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November 2011

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

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THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - AN ANNUAL CLUB EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



Avon and Bristol Woodturners gratefully acknowledge the generous support of Magnox (Oldbury Power Station) for the printing of "Turnings"

Editor's Jottings,

First, an apology to October's Club guest, Paul Hannaby. It is customary for Turnings to report on visitors' appearances and since I knew that I'd be away on holiday I asked a number of club members if they could ensure that someone took notes and hopefully a few photos as well. Unfortunately this did not happen so all I can say is that I hope that the evening went well and express the hope that Paul will pay us a return visit when perhaps I can be sure to be there.

I will also not be attending the January meeting so perhaps someone will step into the breach and report on the presentation by our January guest, Melvyn Firmager.

Since this is the last edition of your newsletter for this calendar year I had rather hoped that members would have been moved sufficiently to submit a few articles to help round it off. In the event there have been scarcely any contributions (my sincere thanks to those who did contribute) so that Turnings will leave 2011 with a whimper instead of a roar.....

And finally....

An old chestnut seems to surface every month and here it comes yet again - **with a nominal club membership hovering around the 100+ do members not think that it must be rather depressing for our hard-working committee who, after all, are only "ordinary"** (I'm sure they'll forgive me for saying that) **club members who have felt that they'd like to contribute to the running of the club, when they see that so few of us seem to respond to their efforts to make the club a dynamic and interesting entity?**

One painfully obvious manifestation of this is the still low numbers of entries in the monthly competitions. Surely five or six out of a potential of 100 is pretty poor by any standard of judgment? Accepting the fact that some members come along each month for the entertainment (and there's nothing at all wrong with that), it still leaves a large number who presumably are active woodturners, each with his or her particular level of skill and expertise. This implies that they also produce turned pieces, some of which they'll be happy with, others they'd rather not talk about (I have a large collection of the latter).

So what is wrong? Are we too shy to show others what we've been up to? Do we feel that our work is in some way inferior and therefore not deserving of an outing to a club meeting? Or is it perhaps that the tasks set each month do not inspire us? Could it be that we feel that the small amount of time spent each month in judging and commenting entries does not warrant the effort? Or are there other unknown reasons that hold us back?

Whatever it is (and there has to be at least one reason), let's get it out into the open, have a proper debate and get it resolved to everyone's satisfaction. And what better place to do that than through the pages of this, YOUR newsletter?

I'm happy to accept contributions in paper form, or via email. So please, I want to hear from you

Mike

OLD AGE IS A GIFT

Some profound observations by Ray Mellett

For the first time in my life I am fit and have never felt better, (despite having 2/3 of my abdomen removed three years ago). This I owe initially to Lorraine for telling me to go to the doctor when I didn't think I had anything wrong with me, secondly to my dear Consultant, Prof. Jane Blazeby who led the team that "hacked out" my 12" diameter tumour, thirdly to my dear ward sister, Trudi Reid who personally looked after my initial recovery, and fourthly, to my family, loved ones and friends, especially those in ABWT who encouraged and helped me in my "repatriation", especially into the world of turning. I could not have done it on my own.

In these last three years that I have been given, I have grown older, but in so doing, I have decided that I like being old. I like being old because I have become the person I always aspired to be, but never had the time to be previously. I live every day as if it is my last (and especially never buy green bananas!) I cannot now be hassled with hassle:- will always greet my friends and loved ones with an embrace/kiss:- will never depart without a hug or kiss:-will agree to disagree. Maybe my hair is curly because my halo is now tighter! But when I look in the mirror in the mornings, see my flabbier chops, wrinkles, bald patches getting balder, etc., I do not have a conscience about that cream doughnut, that wadge of fruit cake at coffee break, those chips that the two Alans give me at the Mill lunchtime after their fill, or spending on that "can't live without" tool I bought at Yandle's last month!

I no longer care how much time I spend "googling" on the computer into the early hours of the morning, or if next day I take a "zizz" after lunch whilst watching "Last of the Summer Wine" for the nth time instead of something else equally unimportant, which I no doubt forgot about anyway. I care not whether I prevaricate or procrastinate - if I am not doing one, then I am probably doing the other.

So it is my age which allows me the freedom to experiment, (or in John's now familiar words - "to push the boat out"!) to go about tasks in a completely unconventional manner, to experiment with my tools, without fear of failure. It is my age which has given me that knowledge and experience not only to compensate for my lack of turning experience but to get me out of trouble if I get it wrong. But if it does, it is my age that enables me to laugh about it. It is my age that enables me to draw on my experiences to analyse the situation, to ignore the apparent obvious and to not only work out what and how it went wrong, but to evolve the corrective action for next time. Being old enables me to think positive, and to care less of what others think, (especially when it is negative!) Whilst I no longer doubt my own decisions, I do however reserve the right to be wrong!

