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AWGorBlimey!
It's Newsletter No. 9 (July '89).

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES.

These notes are perhaps shortest, (due to a month in the U.S.A.). However, their contents may be the most important issued.

You will find enclosed with this newsletter, the Association Rules and Constitution. Each new member will get a copy on joining, but the form is not to be used as a means of recruiting new members. The buff coloured Association leaflet was designed for that purpose, and further copies can be had from Hugh O'Neill.

Our A.G.M. is set for October 1st. '89, in the Bromsgrove Area., which is central in the country. The exact location will be advised in the next newsletter.

You will note that your officers must retire annually but can seek re-election. All have indicated that they will be doing so, but this in no way precludes others from standing for any office. This year four (4) of your committee members will be seeking re-election or standing down after their two years service. Some of these have indicated they will not be standing for a further term. Your nominations are therefore urgently requested, and they should reach our secretary, Hugh O'Neill, by August 19th, this being the date six weeks prior to the A.G.M., as deemed by the constitution.

All those wishing to stand for the Committee or Office will be given the opportunity to make a personal statement of not more than fifty (50) words in the next newsletter. (Deadline end of August! ed.) We need people who are fully committed to the aims of the Association, willing to attend our regular meetings (6 or 7 each year), and willing to take on tasks that will ease the heavy burden on your hard pressed Officers. With the next newsletter will be the A.G.M. Agenda, plus postal Ballot papers. These must be returned to the Secretary no later than one week before the date of the A.G.M. We hope that a great many of you will attend the meeting and vote in person. Please remember that you only have one vote.

Please note also that any motions for the A.G.M. should reach the Secretary by August 19th.

All seems well on the Seminar front, hopefully organised to run smoothly, although there is one mistake, mine I might add, in the information sheet sent out to those attending. REGISTRATION IS FROM 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, and not 3 pm. (Sorry).

On a lighter note, you will shortly be able to purchase 'T' shirts with the Association Logo and name on them, and also pens with just the name. Prices and how to obtain them will appear in the next newsletter.

Ray Key. (Honorary Chairman).

EDITORS FORUM.

When I first took on the editorship of this newsletter, I had hopes that it might be a bi-monthly publication, but this is proving to be a somewhat ambitious hope, as there are so many other factors to consider before each edition finally leaves me for the printer.

Delays are caused by impending seminars, A.G.M.s and other important events, and as the newsletter is the primary means of communicating these activities to the members, intended publication dates are missed whilst decisions are made, overseas demonstrators contacted, etc.

I got 5 newsletters out in 1988 and this is the third of at least four this year, so I'm not too far out in my aims, it's just the varying gaps which are a bit frustrating. The next newsletter for instance, will follow on very shortly after this one, in order to carry the A.G.M. information out to all members. Bear with us folks!

Gary Gautier, the A.W.G.B. logo designer, is now back across the ocean, this time in Canada. Thanks for your assistance in the past Gary, and good luck in your new base.

Gary tells me that he sold his big face plate lathe to a member in Hampshire, so if any turners in that area see part turned 6' diameter bowls trundling along the lanes, with a gouge waving and oath issuing American gentleman in hot pursuit, you'll know that D.D. hasn't got the hang of it yet.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS.

Del Stubbs will be doing two single day demonstrations at my Avoncroft Workshop, the address of which is at the top of this newsletter.

The dates for the event are Friday 1st. and Saturday 2nd. Sept, and the cost for each day is £16 for members and £18 for non members. This fee includes the usual lunch in the Museum cafeteria.

The programme will be more or less as usual for these events, with a repeat on the second day.

Places are limited to 20 delegates on each day and the sooner members send me a cheque, made payable to the A.W.G.B., and indicate which of the two days they would prefer to attend, the better chance they will have to get a place on what will surely be a sell-out in a very short time. I suspect that the Saturday will fill up very quickly, so if either day will do, please say so, as this will increase your chance to watch, question and learn from one of today's top International turners.

Acknowledgements of a place will be sent out as soon as possible, but I am going to be on holiday from Thursday 27th. July until Monday 14th. August, and then in Loughborough from Wed. 16th., until late on 21st, so don't get your undergarments in a rotation situation if I don't answer straight away.

Any places not filled by 24th. August will be offered to non members, through the local press.

Del will also be working at other venues during his stay in this country, see TEACH-IN'S on page three for more details.

The A.W.G.B. has once again been invited to take a trade stand at the Practical Woodworking Show at Leeds from 7th. to 10th. September. I wasn't able to attend the show last year, but we recruited a lot of new members during the four day event. It may be that some of them would care to help steward the stand this time? We would also appreciate some help in putting the stand up on the day before the show. Volunteer stewards please offer your services to me, by letter, as soon as possible, so that the stand organiser, who will shortly be appointed by the committee, can plan

accordingly. The Wednesday, (preparation day), Thursday and Friday are probably going to be the most difficult ones to cover. Newsletter No. 10 will have more details.

