised 4<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - please see note below)

Venue - St Teresa's, Filton @ 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated	Event / guest demonstrator	Monthly competition themes (Advanced and Intermediate - single theme)
<b>2019</b>		
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	Bryan Milham	An egg - as you like it!
<b>April 11th</b>	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!
June 20th	Les Thorne	A plate or platter
July 18th	Mick Hanbury	A natural-edge bowl
August 15th	Hands-On	Any items turned from a 100mm (4 inches) cube of wood
September 19th	Jay Heryet	A fancy goblet, eg spiral stem, textured, coloured, pyrographed
October 17th	Emma Cook (The Tiny Turner)	A lidded box
November 21st	Colwin Way	A present for your partner
December 12th	Christmas social	Woodturner of the year
<b>January 2020</b>	TBA	Any item turned between centres
<b>February 2020</b>	TBA	An animal or bird
<b>March 2020</b>	TBA	Item with moving parts

**Please note programme additions, May 2019 to March 2020 above**