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AWGorBlimey!

It's Newsletter No. 007 (February '89)

CHAIRMANS NOTES.

A belated Happy New Year to you all.

1988 seemed to pass at a very rapid rate of knots. A great deal of effort from your committee and members alike has been devoted to setting your Association on the lines to help you all. Communication, information and encouragement have been to the fore. In this regard the Newsletter plays a vital part in our organisation, so please write to your Editor if you have something to communicate.

Chapters. At local level Chapters are now springing up like mushrooms around the country and these are dependant on your commitment to make them work. Mike Cripps, our National Chapter Organiser is doing a manful job in letting each member know in a County or region the addresses of members close by, urging you to make contact with one another. Regular group meetings are now taking place in many areas, and through the sharing of a common interest many friendships are being made and information exchanged. This can only be of benefit to all. By nature woodturners seem to have been a little insular and secretive about what they do, but once they meet on common ground many a reservation disappears and life becomes so much richer. This must lead to the betterment of woodturning.

Seminar. On the subject of sharing, those of you who have enrolled for our Seminars will be in for an enriching experience, as those who have been engaged to demonstrate and lecture will share their hard won knowledge freely. If you have yet to register, I urge you to do so, for bookings are heavy. And after the end of February the event will be found advertised in the National Wood Press. We have now added the final names to the programme of presenters. Albert LeCoff, the Curator of the much acclaimed International Turned Object Show will present on slide the 200 plus objects recording this magical event. Tim Imrie will be our photographer. He is well known for his work for the woodworking press in this country. For those of you who have forgotten the demonstration team already assembled, they are Dale Nish, Del Stubbs, Dennis French, Ray Key, Mick O'Donnell, Dave Regester, Mike Scott and Reg Sherwin. The problem clinic will be run by Don White and Stephen Marchant, with Dave Woodward on the Chainsaw, Hugh O'Neill on Business sense and Len. Grantham on training. Full details of the venue, cost etc., appeared in the December newsletter, No. 6., but if you didn't get one let Reg. know as the booking form was also attached.

Wembley Practical Woodworking Show. This show has proved to be a wonderful success for the Association and its members, with 60 items of work displayed to much acclaim and showing a wide and diverse range. A great deal of knowledgeable and helpful information was dispensed to

visitors. My sincere thanks to members of the committee and the Middlesex Chapter members who came and stewarded the stand, all coordinated by (that man again), Mike Cripps. On behalf of the Association a big thank you goes to Alan Mitchell the Editor of Practical Woodworking who invited us to contribute to this event. We enrolled, would you believe, 112 new members, swelling the membership to 583. We have been growing constantly but this is a tremendous boost.

Sponsor Members. A very warm welcome to our latest members in this department, plus of course, those who have renewed their subscription, and if they would all like to contact our editor with details of their services, and a contact name, in no more than 60 words, the first of their two free adverts will appear in the next available Newsletter. They can also let the editor have any brief snippets of news for their own section of course. The support given by all sponsor members is much appreciated.

John Boddy Sawmills Trip. A chance to have a guided tour round this famed sawmill and see it working is offered by Frank and Liz Boddy, Sponsor members of the Association. The date is Saturday April 22nd. Bookings are on a first come first served basis and places are limited, so reserve your place today. Tony Waddilove, Hill Farm Workshops, Castle Acre Rd., Great Dunham, Kings Lynn, Norfolk PE32 2LP is acting as your booking agent, and will send full details when you contact him. This should prove to be an informative day out.

Video's. A big thank you to member David Crawford, an American living in this country. David has donated Richard Raffan and Del Stubbs video's to the association

Association name use. This is proving something of a vexed issue. At the A.G.M. a great deal of feeling on this matter was expressed. In Newsletter No. 5, October '88, I did draw members attention to Rule C, section 2 of our constitution. "Members shall not be entitled to use the name of the Association for trade promotion, except at the discretion of the Committee". Despite this it has become increasingly apparent that many members are doing so. In an effort to regularise things your Committee has decided to use its "discretion". We will allow you to use the Associations name, but at the same time making it clear that this in no way means we endorse the quality or otherwise of your work, for as a non selective body this is an impossible undertaking.

Logo. The logo is a very different matter. On no account are members to be permitted to use this. The use of the logo will be restricted to official promotional material authorised by the Association only.

I now hope that this clears the matter once and for all.

Ray Key.

EDITORS ROSTRUM.

This is yet another occasional feature, which I propose to use from time to time.

I have been asked by a number of members about the possibility of putting loose inserts in with the newsletter, advertising relevant happenings, offers, etc. Whilst all of these requests have been quite legitimate so far, I didn't want to play God and so took the matter up at committee level. The conclusion we came to was that for ethical reasons particularly, we can't bombard our members with unsolicited mail. We do have the adverts page of course.