The Seattle Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners is putting on their 3rd. Annual Symposium. Running from 13th. to 15th. October 1989, there are to be no fewer than 10 demonstrators, three of whom are David Ellsworth, Gerry Glaser and Richard Raffan.

There is also a programme of activities for turning Widows/Widowers, so what about having a really good family break?

Cost is \$150 if you are quick. Contact Denver Ulery, Seattle Chapter of A.A.W., 20301 N.E. 108th. Redmond WA 98053, U.S.A.

The Irish Guild 8th. Annual Seminar - details in the last newsletter - will cost £60, or £75 for late entrants and non members. There may still be a few of the 100 allocated places left.

Their latest newsletter mentioned a scheme whereby one of their chapters would seem to have an agreement with a local Forestry authority. It sound as though the members plant new trees and fell the old ones, doing a bit of site clearance afterwards. Now *that* sound like a damned good idea to me! A few saplings and some free labour in return for some nice bits of tree wood.

The New Zealand Association is already planning their 1990 event, with Dale Nish, David Ellsworth and Ray Key as the International guests. Final dates have not yet been released, but June is the month.

STATIC EXHIBITIONS.

John Hunnex is once again making an exhibition of himself, this time at The Easton Rooms, Rye Art Gallery, 107 High Street, RYE, East Sussex. Open Monday - Saturday 10.30 to 1.00 and 2.00 to 5.00.; Sunday 2.30 to 5.00. The exhibition is on until 29th. August and John is sharing the limelight with Graham Clarke, an artist who's work is very much collected locally.

TEACH-INS.

Del Stubbs, who is one of our two invited overseas demonstrators at Loughborough this year has agreed to do some one day specials for the association.

The dates and venues fixed so far are as follows:-

26th. 27th. and 30th. August, Kent.,

1st. and 2nd. September, Bromsgrove, Worcs. (See 'FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS for more details),

3rd. September, Staffs and South Cheshire,

9th. September, Piggotts, (Middlesex Chapter).

To get the organisers address for all but the Bromsgrove demonstration days, please send a Stamped Addressed Envelope and covering letter to Mike Cripps, 41, The Greenway, Ickenham, Middlesex, UB10 8LS.

Del is going to be in this country until mid. October, excluding his time at the Irish seminar, so there will be more chances to book him for any late events which local chapters decide to arrange. Again, Mike Cripps is your contact.

LOCAL CHAPTERS.

The Devon Chapter holds regular meetings around the County and I am

sure that any members who are visiting the area on holiday would be most welcome to attend the meetings, *which sometimes include a car boot sale!* For up to date information, write to Keith Sinclair, "Willowfield", Week, Dartington, TOTNES, Devon TQ9 6JW.

The recently formed Kent Chapter has decided on a subscription of £10 to be paid to their own local funds, as well as the National fee. Such arrangements allow the local Chapters to do some spending in their own areas, and it is for this reason that the National membership fee is held at a low level.

Nice to see the Middlesex Chapter has got together and formed a committee, which has in turn planned two displays of its work in local libraries. A nice touch, which other chapters may like to copy, is that the displays will have a beginners table, just to encourage would-be members from coming forward. Another nice touch is that each member is to supply a brief description of themselves, to go with their work. Such information should also encourage new members.

Norfolk is also very active, with trips planned to North Heigham Sawmills - who are an A.W.G.B. Sponsor member, and also to a local Furniture Maker. Bernard Rose of 63, Belmore Rd., Thorp St. Andrew, Norwich, NR7 0PR. is the Honorary Secretary, and would furnish details of these visits to other chapter members, if asked nicely, by letter!

Our West Yorkshire Chapter has now formulated itself into a committee which plans a number of features for future meetings, which will include Members work nights, film nights, manufacturing demonstrations, visits from speakers and visits to craft and timber suppliers.

According to David Conway, the Secretary, the initiative to get things going was taken up by Harry Middleton and Bill Newton. David tells me that 'We might have taken our time sorting ourselves out up here but when we do a job we do it right! Other officers are Allan Smith, Chairman and Harry Middleton, Press Officer.

Good luck lads and lasses, and keep us informed.

BUSINESS SPONSORS.

L.R.E. Machinery and Equipment Co. Ltd., of 15, Upwood Rd., LOWTON, WARRINGTON, Lancs, WA3 2RL, (Tel. 0942 728208 or mobile 0860 310349) who are supplying the lathes for the demonstrators at Loughborough, have had the two 'General' lathes stolen from their works in Warrington.