I know for certain that I shall not live much longer, but in the meantime, through woodturning, I like being with my older friends to laugh together, to share successes and failures and now I like being old, I look forward to discovering myself further. No longer do I lament what will be, because it will be! I accept what is-as my old boss advised me, don't carry the donkey-just ride it! I also remember that Jane reminded a colleague to "mock not old age, for it is denied to so many"

Meanwhile, I hope that I will grow wiser as I grow older, and my woodturning continues to give me pleasure and improves yet further. After all, being old I know one is never too old to learn! To this end, at a local craft fair I met a turner from Hull, John Dymond, who was selling and also demonstrating. After a motorcycle accident a long time ago, he took up furniture making, and for exercise of his badly damaged left arm did a lot of planing as therapy. Then, spotting a lathe in his boss's car, he was shown the basics, and has never looked back. I've lent him my copy of Frank Payne's classic book, and suggested he gets a copy of "Woodturning Techniques" by Michael O'Donnell, a well illustrated and well written book which I bought from a second-hand bookstore next to the craft fair for only £4. (From it I learnt what SFG and DFG stood for - some would say it was interesting, but irrelevant!) However, whilst praise from me is known to be as rare as rocking horse dung, I recommend it!

October Raffle

October's raffle took sixty-four pounds for the club, that sum included the sale of a router donated by a club member.

I am now getting desperately short of prizes so please, please, have a rummage around and see if you can find anything that may be suitable otherwise I will have to do the unthinkable and purchase some prizes! I did however receive a couple of donations on the night, many thanks to those members. The prizes have been put back for the Christmas raffle.

Clive Brown

Bl**dy Crackers

Somebody else's good idea,
Improved upon has cost him dear,
Now crackers that snap, with plugs that hold,
Have sold very well, and sold, and sold.

They have been a hit, and he shouldn't complain,
But cracker after cracker is becoming a pain,
And the boxes look nice, but fill him with fears,
No turning required, just blood, sweat & tears.

So he politely asks that, you just admire,
But please don't buy more, 'cause of crackers he tires!

Jane King
(Woodturner's Wife)



George is not the only artist suffering for his art - the great Russian pianist-composer Rachmaninoff eventually dreaded going on his concert tours because no matter what else he played he always would be asked/forced to play his C# minor Prelude. (If you don't recognise the name listen to it on Youtube, with the sound turned on, of course.

Ed

NOTICE BOARD

Metalworking lathe for sale



Axminster C1 Micro Lathe Complete with: 3 jaw chuck,
Face plate, change wheels and Vertical Slide.

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Centre Height: | 70mm |
| Distance between Centres | 250mm |
| Headstock Taper | 2MT |
| Tailstock Taper | 1MT |
| Power | 150Watt |
| Overall L x W x H | 630 x 320 x 210 mm |
| Weight | 22 Kilos |

£250.00

All items can be viewed on Axminster web site.

Please contact Terry Stevens on 01454 773291

WANTED

Do you have any old turning tools that are surplus to requirements?

I'm just starting out and can't afford the tools I'd really like but I also don't want a rubbish set off eBay!

What I'm looking for are;

Roughing gouges

Bowl gouges

Spindle gouges

Scrapers (all shapes)

If you can help I'd be more than grateful.

Please contact Jason on 07967 025852

Many thanks

Just the thing.

By Pete Ravenscroft

I was reading the articles in turnings, and thinking one of the reasons there are not more contributors is because the articles are too good.... I don't mean that in the "can't compete" sense, more in the "take-too-much-time-to-put-together" sense! Can't tell you how often I have meant to photograph a piece of wood before I bandsaw it and again when I take it off the lathe.. never do it though.... And to write up with photo's... probably one day... but then again! OK , so I had one of those moments when a good idea hits and you must do something about it right away.... So here I am 3 weeks after the idea struck, just having remembered it whilst sweeping the workshop and now doing something about it.

Yeah OK I can hear you say "Get on with it!" this is it... we all have simple but good ideas / tools / jigs etc. Sometimes we know where we got the idea, sometimes not... it doesn't matter, something simple makes life easier / cheaper etc... So write about it in one or two paragraphs, include a photo or two if it helps and send it to the editor. Short pieces make great space fillers, and sharing ideas is the key to a good club... so all are happy.

