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## Editor's Comments

There were so many news items requested by your committee that I have decided to produce an extra edition of the Newsletter. Also, for some time now I have felt that it was time to change the appearance of the front page, and to introduce a contents list. This edition is an opportunity to try something different. One casualty is information on addresses etc. of the Officers and Committee members. I felt that space could be saved by referring members to the Members' Handbook for these details. You should all have one, but if not, do ask Richard Bird if he has a spare one. The list of names and addresses will in due course be revised, but the one we have will cover all the Officers and Committee members, and all but the more recently joined people.

*Alan*

## Workshop Evenings

As reported on elsewhere, we had a very good Workshop Evening in February. The contribution of members to workshop evenings should never be underestimated. Were it not for the volunteers, who freely give of their expert advice, workshop evenings as we know them could not happen. The Committee would like to express their thanks to those who have contributed, and hopefully will continue to contribute to these important Club activities. There are many other members who have considerable expertise in woodturning. We would like to know of other volunteers who would share the load in future workshop evenings. We might approach you anyway!

**President** Stuart King

**Chairman** Adrian Needham

**Treasurer & Membership**

**Sec.** Richard Bird

**Secretary** Mike Collas

**Committee members:**

Ralph Pooley Ken Horn

Derek Pollecutt Cliff Coleman

Tony Champion

**Newsletter Editor** (Co-opted)

Alan Spargo

(For addresses etc. see the  
Members' Handbook)

## Ruislip Manor Fun Day.

The Fun Day takes place on 4th July, 11 am to 5 pm. We have been asked if MWA would like to take a small stall at this event, which is held in the Victoria Road shopping centre of Ruislip Manor. The stall would be a table, ideally with two people who would provide their own display systems, to run it. It is suggested that stuff for sale should mainly be small items of the craft fair variety - cheap in price, but above all well made. Who would like to make up a team? Details from Mike Collas.

## **MWA Seminar.**

The date for our own MWA Seminar is fast approaching. It will be held as usual on Sunday May 17th at Great Kingshill, near High Wycombe, and will be hosted by Chris Eagles. Past Seminars have been resoundingly successful, and have provided a great deal of inspiration as well as an updating of knowledge of design and techniques. It is a great social event too. Full details will be on the Club Notice Board, and tickets are available from Derek Pollecutt. We hope that you will agree that nowhere else could you immerse yourself in woodturning for a day, including food, so cheaply.

## **Sorby Road Show**

The Sorby Road show is paying us a visit in May. Members are reminded that not only does Sorby demonstrate its more recent products, but also will have items for sale. Members who are contemplating buying some new kit should come prepared. A glance into the Sorby catalogue before hand would not be a bad idea.

## **AWGB Seminar**

The biennial AWGB Seminar will take place on 7th - 8th - 9th August 2009 at Loughborough University. It is one of the most important events world wide in the wood turning calendar. If you have been before, you will surely want to go again. If you have not been before, then this is an event which should be attended by every serious wood turner. Places are still available. Full details and an application form have been published in *Revolutions*. Note that if you pay in full before 30th April, a £15 discount applies. Don't waste it!

## **Middlesex Show: An appeal.**

The Middlesex Show is on 20th -21st June at the Uxbridge Show Ground. As usual MWA will give a marquee, and it is expected that the twenty or so members who supported it in the past will wish to do so again. MWA is favoured with very advantageous terms by the organiser of the show, and in return MWA has undertaken to provide two trophies to be awarded elsewhere in the show. The trophies are turned as donations by MWA members who are exhibiting at the show, and we are looking for two generous people to make the trophies for this year. The trophies may be items such as platters, bowls, vases or wall plaques. Who is willing to make them? Ralph Pooley needs to know very soon.

## **Shows Calendar.**

In addition to the events programme which everybody already has, MWA exhibits at several shows during the year. The dates for 2009 are below. Put them in your diaries!

**Middlesex Show** 20th -21st June.

**The Chilterns Show at Gt. Missenden** 18th - 19th July.

**Great Missenden Crafts Show** 4th - 5th - 6th September.

*Still to be confirmed:* **Show at Windsor Racecourse** 9th - 10th - 11th October.

**MWA Show at the Cow Byre, Ruislip** 9th to 15th November.

## February Workshop

Under the guidance of Stuart King, working with Tony Champion and other stalwarts, it had been decided that it was time for a new look to our Workshop evenings, plus tactics to encourage more people to take a “hands on” part in the evening. Four small lathes were arranged in a part circle. The topic was spindle turning for beginners. Gary Rance set the ball rolling with a presentation covering the roughing gouge, spindle gouge, and skew chisel, which are the basic tools for a great variety of turned work.

The wood used was cheap soft wood, meaning that failed attempts could be consigned to the “designer firewood” bin without twinges in the wallet. All



the common cuts, such as planing, beads, and coves were shown, with expert commentary from Gary, after which members were invited to come forward to try it for themselves under the guidance of four expert turners. We were



pleased with the response from novice turners, who took their turns at the lathes. There was very little if any “designer Firewood”!

For those who did not wish to take an active part in the evening, a video display had been arranged. In retrospect this turned out to be something of a distraction from the main event, and most people were content to watch (and perhaps learn from) the activities around the lathes. Chairs had been arranged in front of the lathes in an attempt to reduce the tendency for members to crowd around the lathes. Again in retrospect this may not have been such a good idea. Much will be learned from this first attempt

at a new look for workshop evenings.

The opportunity was taken to announce the topic for a forthcoming competition. Members are invited to make a spinning top. Tops will be tested for duration of spin on a level glass surface, the winner of course being the maker of the top with the longest spin. *Material used for making the tops must, of course, be wood.* Metal turners amongst us would clearly have an unfair advantage!

The restriction is not as bad as it may seem, because many timbers of high density are available to the wood turner. The design of the top should be such as to minimise the tendency to fall over as speed diminishes, but this does not preclude novelty designs and the use of decoration to add interest.



To promote the competition, the team of turners each produced a top from materials to hand. Brian Wooldridge made an interesting top of Japanese origin, which when spun suddenly turns itself over

and balances upside down on its spindle. The other tops were of conventional design, and all spun well on a plastic screen from a lathe. All that now remains is for members to make their tops, and practise their spinning techniques!



Thanks are due to Stuart King, Gary Rance, Brian Wooldridge, Ralph Pooley, Luke Rance and Tony Champion for a great team effort. The topic for the next Workshop Evening will be basic bowl turning. Wood will be provided, and members who intend to take part are invited to bring their own tools including a small bowl turning gouge and scrapers.

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## Twist Turning Competition

In January, Paul Nesbitt, after his demonstration of twist turned candlesticks, invited members to enter a competition with their own versions of the design. The results were on display on the competition table in February, and one lucky winner received some nice timber from Paul.

# GALLERY



## Visual effects!

Gordon Cookson writes of his concern that off centre turning, as used in twist candlesticks, etc. might cause unexpected visual effects to which some people may be susceptible. He has experimented with various speeds, and has not himself found any worrying outcome, but is keen to mention the possibility for the benefit of others (Would this I wonder be related to the well known stroboscopic effect produced by some forms of fluorescent lighting? In this connection, the modern compact low energy fluorescent lamp should not cause problems, as its operating frequency is much higher than that of the very common fluorescent tubes. Ed.)