



Editor's Comments

This is a "quickie" Newsletter, rather than the usual one with longer articles and pictures. It is devoted entirely to forthcoming exhibitions and shows.

We have suddenly been presented with many dates and venues for shows and exhibitions, so many in fact that we have had to turn down one or two. However, some dates have long been fixed in our calendar, and another opportunity which cannot be missed has appeared. Normally we would spread out our commitments rather more than has happened, but of course, we are at the mercy of availability of venues, and of other people's plans.

To meet all these commitments will involve the members of the Committee in a great deal of work and time. We need the wholehearted co-operation and assistance of you the members if we are to do justice to everything.

Read on for the details.

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The Chiltern Show

For many years, Middlesex Woodturners were able to take a stand at the now defunct Middlesex Show. It was a valuable way in which we could promote the Association to a large number of people. We regularly received the award for the best stand in the show! Sadly, the Middlesex Show could not balance its books, and is no more. MWA has been looking for a replacement venue, where the Association could come into contact with many members of the public on an annual basis. Local galleries are useful, but do not completely measure up as not enough members of the public are attracted to them.

Through the good offices of Stuart King, the MWA President, we have been offered and have accepted a stand at the forthcoming Chiltern

Show at Gt. Missenden, Bucks. This will be a large affair, attracting many people from a large area. *It will take place on the weekend of July 16th and 17th this year, and is expected to become an annual event.* We would be foolish if we did not take up this offer, which would replace the much missed Middlesex Show.

Full details of our involvement are not yet fully worked out, but we understand that the stand will be free of charge to us, including electricity and tables. All that we have to put on is a good show of work and also demonstrations on the club's smaller lathe. Again, we are allowed to sell our work if we wish. I hope to publish more information in the June Newsletter. Please start to think about how you will support it.

Exhibition at the Cow Byre Gallery

This is the season for shows and exhibitions. We have secured the Cow Byre Gallery in Ruislip for two weeks this year. This is to compensate for our decision not to use the Uxbridge Library later in this year. A two week show will demand much from the organisers, some of whom will, in addition to planning and organising the show, be on duty for almost every day of it. We are looking for and need maximum support from our members. We shall need a good display of items, which should include high quality work which is not necessarily for sale. We hope to sell many items, of course, as we need to be able to pay the rent and also commission on sales which the Borough of Hillingdon, which owns the Gallery, will charge us. We shall also need smaller items which may attract impulse buyers.

Why do we hold this show? There are several reasons. We need to put ourselves on show to the general public, and to educate it on what we do and how we do it. We need to promote the merits of our work. We hope to recruit new members to MWA from the many local wood

turners who work in isolation, and by no means least, we need to provide an outlet through which our members may sell their output in order to plough some if not all of the proceeds back into their workshops.

We would ask members to start thinking now about preparing work for this exhibition, and also to give some thought as to how they will help in its setting up and stewarding. The dates are as follows. Set up day on Sunday June 12th at 10 am. The Exhibition officially opens on Monday June 13th, but if we get set up quickly it may be possible to open for a limited time on Sunday afternoon if there is enough demand. Opening times will be 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday to Saturday, and perhaps for a shorter time on Sunday June 19th. The final day will be on Saturday June 25th, and we will dismantle the show at about 5.00 pm on that day.

Please support this Exhibition. Details will be in the June Newsletter

Wood Sales at Westonbirt Arboretum

Wood Sales at Westonbirt usually happen on the second Sunday of the month between 10.00 am and 1.00 pm. Dates already arranged are May 8th, June 12th, and July 10th. Woods usually include Yew, Holly, Oak, Hickory, Lime, Birch, Hornbeam and various Acers and Maples. Currently Tulip and Apple are available. Pieces are in logs and branches up to four feet long, and sometimes they are in boards from larger trunks.

This year, Westonbirt is holding its Wood Festival with wood craftsmen and the outcome of a week long chain saw carving competition. Wood will also be on sale then. Dates:- August 27th to 29th (Bank Holiday). Entry £5.00 and £7.50 for adults. Westonbirt is 3 miles from Tetbury on A 433 (Junctions 17 or 18 on M4)

Further details from Tony Pearce on 01454 261808. Group visits to purchase wood may be possible on alternative dates on request.

Details provided by Gordon Cookson.

MWA Seminar

The Seminar will take place on Sunday 15th May, beginning at about 9.30 am and lasting until about 4.30 pm. The take up of places has been good, but there is still room for a few last minute applications to be squeezed in. Contact the Treasurer, Richard Bird, if you decide to join us.

It will be an excellent day. Artist, wood turner, and teacher Jimmy Clewes has prepared a varied presentation, catering for many important aspects of our interest. Apart from that, there will be an Instant Gallery of turned items brought by members. The Gallery caters for work at all levels of ability. If you are proud of something you have created, you should put it on display, irrespective of whether you think that anybody else might show a better piece. *The Gallery is not intended to be competitive.* We all learn much by appraising and discussing each other's work, and the Instant Gallery is an integral part of the Seminar. Do support it.

The social aspect of the day is important too. There will be time during the coffee and lunch breaks for plenty of interaction between delegates, where experiences and opinions can be discussed and exchanged. The Committee looks forward to seeing you all there.