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AWGorBlimey!
It's Newsletter No. 6! (December '88)
A Merry Christmas to all our readers!

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

May I thank all of you (32 in all) who attended our A.G.M. at the end of September, for giving your Committee and Officers a vote of confidence to continue in office.

The rest of my notes are concerned totally with our Seminar in 1989.

The event your Committee has planned for you will be without a doubt the most comprehensive ever held in this country. It is being organised by Woodturners for Woodturners.

As announced in our May No. 3 Newsletter, Dale Nish and Del Stubbs will be two of our overseas demonstrator/lecturers. Dale is known the world over through his books, he is a superb demonstrator and is in constant demand to run workshops and appear at Seminars. Del has been involved in Seminars all over the world. David Ellsworth describes him as the woodturners woodturner. We are fortunate to secure their services and this will be the first time either has been seen in this country.

We expect to add another leading overseas demonstrator to our team in the near future.

Dennis French will be the main British demonstrator. Dennis has probably been the most consistent producer of domestic tableware in this country for more than 25 years. He has been hiding his light under a bushel for far too long and he has a wealth of knowledge to impart. Dennis has been ahead of the field on chucks and tools for years, HSS gouges have been in his kit for 15 years.

In support of the above will be Ray Key, Mick O'Donnell, Dave Regester, Mike Scott and Reg. Sherwin. Wow! What a diverse range of talent that represents.

We shall have a leading photographer running workshops on how to take good photographs of your work. Also he will be taking slides of the best work in the Instant Gallery (your work), the intention being to make a slide pack available for purchase.

Demonstrations of the safe use of a Chain Saw and how to maintain one will be in the capable hands of David Woodward.

Hugh O'Neill will lecture on Sound Business Practice, most will have read his series in Woodworker.

Len Grantham will lecture on Training. Len is manager of a Skill Centre and a member of the Institute of Training and Development.

Stephen Marchant and Don White will run a Problem Clinic, both are expert turners and will do their utmost to sort out your turning problems.

Mike Cripps, our Local Chapter organiser will be on hand to offer help and advice to those wishing to start a chapter and to those who already have.

We expect to have a good range of Trade Stands at the event, so bring your cheque book.

Those of you who attended Loughborough in 1987 will be as delighted as we are to know that Margaret Lester will again be handling your bookings.

Also Margaret and Liz Key will be in charge of your billeting, making provision for tea and coffee in the halls of residence, and welcoming you at registration.

If you can resist this 2½ day action packed package I don't know what else we can do to tempt you. This event will be both practical and inspirational with a high safety input.

Book now. Places are limited!

Ray Key.

STATIC EXHIBITIONS.

Mike Scott has some pieces on show in London, at the 6th, Direct Design Show, 2nd to 5th December, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. all days and outside those times on some days. The venue is The New Hall, Royal Horticultural Society, Greycoat St., off Rochester Row, SW1. Tickets are £3.00 each, which includes admittance to the London Christmas Craft Fair in the nearby Old Hall.

LOCAL CHAPTERS.

The Devon Chapter of the A.W.G.B. reports as follows:-

"Our third meeting took place on 2nd, November 1988. Our thanks to John Taylor for his hospitality, and for showing us what must be a typical situation of the lathe competing for space in the garage with the four wheeled monster. At least on that evening the lathe won! Interesting that John gets by with a good jigsaw, rather than a bandsaw, an effective way of making use of limited space.

"Our design discussion, based on products brought by the 15 members present, was lively, as well as difficult to report. Articles were round, rectangular, triangular, burred and natural edged, 1mm dia. to 1m., and of many different woods. Turning is alive and well in South Devon, but did we agree? did we *!!?*!!?. The main conclusion was that our design concepts are formed from a multitude of sources, the article has to both look and feel 'right'. Generating the right curves on the lathe is our art, getting the right feel and finish is our craft.

"To follow up our discussion, in a very full evening, Tobias Kaye brought along a collection of slides of the Al. LeCoff American exhibition, 'International Turning,' plus a few examples of Mike Scott's and Mick O'Donnell's work. What a feast of design ideas they were, all part of that multitude of sources that forms our concepts. Thank you Toby for a stimulating presentation.

"I know that some members, just starting to get their lathes spinning, felt rather overwhelmed by the evening, but we had a rich feast indeed. Take heart and inspiration, AWGB exists to stimulate all woodturners to do a little better each time an article comes off your lathe. I'm sure our last evening did that.

"The next meeting will be at Peter Bomford's house, directions available from Peter, 'Cummings', Cummings Cross, Liverton, Newton Abbot, Devon. Peter has no heating in his workshop, so dress appropriately." (See FOR SALE, ed)

Keith Sinclair, "Willowfield", Week, Dartington, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6JW, (0803) 867252.