Also, one day seminars will in the future have a deadline for on/off, depending upon the number of delegates who apply for places. We can't run them at a loss and so applications for places should be made as soon as

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possible, together with the full amount payable. Cheques will be returned should the event not take place. I repeat, this is for *one day* seminars only.

Finally, we are asked by some sponsor members for the list of Association members. If any member objects to their name being given in this way, they must write to Hugh O'Neill by March 31st.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS.

Dennis French will be the guest demonstrator at my next Avoncroft One Day Seminar which is on Sunday 9th. April. To quote from Ray's Chairmans Notes in the last newsletter, "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."

As you will know, Dennis is the principal U.K. Demonstrator at Loughborough this year. For those of you who can't get to Loughborough, this is a great chance to watch, listen to and be inspired by one of the countries top turners. And if you are going to Loughborough, then try not to miss this foretaste of the goodies to come. The first 20 members who send me a cheque for £16, made payable to the A.W.G.B., will secure a place on the day. Non members can attend for £18 and will be put on a waiting list for spare places. The fee includes a three course lunch in the museum cafeteria. The on/off date for this event is March 26th. After that date I shall send out the programme for the day, details of how to get to Avoncroft and any other relevant information.

STATIC EXHIBITIONS.

Following a successful exhibition at the Rye Art Gallery, which is to be repeated on July 15th. to August 29th., Kents human dynamo John Hunnex, has an exhibition in the Hall at Strood Public Library from 1st. to 29th. April. John will be there himself on Saturdays 15th. and 22nd. Call in for a chat, if you can get a word in edgeways that is.

News has reached us that the talented but modest Bert Marsh had a piece of work bought by none less than Richard Luce, Minister of the Arts, at an exhibition at the Mall Galleries. Well done Bert, for making the Cabinet! Or was it the drinks cabinet?

TEACH-INS.

Not quite a teach-in, but close, is a list of members who are willing to get on their bikes. It has been drawn up as a result of a request from Bill Carden from Kent, who has asked for details of turners willing to demonstrate. The basic scale of charges which the committee has fixed is £70 per day, which would comprise of a 5 to 6 hour demonstration/talk, plus travel at 20p per mile, and out of pocket expenses, such as preparation time the days before and after the event, meals and accommodation etc. These out of pocket expenses to be negotiable between the demonstrator and the hirer.

The list of demonstrators is held by Mike Cripps, our local chapter organiser, who should be approached by would be hirers. If anyone would like to appear on this list, could they please let Mike know? We are not running a closed shop folks, and neither do I have time to write and ask all likely contenders. It is up to you to make yourselves known.

And it is also up to the would be hirers to check Mike's list and then

contact their demonstrators direct, making arrangements which are within the guide lines set down above.

LOCAL CHAPTERS.

Things are happening in Berks. Member Iain Lindsay of Torryburn, Hurley, Maidenhead, Berks, SL6 5LN is looking to get things moving in the area. Would anyone keen to join please contact him?

Ickenham chapter members Val Cresswell and Alan Smith have organised a super window display in the Halifax Building Society window in Ruislip, featuring local members work and a photographic display, including a large photo of your editor turning at the November meeting. (And I thought they wanted to *encourage* members!) The January meeting was well attended with 30 people turning up to hear Dr. Carol Morris's lecture on pole lathes, which was supported by over 100 slides. Mike Cripps ended his report on a sad note. "After speaking to me on the phone regarding exhibiting a piece of work, Francis Read of Essex sadly passed away. Francis met Len. Grantham and myself in the hotel we stayed at in Leeds. He was just forming a Suffolk/North East Essex chapter. His sons spoke to me saying how pleased Francis was about being asked to exhibit. I have assured them that a piece of his work will still go on display at Wembley. They are most keen for this to happen."

Kent member Bill Carden sent me a very long report on the recent 'do' organised by John Hunnex, who with his wife Rose hosted a most interesting Open Day at their home last December. Bill writes:-

"Some 14 members and prospective members attended. The day alternated between practical demonstrations by John, of tool preparation and work holding for his unique approach to work holding, and to the comfort of his lounge where members were able to display and discuss their work and to see and handle John's collection of his and other leading turners work.

"Over lunch, a most delightful meal provided by Rose, John demonstrated his latest acquisition from America, which he swears, will simplify the cutting of his large burr bowls. It was conjectured amongst us lesser mortals that he will either be able to engage our editor in a duel on equal terms (As well as being a full time turner, I am also a professional swordfencing coach, ed), or it is the D.H.S.S.'s answer to "Turners Elbow."

"The future of The Kent Chapter was discussed. Unfortunately the problems of organising meetings (somebody, a place and equipment) were not resolved and nobody present was able to offer a solution which did not either cost, or clash with other demonstrations in the area. Nevertheless, perhaps we can take heart that, from the two successful meetings so far, somebody will return home after an enjoyable day and on reflection, provide the answer we all look for."