I have sent 3 such ideas with this, so maybe they will be used this month... hopefully at least one as an example to explain this gibberish ☺

Just the thing (1)

Pen Making. This requires small bits of wood with a nice straight hole that goes from top to bottom, not top to side about halfway down! In other words you need to hold it straight under the drill..

To speed things up I made this clamp, this is version 3ish! It has a hinge on one end and a spring clamp on the other, and triangle cut outs make a straight square clamp for the blanks. It's extremely quick to use.



It's not gibberish at all Pete, in fact it's "just the thing" we need to give Turnings that extra zest. There will always be room for the longer more detailed articles and I implore you to please keep on sending them in. But as with a good meal, it is the sauce that makes it that little bit extra special and I'm sure there are members who can provide more than their fair share of that. So please, take note of Pete's suggestion and come forward next month with YOUR ideas on how to make it easier, or safer, or cheaper or perhaps even better.

Ed

Just the thing (2)

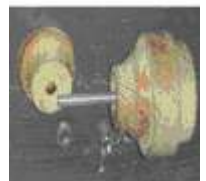
I expect you all have the Morse taper tool punch that came with your lathe's... but if like me you got a second hand lathe that was missing this bit... then you will have problems getting your MT tools out of the tapers... I bought a long (14") Phillips screwdriver from the cheap tool shop for £1, ground off the end and it works a treat.

Just the thing (3)

Napkin ring jig. Got this from Alan down at the Mill, I borrowed his which fits on a pen mandrel and it was in a battered state so I offered to make him a new one, as I wanted to make one for myself anyway. I made a modification to one half so that it can be held in a chuck, with a 6mm bolt through it with a wing-nut to make the clamp. if you don't happen to have a pen mandrel handy... if you want the drawings then email me, pete@ravens.org.uk and I will send them in PDF format.

Pete Ravenscroft

Looks like:



Christmas Social

15th December - St. Teresa's

Party time is almost upon us again, and it's time to get out the tinsel and trimmings. If you haven't yet purchased your ticket for our Christmas social it's not too late. At just £8.50 per head for an evening of live entertainment and a lovely buffet where else would you get such good value for your money? Tickets will be available either at the November club evening or by contacting myself by email at poram@btinternet.com. I would appreciate if you could let me know as soon as possible for catering purposes. I hope you can make it, and don't forget partners and/or friends are also welcome.

Peter Oram

Membership Secretary

Avon & Bristol Woodturners and AWGB Subscriptions 2012

As announced at the last AGM, both ABWT & AWGB subscriptions will now be due as one payment before the 1st January 2012.

As you are effectively renewing your ABWT membership three months before its expiry date, in order to compensate for this, your first year's ABWT membership fee will be charged pro rata at a sum of £15.

The breakdown of payment is as follows:-

AWGB subs £16

ABWT subs £15

Giving a grand total of £31

If you are paying by cheque please make it payable to 'AVON & BRISTOL WOODTURNERS' for the sum of £31.

Kind regards,

Peter Oram - Membership Secretary

A B W T Events Calendar - June 2011 to 19th April 2012

Revised 21st May to include corrections and additional events*

*(See also display adverts on Notice Board)

| Month, Date Venue & Time | Event | Monthly Themes | | Notes |
|---|---|------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | | Advanced | Intermediate | |
| November 17th, St Teresa's 7.30 pm | Woodturner of the Year and Hands-On evening | No theme | No theme | There will be no December edition of Turnings |
| December 15th St Teresa's 7.30 pm | Christmas Social & Annual awards | No theme | No theme | Deadline for articles in January edition - midday, Thursday 5th January 2012 |
| January 19th 2012 St Teresa's 7.30 pm | Demonstration Melvyn Firmager | Item of jewellery | Drinking vessel | Deadline for articles in February edition - midday, Thursday 2nd February 2012 |
| February 16th St Teresa's 7.30 pm | Demonstration Tich Renee | Offcentre turning | Box/lidded vessel | Deadline for articles in March edition - midday, Thursday 1st March 2012 |
| March 15th St Teresa's 7.30 pm | Demonstration Keith Lanchester | Easter Egg | Easter egg | Deadline for articles in April edition - midday, Thursday 5th April 2012 |
| April 19th St Teresa's 7.30 pm | A G M and Member Demo | A fruit | Wall plaque | Deadline for articles in May edition - midday, Thursday 3rd May 2012 |
| May 17th St Teresa's 7.30 pm | TBA | "In the style of..." * | Natural-edge bowl | Deadline for articles in June edition -TBA |


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