Keith ended his report by saying that it was strange to think it was

only last June when a few of them looked at each other at their first meeting and wondered if there was scope for a local chapter! Personally, I think that Devon are showing most other areas how to do it, Power to your elbows.

And for those of you who can remember, I said in the last newsletter that I had received two reports on the Dave Regester/Toby Kaye Extravaganza last June, and that I would try to find space for the second one in a future newsletter. I also hinted at possible law suits.

Well, rather than stir things up I have decided not to report that Devon's John Taylor likened the rotating Dave Regester and the out of balance Graduate lathe, to a pixie sitting on a 4' vibrator!

Nice one John, and your so graphically recorded observation is safe with me.

John Daines from Pentoloe, Studio Drive, MORETON ON LUGG, Hereford has offered to help with a local chapter and until it gets going, has asked if they can join the Worcestershire Chapter. The answer is of course 'Yes', and Phil Leese, our Secretary, will no doubt be in touch with you regarding the 1989 programme of events. I hope that other chapters are throwing their doors open to fellow members across whatever borders exist in their own localities?

John Hunnux from Kent has arranged an open day at his workshop at 89, Lower Rd., Woodchurch, Kent, for 10th, December 1988, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

John's blurb reads as follows:-

"The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain has been running now for over a year. Local Chapters have formed and Bill Carden, a member from Kent, organised a very successful one day seminar last September, when many people expressed an interest in the Association.

"It is now my turn to make an effort, and in inviting any interested woodturners, I am hoping that there will be a willing party to take up the challenge of organising us into a viable chapter and accepting responsibility for dealing with correspondence, making arrangements etc.

"Come and have a 'rabbit' about turning, bring some work if you like and perhaps it will trigger off some discussion.

"I can wet your whistle with a cuppa and fill a hole with a ploughmans! (But please let me know if you are coming - otherwise I shall be eating cheese for a year!)"

John Hunnux.

Thanks for the effort John, the committee appreciate it and wish you well. Whilst I can only preach to the converted through these pages, could I ask those members who live in Kent to make an extra effort to support John?

What about putting a few notices up in libraries, shop windows etc., advertising the event. If every member managed to bring one other newcomer to the event, membership would be doubled and the work load halved.

Charles Holdom, Pippin, BLEDDINGTON, Oxfordshire, OX7 5DU, has volunteered to run a local group, having been 'turned on' by Mike Scott, during the recent Avoncroft workshop. To start it off Charles rang round some woodworking friends within a two mile radius of his home and ended with an initial meeting of eleven people! Well done Charles.

Matthew Calder, Manor Farm Cottage, Long Load, LANGPORT, Somerset TA10 9DX, has offered to help organise a local chapter. Anyone interested, please contact Matthew.

Worcester chairman Arthur Morris held a meeting in his house, the topic for the evening being 'End Grain'. The next meeting will be on

Thursday 12th, January, 7.00 for 7.30 p.m., at my Avoncroft workshop, the lecture/demonstration being on sharpening tools, and the topic for discussion being the use of PEG. Please bring tools to be sharpened under professional guidance and also any examples of PEG turning which you have. Visitors from other local chapters are very welcome. Please contact me, by letter preferably, if you can attend, and enclose a S.A.E. for a map of where it is all going to happen!

BUSINESS SPONSORS NEWS

Lee Cooper of L.R.E. tells me that the recent U.S.A. trip which he made to Philadelphia was well worth while and he will let us have a report when he can. He also said that it was a pity more U.K. turners didn't take up the L.R.E. offer to organise a trip, as the event was well worth while.

Welcome to new business sponsors TOOLMAIL Ltd of 166 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1XU. They offer a 10% discount on all hand tools to any A.W.G.B. member, all of whom are invited to write, quoting membership number, to receive a free catalogue.

SEMINAR REPORTS

A report of the recent Mike Scott day at Avoncroft will appear in the next newsletter.

Mike Cripps, our Local Chapters whiz kid has recently returned from the Continent, where he was displaying his work, together with that of some other Ickenhamites, in the crypt of a church in a town which is twinned with Ickenham.

I am pleased to report therefore, that Cripps crept into the continental crypt, crafted and crept out again.

And try saying that with someone else's teeth in!

Just about everyone who writes to me with submissions for the newsletter starts by saying 'Please lick this into shape'. In fact, I need to do very little licking at all. An occasional pruning job possible, but not much licking.

SO GET WRITING, ALL OF YOU!!

MEMBERS PROFILE

The profile this time is of one of our members in the wilds of Lincolnshire. Mr. N.E. White was one of the first to write to me, offering the following:-

"I am employed by the Department of Transport as a driving examiner and for the last nine years have worked in the sleepy little market town of Spalding (Tulip Town) in Lincolnshire.