Thank you once again Bill, for taking the time to write that report, and also to John and Rose for their efforts both for and on the day. In fact, such events don't necessarily need the formality of a regular meeting time or place. What about an 'O.K., I'll do the next one' volunteer, on an ad.hoc basis?

Things are also happening in Oxfordshire, Chapter wise. F.J.Hill of Tiana, Allnut Close, Watlington, Oxford OX9 5JR, is anxious to get things moving in his area. Make contact direct please, if you haven't yet been contacted by Mr. Hill.

Our man in Staffs and South Cheshire, Bill Kinsman, sent me the following:- The Staffordshire and South Cheshire Chapter continues to grow and with 35 members and interested visitors on meeting night, pressure is

mounting for a more spacious venue. January provided a super slide lecture on Trees and Wood Identification by Dr. Peter Thomas of Keele University, so we are all egg heading our way through macroscopic (microscopic ? ed.) anatomical sections and members are easily identified by the 10x power eye glasses carried at the alert. February offers Tool Sharpening Demo's and a Video showing, whilst March brings the great Platter Challenge Competition, for beginners and experienced classes, with prizes donated by local suppliers. As the weather gets warmer, trips are forseen to the shows and to major suppliers and processors of timber. Tell yer, it's all go, go, go!

Bill went on to tell me that he was looking forward to a week with Cyril Jordan at Parnham House during the summer. I expect Cyril's brother Cecil is going to be there as well Bill. Why not look him up?

Suffolk North has been put on the map by Mike O'Connor, Forge House, The Street, Holton, Suffolk, IP19 8PN, who organised the first meeting at his house. The members present very soon realised that having Chapters designated by County would be very restrictive due to distances involved. They came to a very ingenious decision regarding organisation, electing a correspondence member only and hoping to manage without a chairman or secretary. I shall watch progress with interest, as this novel approach could quite well be the answer to organisational problems elsewhere. Mike tells us that they have a very mixed bag of skills to offer each other, with a nurse, a professional turner, a marine engineer, a marine electrician and a lifeboat technician. He even wondered if they should become the North Sea Chapter. Please keep me informed of what you are doing Mike.

Surrey member, Jack Wilson is making local chapter noises. Could anyone living near him make contact at 47, Orchard Rd., Hook, Chessington, Surrey?

West Midlands member Doug Vaughn, of 20 Great Stone Rd., Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LS, just caught the Monday deadline by pushing the information under the gap in my workshop door whilst the museum was closed. I hope you managed to scale the railings and survive intact Doug. Others have failed! The salient points of Doug's letter follow:-

"We have formed a West Mids. chapter, the first meeting was held at Spock Morgan's workshop and attracted 13 of us. A committee will probably have to be formed to put into practice some of the ideas which were put forward. A fee of £2 was collected from each member which will be used to cover the cost of keeping in contact with each other.

"The next meeting will be held on 12th. March, once again at Spock's workshop, or even in a local church hall if over subscribed. (Oh to have friends in high places! ed.) The main attraction being a demonstration of the combination chuck by Alan Washer, 'Our man from Multistar'. The theme for this meeting therefore will be 'chucks', and members will be encouraged to bring along one of their own, or at least an idea for one."

Combined meetings with other local chapters was also suggested by Doug. and I think that such arrangements are going to be a very valuable aspect of the association. Anyone interested in attending on the 12th. should contact Doug. for more details. A stamped, addressed envelope might not come amiss either. Well done all of you.

Incidentally, the next Avoncroft day with Dennis French will feature his chucking methods. I was very impressed with them when I saw Dennis for the first time at Don White's last year.

West Sussex is now up and running, thanks to the efforts of Derek Berry, 16, Truleigh Rd., Beeding, Steyning, West Sussex, BN4 3JR. At their first meeting, members introduced themselves and gave a short synopsis of

their turning abilities to date. They decided to call themselves West Sussex, as the county is somewhat large, and look forward to hearing from East Sussex soon, although I feel sure that anyone in the area would be most welcome. Contact Derek on 0903 814294 for details of the next meeting. Well done Derek, and please keep me informed.

Worcestershire. The next meeting is at Secretary Phil Lees's house, 21 Church Rd., Astwood Bank, Redditch, at 7.30 on March 16th. A locally shot video, a chat and a cup of coffee are promised. Anyone is welcome and please take a piece, (of turning).

Yorkshire seems to have a great number of members, due at least in part I suspect, to the recent Practical Woodworking Show in Leeds. Being an 'Honorary Tyke', -I lived in Scarborough for nine years-, I have been looking forward to hearing of great things from the county chapter. Alas, after a conversation with Mike Cripps, I have come to the conclusion that "nowt much was 'appenin' at all!" In fact, Mike was threatening to come up and organise something himself!

