



Future Events

August 18th

Amerton club night
Graham Lovatt

August 24th

Westonbirt club outing

September 5th

MSWA Club meeting - Roger Wilson.

Roger is a forest ranger and will give a talk on forestry and trees in general, and on uses of the chain saw.

September 18-20th

The APF International Forest Machinery Exhibition 2008
Cannock Chase.
Tickets £13 in advance



Club Competitions

September, Challenge cup

An inverse turned candlestick

October, Novice competition

A teapot stand with feet

November, Challenge cup

A natural edged bowl

December Novice competition

A Christmas ornament

Premier Cup, January 2009

A matching pair of candlesticks - almost!

(one large and one small, with the smaller of the two being a 2/3 scale copy of it's big brother)



Notes from the Chairman

So our "peak month" for taking turning to the community has come and gone leaving me to try to make an assessment of it all. My belief is we did a pretty good job. As I was able to announce at our last meeting we raised £400 for CHADS and we will have the pleasure of handing it over at our September meeting. When you consider that the bulk of this was selling mushrooms, light pulls, key rings, spinning tops etc at £2 apiece, all made by club members, then we have something to be proud of. To all of you who helped, in whatever way, please accept my thanks. Even my 10 year old grandson got pressed into service at Kings Bromley and enjoyed his self so much he pleaded to stay with me rather than go home the next day. It is generally unfair to pick out individuals for special thanks but I feel I must mention one person who not only attended all three events but also had made all the arrangements for these shows and in addition came up with the idea of a "lucky dip" that in itself must have raised around £70. That person deserving our special thanks was, of course, our secretary Dawn. Thank you Dawn from all of us.

However, besides the charity aspect, we all enjoyed the shows which themselves were great days out with so much to see and do when you got a chance to have a wander round for half an hour. Being sited near to the beer tent at the Kings Bromley show, when the weather was scorching, was no bad thing in my opinion. Can I also state that we were not entirely responsible for them running out of beer, lemonade and almost everything else, we only helped! I am not sure if Dawn had been drinking before she snapped the tool rest off Roy's new lathe, but none of us want to argue with her now.

Meeting the public at these events where we can show woodturning, I find fascinating, as so many folks seem to know something of wood turning. Some from their school days, some from their dad, granddad or uncle and some from just liking the colour, grain and feel of wood. It is a nice feeling when you see someone going away after buying a mushroom you turned a few minutes earlier, stroking and admiring their new purchase. When you add to this the pleasure of time spent with like minded colleagues, the banter and a bit of fun time spent turning, it makes for happy and memorable days. We have even recruited a few new members to the club at such events.

Added to all this, and in some ways, the icing on the cake, was to see prizes being won by club members in the various wood turning and related classes at Kings Bromley, with both Geoff Payne and Peter Worrall walking away with silver cups. Congratulations also to everybody else who won awards there.

We are planning a demonstration at the Visitor Centre, Marquis Drive, Cannock Chase on Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December, - if you fancy it, come and join me!

John



Wood 'n' things



Editor's scribbles

Congratulations are due to everyone who contributed their work and time to the shows in July. We really excelled in our fund raising for charity, but I think we also benefited in several other ways. Each of the shows meant we had more time to chat with other club members and see them at work/play behind a lathe or see them put on their 'sales' hat, persuading visitors to buy our wares. Peter Worrall in particular seems to have a real knack at this and it was fascinating watching him 'work the pitch'.

The other benefit, hopefully, will be more members for the club as many people asked about woodturning and the club. If you are one of the new members, welcome to our community. I hope you make a lot of new friends as well as boost your interest in woodturning.

Unfortunately / fortunately, I will be on holiday at the end of this month but hopefully someone will do a review of Roger Wilson's visit and his talk about trees and chainsaws, for next month's newsletter. I am looking forward to my holiday but would really have liked to hear this talk.

Roger is a bit of a change for our demonstrations but I am sure it will be very informative. We tend to take trees for granted, often only seeing them in small pieces, ready for us to turn so finding out more about them will be very worthwhile. And a talk on chainsaws will be very useful as I know several club members use these tools.

It was suggested that Roger might carry out a demonstration of a chainsaw on the village hall hedge but I doubt that received approval.

