



NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2009

Welcome to the Autumn 2009 Newsletter, In this, I will cover

- The new club lathe and rules for borrowing it
- The latest on the membership of your committee following last month's AGM
- A welcome addition to our list of Honorary Life Members
- Highlights from the programme for next year
- News of John Holland's meeting with a bunch of wood turners in New Zealand
- The WOWA website

Most of you will know that we have, with the help of a grant from West Oxfordshire District Council, bought a new lathe and chuck, together with a few tools and a safety visor. The club used some £200 of its own funds and £150 provided by WODC to buy a medium-sized Axminster lathe and Versa chuck, which is a great combination for most general woodturning, and especially suitable for beginners. Any paid-up club member may borrow the kit for a period of up to one month, and this can be extended if there is no-one else waiting to borrow it. If we happen to need it for a demonstration during the loan period, we will ask you to bring it back for the evening or day it's needed. The main purpose of having this loan lathe is to encourage new members to join WOWA, so if you know of someone who is interested in having a go at turning but doesn't want to spend money on a lathe until they find out a bit more about it, then encourage them to join the club and have a go. Several experienced members are willing to give practical tuition, either in their own workshop or at the beginner's home. Please take advantage of this facility - it's free! We have a simple, one page form to complete to ensure the formalities are understood. Talk to Maureen or Dave to make the arrangements.

Talking of Dave & Maureen leads on seamlessly to the new committee. At the AGM, you voted back all of last years' officers and members and added in Brian Battrick as a new Committee Member. Pete Brown was elected as Vice Chairman to replace the position filled so ably by Ray Edwards until his sad death in August. The line-up now reads:

- Chairman - Dave Spittles
- Vice Chairman - Pete Brown
- Secretary - Maureen Spittles
- Treasurer - Malcolm Osmundson
- Committee Tony Bird, John Holland, Brian Norgrove, Larry Poole and Brian Battrick.

The committee has also decided to co-opt Les Cooper into their ranks as he is so heavily involved with the sales arrangements both at outside demonstrations and club evenings. Les brings a complete retail kit with him on his trailer and then acts as chief salesman, haranguing potential buyers into parting with their money. Last year alone, 'Mr Floggit' played a key role in raising nearly £1000 in sales income for the Association. By co-opting him to the committee, we can make it easier for Les to receive all the latest information about our activities, without him having to make the lengthy journey from Otmoor to attend every committee meeting. The Committee are indeed very grateful to Les for his unstinting support over the past few years, and we look forward to continuing to work with him.

Another member who has done a huge amount for the club since its very beginnings, including a lot behind the scenes, is Tony Bird. We were therefore delighted when he was successfully appointed as an Honorary Life Member at the AGM. This was especially pleasing, following the debacle last year when we inadvertently broke our own rules for making such appointments. Welcome, Tony, to the WOWA House of Lords!

Next year's program has now been finalised and Maureen will be making copies available to everyone at the December meeting. Meanwhile, here is a sneak preview of the most important items - the demonstrators.

Jan	-	Chris Eagles
Feb	-	Tony Halcrow
Apr	-	Mark Raby - Colouring & Finishes
May	-	Gary Rance
Jun	-	Stephen Cooper
Jul	-	John Johnson
Jul 14	-	All day demo (10am – 4pm) Nick Agar
Aug	-	Robin Fawcett
Nov	-	Les Thorne

If you wonder what wood turners get up to when on holiday, you might like to look closely at the photo opposite ((sorry the quality is not brilliant). When John Holland went over to New Zealand recently, he had just read an article in the Turners magazine about a club in South Auckland.

Armed with the idea, he went along to investigate a club not far from where he was staying. He was given a warm reception by the the **West Auckland Woodturners** and invited to join the audience as they watched a demonstration in the club's very own permanent workshop, equipped with about 6 lathes. (Are we jealous?.....) We understand he even got a free cup of tea and biscuits, which is a nice gesture for the man who spends so much of his time making tea for all of us.



Finally - the WOWA website. When Andrew Tinsley left the Committee, with him went our only expertise in managing these electronic wonders, and gradually the fine resource which he had developed for us began to fall into arrears and became more and more out of date. Now his eldest son Ben has come to the rescue and has kindly agreed to keep the website up to date. All we have to do is let him know what information we want to include. We will keep the updated site rather simpler than previously, with just basic information about WOWA such as when and where we meet, who the officers are and how to contact them. This is aimed principally at prospective members. For existing members, we will also have an up-to-date diary, with all our scheduled activities for the new few months, and any other useful information, such as the rules for borrowing the lathe. Which brings me round to where this newsletter started. If any member has any suggestions for any other items to be included on the website, www.wowa.org.uk, please contact me, Larry Poole, and I will liaise with Ben.

Meanwhile, keep on making shavings!

Larry

PS: Dave has asked me to remind you all about the 1st December social gathering. We are already selling raffle tickets for the UNMISSABLE prizes, and don't forget you can all bring your better halves along to help keep the evening a bit more civilized.

Grant aided by



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL