



Editor's Comments

You cannot fail to have noticed the changes to the room layout! The Committee is very conscious of the Health & Safety aspects of our meetings and has been pondering on how to overcome the congestion and the hazardous birds nest of electrical cables at the front of our meeting room. As an experiment it has been decided to place the lathe at the windows side of the room for the next few meetings. This will have great the advantage of several electricity outlets being available. It will also enable members to reach their seats on entry without having to traverse the lathe area. During a dry run recently it was also found that a better seating layout could also be achieved.

The Library table, the notice board, and the refreshments area will remain as before, but the "shop" will move to the other side of the room. Members' work will continue to be displayed next to the bar.

We invite members to comment on the new arrangements, and to offer any suggestions for its improvement.

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

Newsletter Editor (Co-opted)

Alan Spargo 73 Park Lane,
Harefield, Middlesex. UB9 6BL
Tel. 01895 823159

e-mail spargo73@waitrose.com

One Day Seminar

The MWA Seminar date (Sunday 11th May) is fast approaching, and preparations for it are well in hand. The internationally renowned turner Ray Key will be leading the day. Ray Key is one of the enthusiasts who got together and formed the AWGB, and has been a driving force behind it ever since its inception. As a turner, he is dedicated to simplicity and beauty of form, rather than ornate decoration. He has much to show us, and we anticipate a good turnout on the day.

Despite rising costs we have managed to keep the ticket price down to £12.50 for this year which is a bargain! There is room for over 50 delegates. Get your tickets NOW from the Treasurer, Richard Bird. at the welcome table, or via the postal address or web address in the box above.

February Meeting

Les Thorne was our guest turner in February. He is a Registered Professional Turner, and a great teacher.

We spend hours in our workshops, striving to produce flawless finishes which reveal the beauty of the grain of the wood we are using. The demonstrations this evening could have come as something of a shock to some of us!

Les was to make a box. He took a piece of timber with a bland grain and reduced it to a cylinder with a creditable finish from the skew.

Chucking dovetails were cut on both ends. So far - normal. Then he produced a miniature angle grinder fitted with a toothed cutting disc, and proceeded to convert the piece into a rough polygon in cross section. This left a whiskey finish, so out came the blowtorch to burn off all the whiskers, followed by a rotary brush to remove much of the charring. More was to come!



The lathe was covered up with polythene sheeting, leaving only the work exposed, and ebonising lacquer sprayed on, followed after an interval by a bright red spray, applied sparingly. The result was a glossy but textured aubergine-like appearance. This proved difficult to photograph in the prevailing lighting conditions, but was surprisingly attractive.

From then on it was standard box making procedure. The outlines of the body and lid of the box were cleanly cut into the painted surface to

form a contrasting feature.

During the hollowing out phase, Les deployed a small clip on LED lamp attached to the tool rest. On being asked, he said it came from the Pound Shop. Somebody had to ask how much it cost, whereupon Les's self control was masterly!!

This brought us to the next piece, which was to be a sort of bowl. We were prepared for it this time, and were not disappointed when a full size angle grinder fitted with a chain saw



cutting disc was produced to gouge the surfaces of the piece as it took shape. Again, out came the blowtorch, followed by rotary brushing and sanding to smooth off the rough surfaces and remove the charring.

From then on it was mixture as before, but this time with red spray followed by a misting of ebonising spray to give a subtly different effect. As soon as the lacquer was dry, details were smoothly cut into the bowl leaving unpainted wood to the rich colour and texture of the treated surfaces.

During all this, Les gave us a stream of comment on tools, and methods, all laced with his unique humour, not to speak of the ongoing



banter with other professional turners present. We learned a lot, and it was great fun too. It is important to note that despite the rough treatment meted out to the wood, proper tool use and turning skills were needed throughout the

Club Workshop on 12th June with Bob Neill.

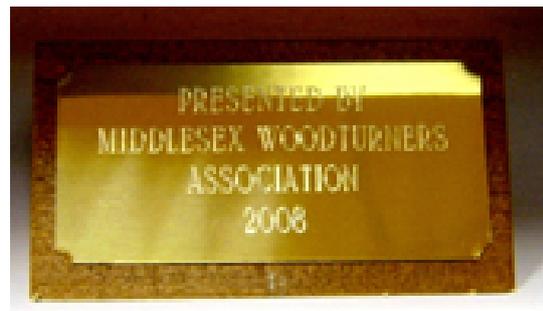
For this workshop, Eddie Morgan and Paul Nesbitt will continue to develop the work they were doing in the March Workshop. Members are invited to come prepared to take part and to make some shavings themselves. In addition Bob Neill will be present to conduct a Pyrography Workshop. Equipment and practice materials will be provided and members may bring a shallow bowl or wide rimmed platter for decoration, which should be made of sycamore, beech or holly. Other more open grained woods are less suitable for pyrography.

Club Workshop in March

The Workshop in March was planned to help the many novices amongst our membership. Two lathes, manned by Eddie Morgan and Paul Nesbitt were devoted to basic turning operations. We were very pleased to see a few brave souls having a go, and no doubt learning how to get rid of bad turning habits which they did not know they had!. We are anxious to see more members taking part, and actually making shavings. In addition, Ralph Pooley brought in his grinders and sharpening devices, so that members might get their blunt and perhaps badly shaped tools put into good order. Much use was made of Ralph's expertise, and it was noticeable that his grinding wheels seemed to be getting smaller in diameter! It is planned to continue to develop the turning themes in the next Workshop evening in June. We would all like to thank Eddie, Paul and Ralph for so freely giving of their knowledge and expertise in these workshop evenings for the benefit of less experienced turners.

During the evening, the display of members' work was judged, and marks awarded. It is intended to display the marking on a spreadsheet which is to be put on the notice board. This will happen every month, and the scores will be totalled up to enable the best turners in each class to be named at the end of the year. We hope that each month, members will place work on display, and boost their scores.

At the end of the evening, there was an event which was almost overlooked. It was the revealing of the Tombola Drum which has been commissioned from Tony Brown. MWA will give the drum to our Charity, which surprisingly does not have this essential item. As the photograph shows, the drum has been expertly made by Tony Brown. It bears a brass nameplate recording the gift, and proudly displays the Shooting Star logo. We acknowledge the good offices of Mike Collas in arranging for this item to be made.



For Your Diary

10th April John Berkley. Hand chased screw threads, both left and right handed.

8th May Mick Hanbury. Details TBA when known.

12th June Club Workshop Evening. See details on Page two.

10th July Brian Partridge. Details TBA when known.

The Middlesex Show is to return to its original venue, the Middlesex Show ground in Uxbridge, on 21st & 22nd June. MWA is hoping to mount a display there. Start turning!

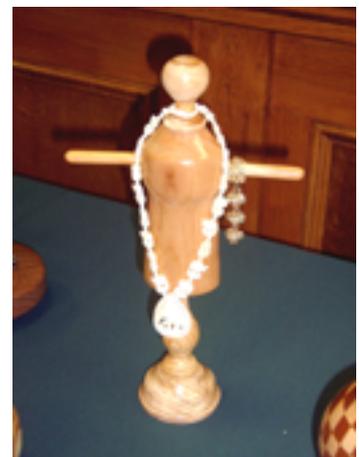
Library News from Gordon Cookson

Gordon announces a new service for readers of Woodturning Magazine. He now has an index by issue of all articles in the magazine right back to issue No 1. He will bring this to meetings, and if you cannot wait for the next meeting he will look it up for you at home. See the Members List for his phone number.

New additions to the Library are posted on the Club Notice Board, and thanks to Christina Bishop, the full library list is available on the Club web site.

Gordon will welcome your ideas on improvements to the Library which would encourage more use. Let him know of anything which you would like added.

GALLERY



Pictures taken during the Workshop Evening on 13th March. Much better full colour

