



Editor's Comments

I was sorry to have missed the demonstration by Guy Ravine. He is an interesting and capable craftsman. However, Will Mailes has written up the evening for the Newsletter. It is always good to have an article by another writer, with a different style. I would like it very much if others would put pen to paper (or these days, boot up their computers) to write short articles for the Newsletter. How about it? I promise to apply the minimum of editing.

The AWGB Seminar takes place over the coming weekend. It is an event much to be looked forward to and enjoyed. Concentrated woodturning for the whole weekend!! I will produce a necessarily brief report, and some pictures for you in due course.

We have advance notice that our Treasurer would like a rest at the end of this year. From a membership of 104 people, there surely must be someone who has the necessary skills to take on this job. Please think about this, and come forward if you are willing offer your skills to the Association. The Committee intends to separate membership responsibilities from those of the treasurer to make the job much less time consuming.

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For Your Diary

September 13th Stuart King is Replaced by **John Johnson**

October 11th **Stephen Cooper**

November 8th **AGM Plus!**

December 13th **Christmas Party Plus!**

June Meeting Report

Unfortunately, Robin Fawcett, the booked demonstrator, was laid low by a severe migraine attack and could not attend. At terrifyingly short notice, the gap was filled by Eddie Morgan and Brian Wooldridge. Eddie and Brian are both skilled craftsmen who drew upon their experience to each take half of the demonstration time.

Eddie came first. Using pre-prepared wood, he took us through the steps in making one of his prize winning square outline bowls. Careful marking out was essential to the preparation of the blank, and especially the positioning of the point of engagement of the chuck jaws. Once mounted, the underside of the blank was shaped, using standard tools and leaving a spigot for rechucking. It was important that the centre of the spigot was clearly marked at this stage. Such was the finish from the tools that only a little power sanding was needed before the surface was sealed ready for finishing.



After reverse chucking on the spigot, and careful checking to ensure that the piece ran true on the corners, the centre of the bowl was taken out again with standard tools, until inspection of the edges showed an even thickness

(thinness!) throughout. Again little sanding was needed before the inside was also sealed ready for finishing. Eddie stopped there as his time was up. Given more time, he would have mounted the bowl between a shaped “dolly” in the chuck, and the already marked true centre of the spigot to turn off most of the spigot,



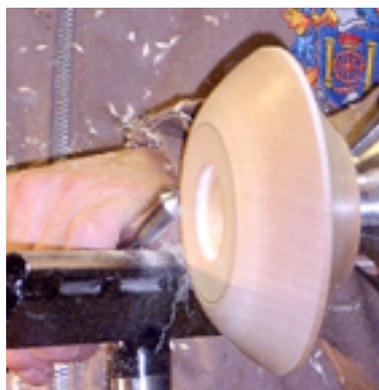
leaving only a small nub to be removed and finished off by hand. Needless to say, the almost completed square bowl was fully up to Eddie’s exacting standards.

After the break, it was Brian’s turn. Brian makes all sorts of small items which he sell at craft fairs. They also provide a good source of demonstration material. He chose this time to show the making of his popular tea light holder. Brian makes these in a variety of designs, depending on the timber available, and the level of his stock of finished items. For this evening he did something unusual. He asked members for their opinion on the design as he worked, and incorporated some of their ideas into his basic shape.

As craft fair items sell at low prices, it is important to reduce machine time to a minimum. To save time, Brian uses standard saw toothed Forstner bit sizes for key features. These are matched to the sizes of available chuck jaws, making the set up easy and very quick, as some of the holes can be drilled beforehand on a drilling machine. Again to save turning time, Brian uses his bandsaw to prepare round blanks close to the required sizes.



The pre drilled blank was mounted on expanding chuck jaws, and all the turning for the bottom of the tea light holder was done at this setting. A chucking recess was drilled with a Forstner bit, and the job given the minimum of sanding and a suitable finish. After rechucking, the top was shaped and sanded.



Brian is not afraid to experiment, so when he needed a dark finish, he got out a small blowtorch, and scorched the surface of the wood.

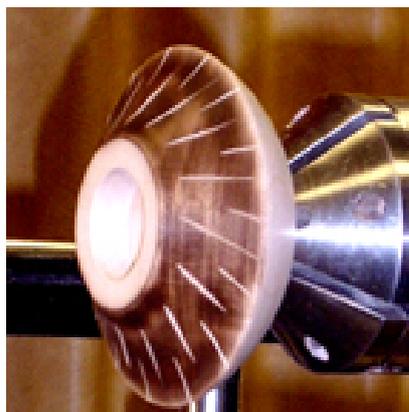
June Meeting contd.

After light sanding the scorched surface gave a pleasing brown colour to the job. To further decorate the job, Brian also used a power



carving tool to cut restrained decoration into the coloured surface. The whole process is quick and entirely suitable for craft fair stuff. It can be refined for use on more important pieces.

Brian used a simple finishing of sanding sealer, which makes a good finish in its own right, and can always be topped off with wax. For those who attend craft fairs, there was much to learn from Brian's approach to quick and simple turnery.