One final thought for this month. With the cost of fuel as it is, have you considered car sharing with other members? We cover quite an area but I am sure many of you will live close to, or go past, other club members so why not get in touch and see if you can combine your travels and share the fuel costs. I appreciate this isn't practical for everyone but it's something that often gets overlooked.

That's all for now.

Paul

What is it?

Can you identify the object in the picture.
Send your answers to me and the first person with the correct answer
will have their name published in next month's newsletter.



Last month's picture was a 16oz. claw hammer viewed from the bottom of the handle.

Well done to Gordon Fradley who got it almost immediately.

I think the only delay was the time for the email to get back to me!



Club information

Your club committee for 2008 comprises:-

Chairman - John Smith

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Please only use phone numbers if absolutely necessary.



Next issue

Write up on Roger Wilson's talk.

That said, articles, pictures etc. from any other members will help keep the newsletter going. After all it is YOUR newsletter.

SHOP Merchandise



Clothing

The club has a selection of items for sale, all featuring the club name on a blue background.

Sweatshirts (dark blue)	£12.00
T-shirts (light blue)	£7.00
Baseball caps	£6.00

The T-shirts are ideal for the workshop at this time of year; nice and cool, but they are also smart enough to wear down the high street.

See John Smith at the club meetings if you would like to purchase any item of club clothing.



Abrasives

If you need that finishing touch, Terry Gray has packs of Abranet, recommended by demonstrators and other club members, at £1.80 for a set of 5 sheets.



Newsletter Archive on CD

A CD is now available with all the newsletters for 2006 and 2007, together with images of the original newsletters from '94-'98. The cost is £2.50 which includes a contribution to club funds. If you would like one, please let me know. Paul



Books, videos and DVDs

Just a reminder. The club has books and DVDs for hire. There is quite a selection and the fee helps support the club.



Wood 'n' things



August competitions results
This month was a pot pourri bowl



First place – Brian Garratt



Second place – David Neale



Third place – Philip Watts

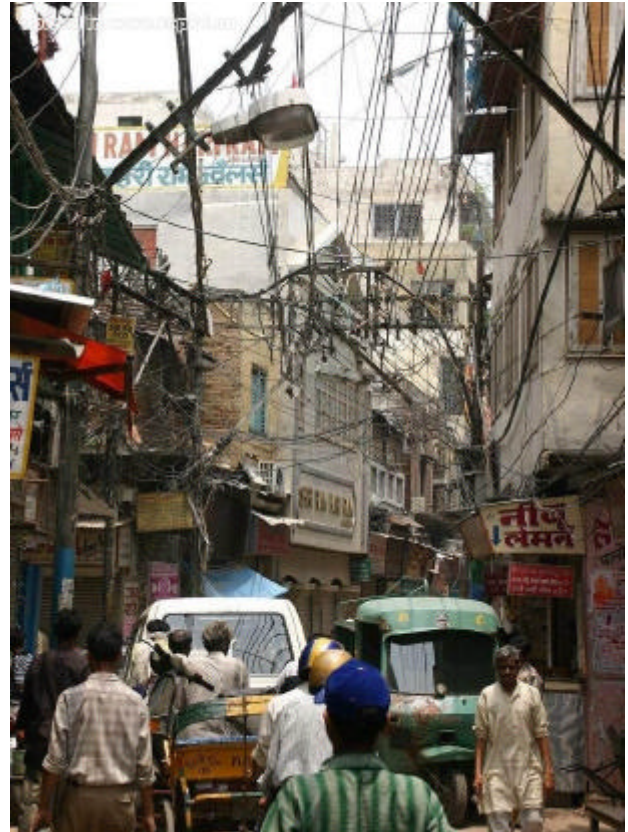
As Dawn said an interesting variety of designs which just goes to show how projects can be developed. Well done to the entrants.



Calling customer support ...



so your call goes along the red wire



.....down along here



.....and finally gets to the last post

THIS IS INDIA. IT'S WHERE YOU CALL WHEN YOU HAVE A TECHNICAL PROBLEM WITH YOUR COMPUTER

Thanks to Ron Barnsley for sending this, from a friend of his in New Zealand.