Roy Cooper, of L.R.E., tells me that the 38" centres and 12" diameter capacity lathes are quite distinctive, and whilst their serial number plates and the typical gloss green finish used on woodworking machinery are likely to have been changed, the lathes won't have changed much in their overall appearance. The illustration which I have shows a cabinet mounted machine, with outboard hand wheel on the headstock, gap bed with solid machined rails for banjo and tailstock to ride along, and either a variable speed control on the model 160-2 or a door on the cabinet of the model 160-1, allowing access to the four speed pulleys and drive belt. The Leroy Sommers motors which were on the lathes when stolen are 220 volt, 3 phase.

Could anyone who knows of the whereabouts of any General lathes, in the U.K. please contact Roy Cooper at the above address? There are a couple of Generals already in the country, and Roy knows who has them and where they are, so please help him to locate these two as well.

THERE IS A REWARD!

And now to happier matters.

We welcome a new business sponsor, Derek Pyatt, (see the adverts page,) and he has kindly offered to write a short report of a proposed trip

to Canada, where he intends to call on woodturners and suppliers. Derek, I look forward to the report.

Business Sponsors Startrite Machine Tools Ltd., offer a brand new brochure on the Harrison Graduate range of lathes. See the adverts page for more details.

STOP PRESS. Just in time for this edition. Craft Supplies, our latest business sponsors, are offering a generous discount to all members on purchases made before Sept. 1st. Members must quote membership numbers when ordering. See adverts page for more details.

SEMINAR REPORTS. (and visit reports)

John Foulgar, who stepped in at the last minute to replace Tony Wadilove on the John Boddy Sawmills trip, sent me a report of the proceedings, highlights of which are recorded here:-

Mr. Frank Boddy started the day with a short talk on the history and aims of the Company, which was followed by a detailed and informative tour of the yard and sawmills. One of the highlights of the tour was an examination of an oak log, brown at one end and white at the other! A number of suggestions were offered as to where the brown ended and Mr. Boddy and his yard manager scored about nine out of ten when the log was cut.

The tour continued, taking in the kilns and the sawmill. The members were invited to help themselves to a pile of off-cuts at the end of a conveyor, and the offer was soon taken up. After a search for the bargains in the shop, a demonstration was arranged of the turning skills of Phil Reardon, Yorkshire's only woodturning D.J., who produced a couple of boxes to the sound of music.

The day ended in the early afternoon as many members had quite long journeys home. Thanks are due to Frank Boddy and all his staff for a memorable and informative day out, and also to Tony Wadilove, who organised it and was then stopped from attending by a 'blip'

(And thanks, John, for taking up the pen at the last minute. Sorry I couldn't fit it into the last newsletter. ed.)

MEMBERS PROFILE.

The members profile this time is of Geoff Heath, from Cheshire. Geoff retired last year, as Chief Structural Engineer for a Division of British Aerospace. Geoff was also a visiting Professor in the Department of Engineering at Manchester University.

His first encounter with woodturning was fifty years ago, in the school workshop, but he didn't take it up again until the mid 70's, when he was inspired by visits to craft shows. A washing machine powered Arundel was found a home and together with a 'set' of four tools, Percy W. Blandford's book, 'Woodturning', and some softwood salvaged from an old door, Geoff set out on a voyage of discovery.

Scraping with the skew, Geoff eventually began to grasp the fundamentals, and with bevel rubbing, finally decided to go public by taking a table at a small craft fair. This was successful enough to make him attend more fairs and soon an upgrade was required in the lathe department. A Tyme cub, with swivelling headstock, was invested in, together with a combination chuck. (The cub, which served Geoff well for four years, has now been replaced by a Coronet No. 3., the cub being sold very quickly through this newsletter. PLUG, PLUG, ed).

Backed up with a bandsaw, a drill press and a horizontal wet grindstone, Geoff now supplies a local craft gallery, a furniture maker and

visitors to the craft fairs which he attends.

Geoff goes on to say that if his hobby became a business, he wouldn't enjoy it any more. He doesn't know how professional turners make a living from it. (All those who share this view, which certainly worried me back in 1969, might like to attend Hugh O'Neill's discourse on costing at the Loughborough Seminar. ed.)

Geoff concludes by saying that in retirement, his turning provides him with an opportunity to exercise the creativeness and ingenuity which were part of his professional career.

DIG-INS.

A word of caution! You may remember a reference to turning with a strobe light in the last edition of AWGorBlimey. Yorkshire member Harry Middleton rang me to say that he remembered reading a health warning that the effects of strobe lighting can occasionally trigger off problems with epilepsy in certain individuals. If any members do experiment with this idea, they should watch out for ill effects. And detached fingers!