More on the Election of Officers & Committee

It would be sensible to remind members that some of the committee and officers have served for many consecutive years, and some also have been appointed in addition to serve on the AWGB committee. 'Wearing two hats' in this way can mean that a much greater amount of time has to be given up to committee matters, and it is quite possible that some of the present MWA officers will soon need some extra breathing space.

It is common in clubs and organisations for members to leave all the work to a few dedicated people, and just sit back and enjoy the fruits of their endeavours. However, committees need to be renewed from time to time, and we would like to ask members if they would seriously consider coming forward for nomination to the committee at the forthcoming AGM. Committee meetings are not at all formal, and the views of everyone have equal weight and influence on how MWA is run. New people would mean new enthusiasm and new ideas, and this has to be a good thing. Think about it please.

July Meeting with Guy Ravine A Report by Will Mailes.

Guy started by passing a drawing around of many of the types of cut possible on a spindle. So many names for this and that, which he'd collected over the years and picked up from other turners. Using a Skewchigouge and a half inch or three eighths spindle gouge on a piece of sapele, or something like it, he cut one after another, using his hand as a travelling steady, his thumb steadying the tool, in quick time, and finished off nonchalantly with the skew. He commented that he likes using the long point nowadays. A quick sand and he passed the spindle round for perusal. Asymmetric balls, descending or ascending quirks, nebs, coves beads, ovolo, flat, cyma reversa (more balls) and many more – and Guy said the list was not comprehensive. A laminated labelled drawing is available to buy from Guy on

request. Guy also showed us a Palm Gouge, a short stubby tool used with one hand which he invented for people with limited movement in their left hand or arm, or indeed in one case no left arm at all. He said that he now finds it difficult to earn enough doing craft fairs and exhibitions, and is doing mainly commercial work and lots of teaching

With some problems with the size of jaws, and reverting to plan 'b', Guy proceeded to make a bone box. A very interesting departure from our normal fare. Cut from a cow shin bone, (do not use the short bones) soaked for 12 hours or more, Guy mounted it by quickly turning a cone chuck, and turned a narrow spigot.

Guy Ravine Contd.

He was very careful, and with delicate tooling rounded the cylinder, turned it and held in the engineers jaws, proceeded to cut a long internal thread, talking us through it all the way.

It was noticeable how the heavy bone dust was collected by the Camvac better than it collects fine saw dust. Cutting the external thread in the top was more problematic. Guy had to sharpen the tool before it would cut. As it came out a bit thin, Guy quickly reduced the internal thread on the bottom, and finishing the external, which he says he finds more difficult, he fitted the threads together. As the bone is hollow, a lid and base had been prepared earlier; to be sized and glued in. Guy had already glued these to wooden chucks, hoping that the glue would hold. He said that with superglue only half of them do. Moving on to fit the base, as feared the bone flew off at first touch and plan 'c' was put into operation. Inserts were glued in and

left to dry, while Guy remarkably quickly demonstrated making a ring stand in Padauk. He advised finishing the bone with Brasso and buffing, and finished the box as far as possible, apologising for the rather crude bottom.

Between his stories, which were funny and instructive, the jaw problems, the usual difficulties of finding things and interruptions from the usual comedians in the audience, we didn't see a perfectly finished article, but the demonstration was fascinating, skilful and entertaining so thanks to Guy, to the heavy mob and to Mary and Eddie and to all those who helped.

A strange lathe, donated by Brian Wooldridge, was auctioned off in the break and snapped up for a £20 donation to our charity.

I regret no pictures for this article. My zoom lens would not reach from where I was!! Alan.

The Chilterns Show

MWA was delighted to be invited to take part in the Chilterns Show in July of this year. The weather on set up day was foul, but we had enough time without rain to get everything set up ready for opening on the next day. Saturday morning dawned with cloudy and often angry skies, but it was not raining, so the Show got off to a good start. We had a steady flow of visitors throughout the day, and the sales table was kept busy. We had a massive display of excellent turnery, with plenty for everyone, from simple dibbers and such like to really good galley quality pieces. Your scribe



was not able to be there for the second day, but he hears that business continued to be good until the rains came and drove the punters away. Sales were good, but quite a bit down compared with the previous year. Much credit for the success of our exhibition is due to the stalwarts who set it all up, manned the marquee, and at the end took it all down, and packed up the stuff when the show closed. It is notable that the same hard working people carry out these duties time after time. It is good to report that our Charity benefited from the levy which MWA had imposed on all sales. More good news is that we have already been invited to attend another show in the Chilterns on the weekend of 7th, 8th & 9th September. Full details will be available at the August meeting, so begin planning your exhibits! The picture is just to give a flavour of the display. Some of the items will be picked out for a Gallery Page in a future Newsletter.

A Personal Note from your Editor.

What a great crowd is the MWA! I had not thought that my 80th birthday was very significant, but I was wrong! Not only was I feted by the members of the Committee, who treated me to a really excellent evening dinner, but when I tuned up as usual for the June meeting, I knew something was afoot when Will borrowed my camera. Lo and behold, I was presented with a magnificent Birthday Cake for all to share, made by Derek's wife Sheila, followed by a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" from you all! I cannot thank you all enough for such a wonderful occasion. *Alan*