Wood 'n' things



Black Country Roots

I love ' Browsing '. As soon as I see a sign in an antique shop or book shop with the sign ' Browsers Welcome ' on the window, I go straight in knowing that I am not expected to buy anything. Not that it matters - because I usually DO buy something !

Book shops are my favourite place because more often than not, they have a section devoted to what they call ' remaindered ' titles. This is where you can often pick up volumes at a fraction of their list price and as, like most things these days, the normal price is expensive, then the remaindered section is where you can usually pick up a bargain.

But the best source of ' little gems ' is the second hand book shop, or even better, the bookstall at the local market or church fete.

Recently I came across a slim paperback copy entitled ' An outline of the works of Dylan Thomas - a bargain at 20p ! Now I know very little about Dylan Thomas but since I recently took part in an amateur production of ' Under Milk Wood ' Thomas's most famous work, I thought it might be a useful book to read. I was not disappointed. I read it with enthusiasm, but for me, it is not a book to keep, so I shall pass it on to a friend of mine who is a Dylan Thomas devotee. I know that she will get even more enjoyment from it than I did.

One of my best ' finds ' amongst second hand books was a volume called ' Walks in the Black Country and its Green Border Land '

It was written in 1868 by a certain Elihu Burritt, M.A. who at that time was the American Consul at the Birmingham Consulate. The story of why the book came to be written at all is intriguing but I will not bother you with that at the moment. Suffice it to say that when I saw it, I immediately thought ' I must have it'. Physically, the volume is about 450 pages long with a leather bound cover and gold embossing on the front and spine, but not in very good condition. However, all the pages are there. I checked!. there is nothing worse than reading an old discovered book to suddenly find that there is a vital page missing.

Being a born and bred black country man, the title intrigued me. I was born in the Oldbury end of West Bromwich and can still remember some of my mothers family who lived in Blackheath. In fact my mother's aunt Mary - my grandmother's sister - used to have a strong black country accent and used what I can only describe as ' Old English ' words . For example, she might say to her neighbour, on meeting her ' up the town '

' Weer bist thee a gooin' ? to which request the answer might be ' I ay gooin ne weer, om cummin wum! '

I set to and started reading the book. Fascinating ! Very clear pictures are drawn of the landscape, the industry, the people and their way of life and way of work. One fascinating passage describes, in detail the structure and function of The Brades Iron and Steel works in Oldbury.

I would love to quote all of it to you but it is far too long to be written here. But here are just a few lines:

The Brades Iron and steel Works is the growth of a century or more (remember this was written in 1868) of development so that the whole looks like a small village of buildings annexed to each other by narrower roads between them than the public streets of a town. This establishment embraces in itself nearly all the industries and productions of the district. The Company have sunk seven pairs of coal mines around their works. Most of the coal they sell, using the refuse for their furnaces and forges. They also own and work their own iron ore. The iron is extracted and made ready for its hundred uses. There is a large range of about twenty furnaces all under draught or blast at once. Nebuchadnezzar's furnace, seven times heated, was a kitchen fire compared with just one of these, for heat. The pouring-off sight is really thrilling. When the lid is removed from each furnace, even a mere spectator must have steady nerves to look at it. As the stalwart men, naked to their waists, remove the cover from the pot and pour the fluid into ingots, the brightness is almost blinding, even to one standing at a distance of several paces.

The company is indeed one of the chief lions of the black country.

There are visible and disturbing outward signs of all this activity. So much coal and iron ore has been extracted from the area that the establishment has sunk full eleven feet below their first level. Once their foundations stood higher than the canal that runs by their side. The top of the canal is now nearly as high as their eaves.....

And so the description goes on. Several pages are devoted to this company alone. They were, after all, one of the major industrialists of their age, exporting a vast range of iron and steel products all over the world. But their age has passed. If you go to this area now, known locally as Brades Village, you will find little trace of all this frenzied activity. The area is slowly but surely being taken over by three story 'apartments' and warehousing. But there is still one powerful reminder of the past. The Brades Tavern is still standing, and open for the sale of a beer or two !

History is such an interesting study. I wish I had attached more importance to it when I was at school !