BEADS AND HOLLOWES.

Dave Regester recently gave the Devon Chapter a demonstration of tool sharpening, and a couple of points which he made are particularly worth repeating. First, have the grindstone at a good working height, avoiding the need to stoop and strain your back. When grinding, don't press the tool too hard on the wheel, otherwise the tool will heat-up, and maintain a concave bevel by using the front of the wheel. Dave also suggests the use of a coarse wheel for re-shaping the tool and a fine wheel for sharpening. Methods of tool sharpening are a matter of personal preference of course, but I have now raised my grindstone to a workable height, having been encouraged to do so by Dave's example.

I also include some extracts from an article in the American Association of Woodturners magazine, 'The American Woodturner'. The article was written by Russ Zimmerman, who teaches and demonstrates in the States. Russ says '...reluctance to sharpen is incredible'; 'Once the tool is properly ground, regrinding is much easier', and what must surely be a classic observation worded to stick in the minds of all turners, '.. tools do not get sharper as you use them'.

My two pennorth on this matter is to state that bevels, and the memory of what they used to look like, usually get shorter as time goes on. And I sometimes get lost when working out grinding angles etc., especially when looking at some of the compound angles used by many of today's turners. My solution is often to record in the form of sketches with dimensions, what a tool looks like when it is working as I want it to. These sketches can then be referred to should the performance of the tool have fallen off a few sharpenings later.

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

Tobias Kaye has a thunderer for sale! :- Big bowl lathe, special, being a 16 speed Herbert gearbox and headstock with a 2 3/4" dia. shaft, mounted on a heavy R.S.J. base. Used to turn bowls up to 40" diameter, this lathe has speeds from 50 R.P.M. to 1,000. 8 forward, 8 reverse. Comes with a 5 h.p., 3ph. motor. Some re-building and work needed. £250. (Buyer collects? ed.) Contact Toby on (0364) 42837 (Devon).

Hugh O'Neill wants 'Large bandsaw and small, highly portable lathe'. He offers for sale 'Surplus Lebanon Cedar Boards, 2" thick, @ £12/c.f. and

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elm boards, 2", 3", 4" and 5" thick, all 10' and longer and approx 30" wide, @ £15/c.f. Contact Hugh on 01 866 2721.

HELPLINE.

You may remember that at last years Leeds show, a Tyme Cub lathe was presented, on loan, to a youngster who showed potential as a turner. I have seen some of the work which was subsequently produced on the lathe and I was suitably impressed.

The annual 'placing' of the lathe, chuck and tools is now due for review and we would remind members that the recipient should be someone who shows potential as a turner, but who can't, for whatever reason, afford a lathe, tools and a combination chuck of their own just yet.

If any member knows of such a case, could they please contact a committee member, giving details of the potential recipient.

LETTERS.

Kent member Bill Carden has sent me a letter, saying that he has now taken delivery of a piece of machinery from Business sponsors L.R.E. Equipment, and that he was delighted with both the condition and the delivery of the goods. Bill can "...thoroughly recommend L.R.E. to other members who may be wavering.'

The Essex Acorn Movement (TEAM) has sent me details of a scheme which they are running. In a nutshell - sorry about that - (no I'm not, in fact I think it was rather good) woodturners are requested to turn 250 acorns in a year, - about 5 a week - which will be sold, all of the proceeds going to the 'Save the children fund'. More information from Acorn Woodcraft, Bounsted Rd., Colchester, Essex, CO2 ODE.

A letter from Suffolk member Charles Cragg, of 25a Garland Street, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk IP33 1HB, asks if any member can offer his son Mark, a position as a trainee woodturner. Mark is 15, leaves school next year and wants to be a woodturner. Charles is not in a position to offer him proper training, but wonders if anyone else can?

Charles also asks for information on any magazine similar to Craft Supplies' 'The Woodturner', but which is produced overseas and in English. Could anyone who is able to help please write direct to Charles, who suffers from failing eyesight but who still enjoys his turning.

PROBLEM SPOT.

Don White and Steve Marchant will be running the 'Tool Surgeries' at Loughborough. Don has asked me to inform delegates that he will advise on tool sharpening, and show the 'patients' how they can sharpen their own tools. This is a generous offer which should be used but not abused folks. Could those seminar delegates who wish to attend the surgeries limit themselves to the 'essential' tools please?

DEADLINE

The deadline for the next newsletter is 'Get your info to me as soon as possible, as the next newsletter will be out, probably abbreviated, and giving details of the A.G.M., during August.'

And that is the first three line deadline I've ever seen.