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Editor's Comments

Seasonal Greetings to you all.

May you look forward to a happy and successful wood turning year.

How the time flies! It is time for renewal of membership subscriptions. As usual you will find renewal forms pinned to your Newsletters, but this year there is a second form to fill in. AWGB has become a charity, which means that payments to AWGB qualify for "Gift Aid". Provided that you pay sufficient Income Tax, Gift Aid will require the Tax Man to increase your payment to AWGB by about 25%, at no cost to you.. (There is more information on the form itself.) Better still, you have to make your Gift Aid declaration only once to cover all future payments to AWGB. Please complete the form, and give or send it with your subscription renewal and cheque to our Treasurer, Derek Pollecutt.

Alan

The Club Shop, an appeal.

Cliff Coleman, who has been running the Club Shop has had a set back with his health, and is unable to continue doing so. We urgently need a volunteer to take on the shop. The shop is an important service for the members. but the committee members are fully engaged in running the club, and cannot add the shop to their duties. We really do need someone with a little time to spare, and space in which to store the club stock between meetings, to come forward and take it on. Better still if a couple of members could share the shop between them. How about it?

October Demonstration

Steve Heeley is a newcomer to the demonstration circuit. He brought with him a collection of his superb work, which was unfortunately displayed on a table which was badly lit. We were not allowed to handle any of his work, which was a pity. He explained later that he had had some of his work damaged by careless handling during earlier demonstrations. However, thanks to an up to date digital camera, some good photographs were obtained despite the low light level.



instead of gripping the tenon with a chuck, Steve used the socket in the base as a friction drive, supporting the other end with the tailstock. Using a small spindle gouge, he gradually developed a graceful shape for the spindle, returning again and again to refine the shape, observing that it didn't matter to him what anybody else thought, it had to satisfy him before he would move on. Shaping the stem took some time! Again, thanks to sharp tools, a minimum of sanding was required.



His demonstration was to encompass both faceplate turning and spindle turning, which would be assembled into a plant stand. He began with the base. Steve is a man of few words, using only the occasional word or phrase as he worked, and letting the tools do the talking. Steve is a perfectionist, and takes his time to get every detail precisely correct before moving on to

the next one. He uses standard tools and standard grinds, and his results were simply the outcome of sharp tools and expert technique. The base had an accurately sized socket at its centre which would match a tenon on the stem of the plant stand. When he was satisfied, he used a minimum of sanding to avoid spoiling the crisp detail. A piece of Yew was prepared with a tenon at one end, but

After the break, during which Steve answered many questions about what he had done, he began to make the top of the stand. By now he had almost run out of time, and although he managed to complete the top, he did not have time left in which to apply the final finish, and glue up the piece, so he very kindly gave the piece to MWA to be completed. This was a demonstration by a perfectionist, unwilling to let any part of the work fall below the extremely high standards which characterise everything he makes. A lesson for us all!



Toxic Timbers

Our good friend Gordon Cookson has sent me a copy of a list detailing the uses and toxic characteristics of over forty timbers. Looking down the list, not many of our favourite timbers are included, but all of those that are have serious possible toxic effects. Most can give rise to dermatitis and similar irritations but much more worryingly, some can effect lung function and other serious effects. It is worth noting that the effects often take time to build up, after which we become permanently sensitised. The list is too large to be included in the Newsletter, so I will display it near the Notice Board. Take a look. I am sure that you will see the need to take all sensible precautions against dust, when sanding in particular. Ed..

AGM Report

The AGM was well attended. Minutes of the previous AGM were adopted, and there were no matters arising. The Chairman's Report was also adopted and there were no questions arising from it. Derek Pollecutt began by thanking David Moore for again auditing the accounts, and then presented a full and detailed report on the finances for the past year. He pointed out that the MWA was again showing a deficit, although the overall bank balance was still healthy. He felt that the deficit should not be allowed to stand, and that remedial action should be taken. The Committee had already considered this, and had decided that as the AWGB had not increased its annual subscription, the MWA annual subscription should remain unchanged. An increase in the meeting fee would go a long way towards limiting the deficit, so it was decided to recommend that the the meeting fee should be increased from £3 to £4. This would be the first increase in several years. The proposal was put to the meeting, and accepted.

The election of the Committee followed, with Ben Dick filling the vacancy created by Cliff Coleman's resignation. Tony Champion expressed disappointment that once again, very

few members had proposed or seconded people for the committee (Just three out of a membership of over one hundred.) He pointed out that new blood must come into the committee from time to time, and that there was a need for new committee members to learn the ropes to ensure continuity when existing committee members eventually retire. In the end most of the committee had to be voted back in by themselves. As there was no competition, it was proposed and accepted that the committee should be nominated en bloc.

There was a fair amount of 'other business', which will give much food for thought and discussion to the Committee as it seeks to improve the club programme. A full account appears in the minutes of the AGM.

After the coffee break, the evening continued with a useful question and answer session, with a team of home grown experts giving their responses to some well aimed questions. The evening was brought to a conclusion by a critique of the items on the display table, which was very informative. Perhaps we should have critiques more often!

Programme for 2014

January 9th Tony Walton
February 13th Workshop Evening
March 13th Gary Rance
April 10th Workshop Evening
May 8th Carlyn Lyndsay
May 18th "All Day Seminar"
June 12th Workshop Evening
July 10th Phil Jones
August 14th Workshop Evening
September 11th Paul Hannaby
October 9th Les Thorne
November 13th "AGM"
December 11th "Christmas Party"

The programme of Exhibitions is still being finalised. Details to be advised later.

Cow Byre Exhibition

Fifteen members created a stunning display of high quality work, but business was disappointingly slow for most of the week, and we were feeling rather down. But we had not reckoned with the Farmers' Market which was due to be held at the Great Barn complex on the Saturday. This brought a very large number of people, with money to spend to the site, and The Woodturning event has not been so busy ever before! Many sales were made, and hopefully, many people found out just how good our stuff was, and what good value for money it offered. We hope that they will remember us, and return next year.

Sales were the best ever recorded for one week, and after the usual deductions for rent, VAT and commission on sales, a useful amount remained for the members, plus a equally useful amount for MWA and also for our chosen Charity .

The members are to be congratulated, and much praise given to those who set up the show, and remained on duty, either as stewards or demonstrators.

GALLERY

Steve Heeley



October Display