"Realising about three years ago I needed some relaxing hobby, I was inspired by a woodturner whom I came across whilst on Holiday in Mid. Wales.

"After returning home I experimented with a home made lathe made from an old Black and Decker drill, with a simple home made wooden face plate. The only tools I had were scrapers made from old carpenters chisels. "After much trial and error I was able to make small bowls, about the size of an ash tray. With appetite whetted I decided to buy a Naerok lathe, 37" bed and 12" swing, then things got a little better. I could actually make some decent size bowls.

"Still being a bit green I enrolled for a two day course with a local turner, which I found very good value for money.

"With my new hobby being about 3 years old I am able to sell some of my work to local craft shops. (At a realistic price? ed.)

"I find bowls with lids, Jewellery boxes, egg cups on stands, three legged stools seem quite popular."

BEADS AND HOLLOWS. (or points to ponder).

Those of you who are in the demonstrating or even teaching situation and who want to be reminded of how difficult it is sometimes for the newcomer to come to terms with some of the techniques which are required for successful turning, could possibly try those techniques yourselves, but with the opposite hand. I recently found myself working predominantly left handed, due to circumstances beyond my control. You really have to get back to basics, applying them with great thought.

FOR SALE, SWAP, BARTER, BEG, BORROW OR STEAL.

Hugh Davis has a 'Circular Saw Table for Coronet Minor lathe with guard, protractor, four 6" blades (one T.C.T.), suitable for 1½" bed bar'. (I think this is the lathe with the 2850 r.p.m. motor, ed.) Hugh is asking £50 for this lot. Phone him on Portsmouth (0705) 734963 for more details.

Mac Kemp of 41, Tanglyn Avenue, SHEPPERTON, Middlesex, TW17 0AD, has a Startrite 301 bandsaw for sale, excellent condition, 12" x 6" capacity, all attachments plus 6 spare blades. Asking price is £350. Reason for sale is a recent purchase of a larger model No. 351.

John Embleton has a Myford M.L.8 (42") lathe for sale with many extras, including Craft Supplies Precision Combination chucks for both ends of the spindle. Also face plates, bowl turning att., 4" engineering chuck, metal turning cross slide att., planer att., live centre, and even a solid wooden bench with cupboards to put it all on. John has priced the lot at £971 and asks for offers. Contact him at 64, Greystoke Avenue, PINNER, Middlesex, tel. 01 836 1722

Mike Scott, Studio Ten, Warmingham Mill Craft Workshop, Nr. SANDBACH, Cheshire, CW11 9QW, has on offer a Dominion Lathe, with 7' centres and a 24" swing over the bed. The lathe has four speeds, faceplates and tool rests. It has a three phase motor but would probably take single phase. Mike is asking £450 for the machine.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT. (From the American Woodturners Journal)

At the recent Philadelphia Symposium, Michael Mode 'literally "stopped" his turnings (and the crowd) with his use of a strobe light.'

LETTERS.

A letter from Hugh O'Neill, our secretary was received a couple of months ago, most of which was reported in the next available newsletter, but one point which is close to both Hugh's and my own heart is that of demonstrating our craft at fairs.

Having spent two or three years 'on the circuit' and having usually been asked to bring the lathe, as 'live demonstrations' attract more customers, I can sympathise with Hugh when he says that turners who demonstrate should be paid to do so. An alternative which Hugh suggests is that the while stand space should be given free. Hugh justifies this statement by saying that over the three years which he has been demonstrating at such events, his sales have always been at least halved. Hugh also says that when demonstrating, he needs a sales assistant to keep an eye on the stand. This means extra overheads.

There is also of course the extra time which transporting a lathe involves. This means lost production time and even the possibility of extra miles if a large lathe is involved.

Hugh feels so strongly about all this that he has spoken to other turners in his area, - Middlesex - and they have agreed an asking fee of £50 for a day's demonstration at a fair. He ends his letter by asking if we should all pull together on this one?

My own feeling are that I sympathise with Hugh's points in the main, but being a spindle turner specifically and therefore able to use a lighter lathe, - a Coronet Minor - for demonstrating, I don't have such a problem, especially since I put the lathe on wheels!

When I attended lots of craft fairs I did get the lathe space free, but usually next to the display/sales stand. This way, if I was just entertaining instead of selling, I could direct the attention of the watchers to the sales table and talk about the items which I had made. I could also make a couple of examples of anything which wasn't selling particularly well, helping to push the sales a bit.