Regards, Peter



Mid Summer quiz answers

from David Fields and Paul Bellamy

I hope you enjoyed the quiz. Don't shout at us when you see the answers!!

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score until the contest ends.
Boxing
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backwards?
Niagara Falls. The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year
3. Name two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons.
Asparagus & rhubarb
4. Name a fruit with its seeds on the outside.
Strawberry
5. In many wine stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
A bottle is placed over a bud on a pear tree at the beginning of the season and wired in place. The pear grows inside the bottle until it is picked, ready bottled. The brandy is added and the bottle sealed.
6. Only three common words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw'. Name two of them.
Dwell, Dwarf, Dwindle
7. There are fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar. Name at least seven of them.
Full stop, comma, semi-colon, colon, hyphen, dash, question mark, exclamation mark, oblique, quotation mark, apostrophe, parentheses, square brackets, ellipsis.
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked or in any form other than fresh.
Lettuce
9. Name six or more things, beginning with the letter 'S', that you can wear on your feet.
Socks, shoes, sandals, stockings, slippers, skis, snow shoes, skates, (sticking plaster for all those walkers out there!)
10. Which is heavier, a pound of gold or a pound of apples?
The pound of apples. Precious metals are measured by Troy weight and its pound is a lot less than the Avoirdupois pound used for commodity weights.

Points will be taken off if you had to revert to the internet to find the answers!!





Turning tips

This section is for any tips or advice you would like to pass on to other members. It doesn't matter what it is, if you discovered something you found useful, that you think may benefit others, please pass it on.

Glass vase inserts

If you are using a glass insert in a vase, never make the hole exactly the same size as the insert. The glass needs to be removable for cleaning but worse, if it is really tight, the glass may shatter if the wood dries out.



Useful websites

There is an awful lot of information available on the internet but some is better than others. If you come across any good or useful sites, please let me know and I will publish them in the newsletter.

The following are worth a look :-

Dawn found this on the Forest of Bere club site.

[http://www.forestofberewoodturners.org.uk/pdf/Therming Project.pdf](http://www.forestofberewoodturners.org.uk/pdf/Therming%20Project.pdf)

For those of you without internet access, I will be featuring this in next month's newsletter.

And Chris Gibb found the APF International Forest Machinery Exhibition at Cannock Chase in his local paper. I hadn't heard anything about this but there's a lot going on. Only downside is the ticket price at £13.

<http://www.apfexhibition.co.uk/>



Questions and answers

This section is an opportunity for members to ask questions for other members to answer, primarily about woodturning but I see no reason why this couldn't be extended further. There is a lot of knowledge in the club on many subjects and this should be an easy way to get answers.



Items for sale or wanted

If you have any items for sale, or if you are trying to find something, send me the details and I will put it in the next issue.

FOR SALE

Spring loaded, multi-point, spur drive, just like a Steb centre. Brand new, MT2 fit. 5/8" or 1", £19.95 each. Contact Paul Bellamy

WANTED

Old auger bits, around 3/4" diameter but that's not critical. And condition doesn't matter as I have an alternative use for them.

If you have any, please let me know.
Paul Bellamy



For Sale

Arundel Woodturning Lathe



Arundel Woodturning Lathe mounted on a home made wooden bench with a small selection of tools and accessories. £100 or nearest offer.

Notes from Dawn Hopley your club secretary - I spotted an advert in the local paper for the above lathe so went to view it last week out of curiosity. The current owner bought it second hand with the full intention of taking up woodturning, but it has sat in his garage unused ever since. If it does not sell, the owner is going to scrap the item, so I therefore offered to advertise it at the club. It is an Arundel Lathe fitted with a Newman motor and appears to be in good working order. It is 36" between centres and mounted on a very useful wooden bench that is 45" wide x 24" deep x 35" tall. The bench has a single drawer holding 4 Henry Taylor gouges, 2 faceplates, a crude but usable chuck and a Jacobs chuck for drilling holes. There are also 3 drive centres and 4 tool rests and a couple of other bits and pieces. The four gouges appeared to be two spindle gouges, one skew and one scraper. For further details, please see me or contact the seller direct on 07729 395013 (after 5pm please!). His name is Alan Wood and he lives in Penkridge.