'Ey up lads, tha can't let a bloody Londoner come up 'n show thee 'ow t' do it! -And as a Londoner myself I feel that I can say that as well.

BUSINESS SPONSORS.

Gerry Baker of Luna has made the A.W.G.B. a very generous offer. See page 8 for details.

John Farrar of Rawdon Machine Sales Ltd., Unit 6, Acorn Park, Charleston, SHIPLEY, West Yorks., BD17 7SW, tells me that they are offering a FREE wall planner to any member who cares to drop them a line. What about putting one up in your workshop to remind you of all the forthcoming attractions for the year? Could you send me one, please John?

DIG-INS.

Some of you who attended Loughborough '87 will remember Monsieur Xavier Bardinet, the 'Exocet' man. He was recently one of the principal demonstrators at the first French Woodturning Seminar, held in Paris. Inspired no doubt by what he saw in '87. (I couldn't find a more appropriate heading for this snippit.)

BEADS AND HOLLOW.

The following is an abridgement of a conversation which I had with a fellow turner some few days ago. We were talking about sealing end grain with melted down paraffin wax. Jim told me that he once had a brand new photographic laboratory wrecked because of unattended and improper heating of this material. If used in a small, unventilated space, the molten wax must be limited to a temperature up to the boiling point of water, (100°C) as it will vaporise above this temperature, creating a great risk of explosion. Jim went on to explain that the vessel containing the wax should be suspended in a container full of boiling water, something like the old Scotch Glue pot. The method takes longer, but is completely safe provided the wax container doesn't come into direct contact with the main heat source. Only two days later I had a 'chip pan' fire 'cos I didn't listen!

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

Geoffrey Heath, 54, Townsccliffe Lane, MELLOR, Stockport, Cheshire SK6 5AP, tel. 061 427 298, has on offer "Tyme cub lathe, in full working order, complete with long and short tool rests, bowl turning extension and rest, two faceplates, driving and tailcentres etc. Ideal machine for beginner. £150 or nearest offer." Geoff has stepped up to the new Coronet

No. 3.

Jack Wilson, (who bribed me quite shamefacedly,) has an Arundel K450 Heavy Duty bed lathe for sale. 36" centres, 9" swing over bed, 22" over bench. Bowl turning att., and some extras. "3 years old and in good nick, £390". Contact Jack at 47 Orchard Rd., Hook, Chessington, Surrey.

HELPLINE.

Your editor has a request for help! I recently invested in one of the Rascal Dustmaster safety helmets and whilst I am pleased with the general performance, I do have problems with fine dust clinging to the outside of the face shield. This is due I suspect, to static electricity. Short of working with my big toe stuck in the earth socket of the nearest 13 amp power point, what can I do to 'de-static' the plastic shield? Advice please, on the back of a £5. note.

LETTERS.

Jonathan Dingley-Linton, a member from Oswestry, has taken up my invitation to comment on doing demonstrations at Craft Fairs. (Letters, AWGorBlimey No. 6.) Jonathan has been 'on the circuit' since 1981 and has come to the conclusion that for him, demonstrating isn't worth the problems of noise, dust and inconvenience. Encouraging a watching audience to buy is problematical, and problem solving for newcomers to the craft is non profit making on the day. I agree with you Jonathan, and I am sure that Hugh O'Neill would also agree, but Hugh and I are looking at the problem from different aspects. When I attend fairs nowadays, it is to sell 'me and my services' as much as my wares.

Jonathan goes on to relate a tale of horror regarding Insurance whilst working in public. He was applying table top polish with a hand operated garden sprayer and missed the workpiece but not a lady who was in the front row. Offering to pay the cleaning bill for both her own coat and that of her husbands which she had been holding, did not pacify the lady, who threatened to sue the turner, the Craft Fair organiser and anyone else she could think of. In the event, nothing more ever came of it, but the organiser didn't seem to be particularly interested, despite the fact that they would accept bookings only from turners who would demonstrate. And Jonathan was insured only against actual injury. He doesn't demonstrate at retail shows any more!

PROBLEM SPOT.

Jonathan Dingley-Linton asks "I have just bought some Box in the round - about 2" 3" and 4" in diameter. It is wet and I am not sure the best way to season it in the round without longitudinal cracks. I have a kiln. I know that this used to be done as I have some antique treen boxes about 4" dia. with screw lids which have been made from the whole log and they havn't split much. Could they have been turned green? Any ideas anyone? For speed, please contact Jonathan direct at Llansilin Woodcrafts, The Old Post Office, Moelfre, Llansilin, Nr. OSWESTRY, Shropshire, SY10 7QJ. And if anyone has the answer, could they also let me know so that I can pass the information on to others through the newsletter?

DEADLINE.

The deadline for the next edition is **Monday April 17th.**