Of course, spindle turners are usually quicker than bowl turners in that they can choose what to make in public, thereby getting a quicker turn around of watchers. Garden dibbers are quicker to make than bowls. There are various ways of moving the people along! Now that I teach, I use the lathe, and the subsequent chat, to push that facility as well, and often find that a lesson or two is booked as a result of something which I have said or done when working in public.

So there are two sides to the argument.

One point that both Hugh and I agree on of course, is that anyone who demonstrates in public, or where the public are likely to appear suddenly, should be fully insured for public liability.

Do other members have any strong feeling on this all important matter? Don't just sit there fuming, get it off your chests!

A letter from Graham Colyer, from Somerset, issues the following challenge:-

"Who has the highest turning in the country? Mine is a 2' ball and knob (discarded by a lance eunuch? ed.), on top of a 62' maypole in Shillingstone in Dorset. Can anyone beat this?"

Graham did in fact support his description of the turning with a sketch. All I can say is I don't wonder the eunuch got rid of it!!

Bert Marsh has come up with the goods again, this time in answer to Mr. James's letter in the last issue.

'Black Hearted Ash. The centre of certain older ash trees can become dark brown in colour. This is believed to be due to normal heartwood development and not any form of deterioration. The same applies to Olive Ash, where the heartwood had become coloured with various sizes of brown streaks.

'The discolouration of the centre of beech logs is usually due to some kind of fungal attack though. It enters the tree through damaged roots or an injury to the trunk, such as a broken branch.

'Mr. James refers to the Acacia tree. I am sure he means False Acacia, which I prefer to call Robinia, (*Robinia Pseudoacacia*). The heartwood varies in colour from straw to a light brown, with the sapwood being lighter. When the wood is freshly felled the sapwood is generally a creamy colour but as the wood dries, it darkens and the difference between heartwood and sapwood is not so pronounced. The sapwood can become discoloured if the tree is allowed to lay for a time before it is converted. Dark areas and patches develop, this I believe is due to an attack by a sap staining fungus. I agree with Mr. James that this discolouration can be quite exciting, as the normal appearance of Robinia is quite bland.

PROBLEM SPOT

Member Matthew Calder of Manor Farm Cottage, Long Load, LANGPORT, Somerset, TA10 9DX, tells me that he could do with a screw chuck for the inboard (bed) side of his graduate. I suggested he contact Business sponsores L.R.E. Equipment, but if anyone else can help, could they contact Matthew direct?

Mike Scott, (address in For Sale... section), is looking for a short bed for his Harrison Graduate, together with the tailstock, (and the tool rest arm? ed). Can anyone help please?

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Association has recently purchased 3 copies of the videos 'Turning Wood', by Richard Raffan and 'Bowl Turning' by Del. Stubbs. These videos are now available for hire by members on the following terms:-

7 days @ £5. per copy, with a refundable deposit of £30 per copy.

So that everyone may have the opportunity to hire these videos, they must be returned within 3 working days of the last day of hire. In order to encourage strict adherence to this rule, a surcharge of £2 will be deducted from the deposit for each day beyond the due date.

Anyone who wishes to take advantage of this facility should write to the Hon. Treasurer, Len. Grantham, 1, Duncan Court, Lord President Rd., North Berwick, East Lothian, EH39 4RJ, for the necessary application form.

Further details of the videos are as follows:-

'Now you can watch Richard Raffan at the lathe, demonstrating the projects and exercises from his popular book, 'Turning Wood with Richard Raffan'. The video covers tool sharpening and a series of gouge and skew exercises. Richard takes you step by step through six projects. Shot from a number of angles, the video shows how stance, support and body movements all combine to produce fine control and predictable results. The video lasts 117 minutes'.

'Del. Stubbs demonstrates his methods of turning a bowl, going into basic equipment choice, tools and techniques and includes design tips. In this 120 minute video Del. covers the use of gouges and flat tools on both inside and outside work, how to slow the lathe down to see just what is happening at the point of cut, how to tackle specials like thin wall, bark edge and end grain bowls'.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Due to the ever increasing costs of printing, assembling and posting this newsletter, we have decided to include a separate classified ad's section, which will take up to eight adverts, at a cost of £7.50 each. At the moment I want to retain the 'For Sale, ...' section of the newsletter in its present form as it is more of a service for members than a commercial venture. Members who offer services such as courses, bandmill facilities, open days for the paying public, etc., should advertise through this classified page. Cheques for adverts on this new page should be made payable to the A.W.G.B. and sent to me together with the advert for inclusion in the next available Newsletter. Any adverts should contain no more than 60 words

Business sponsores are allocated two free adverts each year.

It should also be said that any advert which appears in this newsletter does not necessarily have the endorsement of the A.W.G.B. Committee. Submissions please for this new feature!

The DEADLINE for issue No.7 is February 20th.