



Editor's Comments

This is an interim Newsletter to enable me on behalf of the Officers and Committee to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Good Woodturning New Year. It also allows me to give you all your Membership Renewal forms for the year 2007.

Please remember that your subscription includes your AWGB subscription, so do not pay it separately.

The Treasurer also reminds us that we must always send the completed renewal form with our remittance, as it is the only way in which corrections and updates can be made to our records.

Life members are reminded that they still need to pay their AWGB subscription of £14 alone to the Treasurer, who passes it on to AWGB.

At the recent AGM, I was advised that some of our members, who like me are not blessed with good hearing, could not hear all (and in one case, any) of what was being said. I have brought this to the attention of the Officers and Committee, who have asked me to offer their apologies for their failure to remember to set up the P.A. system. It has been decided that a second Radio Microphone should be purchased and used to avoid any such situation arising again during any our meetings.

Alan

President

Stuart King

Chairman

Adrian Needham
'Brimbles' 114 Slough Road
Datchet. Berkshire SL3 9AF
Tel. 01753 593771
e-mail ajneedham@e-brimbles.com

Treasurer & Membership Sec.

Richard Bird
'Staffa' Back Lane
Chalfont St. Giles. Bucks. HP8 4PF
Tel. 01494 872503
e-mail richardwlbird@aol.com

Secretary

Mike Collas
8 Wiltshire Gardens Twickenham
Middlesex TW2 6ND
Tel. 0208 894 6759
e-mail mike.collas@btinternet.com

Committee members:

Ralph Pooley Ken Horn
Derek Pollecutt Geoff Norris
Will Mailes

Newsletter Editor (Co-opted)

Alan Spargo 73 Park Lane,
Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6BL
Tel. 01895 823159
e-mail spargo73@waitrose.com

What Sells?

We were asked recently, in connection with the Cow Byre Exhibition, what sorts of items will sell. This is a difficult one to answer, because it depends not only upon the item but upon its design, and the quality of its execution. An analysis of sales shows that at the Cow Byre, the following items sold well. Bowls from small trinket bowls to about 12 inches diameter. Larger bowls do not sell so well; Platters up to 12 inches; Vases, all sizes except very large ones; Misc. craft fair items such as light pulls, carrier bag handles, dibbers, spinning tops especially if brightly coloured; Boxes and covered vases in all practical sizes; Clocks & barometers; Candlesticks from night light holders upwards; Jewellery stands; Turned fruit. Remember even cheap items will not sell if poorly finished, and above all do not under price your work. It will not sell if it is too cheap!

The AGM

There was a good turn out for the AGM, which the Officers and Committee found to be very encouraging. Proceedings followed the usual well worn pattern. The Chairman in his report said that once again the Association had had a very good year, with new equipment purchase, new approaches to Club nights, and a growing membership. Membership has now passed the magic 100 mark, and attendance at meetings is very high. In his remarks, the Chairman acknowledged the sterling work of the members of the committee, all of whom give of their best efforts to ensure the smooth running of the Association. On the financial side, the Treasurer reported a very healthy situation, the outcome of which was that there would be no need to change the membership and meeting fees for the coming year. The accounts were presented unaudited, since the Auditor, David Moore, was in hospital and unable for the time being to undertake the task. The accounts when finally audited will be circulated at branch meeting.

The appointment of Officers and Committee for 2007 was quickly dealt with, since there were no nominations for new members. Consequently, the existing members were voted back into office en bloc. At a subsequent committee meeting Alan Spargo was again co-opted onto the committee. He will continue to produce the Newsletter.

When the business of the evening was completed, some of the committee members gave short presentations on various aspects of the running of the Association. Members were invited to contribute to discussion, and a number of interesting and constructive points were made from the floor of the meeting. The exercise was considered by the Committee to have been well worth while, and it will be repeated from time to time to involve members more in the running of the Association. The committee members were pleased to know that the members considered the Association to be generally well run.

Future Programme

The full programme is not available to the editor as yet, but should be ready in the New Year. In January Gary Rance will be the demonstrator, so we can expect some very accomplished turning. In February, former member Dave Reeks, who is noted for his robust personality and predilection for turning massive and unusual objects will be our guest and demonstrator.

Golden Rules for Woodturning

1. Woodturning should always be FUN.
2. Turning is a personal exploration to satisfy your inner muse first.
3. A successful turning is an equal balance between technique and design.
4. The success of your project depends upon a positive attitude, not expensive tools or secret tricks.
5. There is no shame in making a mistake, but try not to make the same one twice.
6. Never stop looking for inspiration, especially outside the world of turning.
7. A finished turning will always look better than one half turned. By finishing what you start you just may surprise yourself.
8. The proper way to use any tool is whichever way works best for you.
9. Never be discouraged by people saying "That's pretty, what is it?"
10. Design gimmicks and fads have the life of free burl at a turner's convention. Avoid them at all costs.

Taken from 'The Fine Art of Small Scale Woodturning', by R. Duce. (it's in the Club Library)