

# YOUR TURN

The Hampshire Woodturners Association newsletter

Autumn issue, 2009



HWA  
reaching  
out....

Art in the Garden  
at Hillier's



Plus:-

- Dave Springett's baffling bits
- Mark Hancock, wobbly and knobbly
- Box demos

# YOUR TURN

Autumn 2009



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## EDITORIAL

It's funny the people you meet on a Greek Island. We were on holiday on Ithaca, home of Odysseus, or Ulysses as the Romans called him, (I expect you all knew that, being scholars of Homer). We were driving along one evening in the cheapest car we could hire and we stopped to pick up a couple of hikers. (Of course we wouldn't dream of doing that at home but on a Greek Island....)

One was a very large man, purposefully striding along the road, the other, his much smaller female companion seemed less sure and was looking over her shoulder tentatively waving her thumb. They may not have known how far they would have had to walk to the next town but we did and we took pity on them. They needed little persuading to squeeze into the back of the Panda. And we carried on towards the tiny port of Frikes. They were Dutch and, of course spoke perfect English. Tom, as the man was called, insisted on buying us a drink at the Ulysses Taverna he had been to 5 years ago. This time we needed no persuasion.

The conversation got around to what we all did and Tom rather reluctantly said he was a Dutch MP, having previously been a talk show host on Dutch TV "like Jeremy Paxman".

The pair were trying to holiday incognito in a flotilla but they had been recognised by the other Dutch sailors and they were trying to escape for the evening. On the whole I think Tom was more pleased that we didn't know or care who he was than disappointed that his fame had not reached us.

It was his wife's birthday so they decided they would have a special dinner of Lobster. They were good company so we agreed to stay but nervously insisted on separate bills as we were not intending to compete. Live lobsters were kept in a tank at the end of a flimsy jetty and the Taverna owner took Tom's wife along to choose. Tom tried to follow which produced frantic shouting and gestures which we took to mean the jetty would not take the weight!

At the end of the meal we were presented with separate bills. Ours came to 13 Euros and his, with lobsters and all the drinks on was 65.

"Never mind", I said, "just put it on expenses like our lot do".

Next day we stumbled across a tiny museum with artefacts from thousands of years BC. I found it fascinating that some of the pottery had survived virtually undamaged and had obviously been made with skill. The shapes were simple but very well crafted and made me think that there's not much really new in the field of design, just the old shapes re-presented. See what you think and maybe borrow the designs to turn some wooden items.



*Ancient  
artefacts  
whose  
shapes  
have  
stood  
the test  
of time*



*Dave Gibbard, Editor*

## REPORTS OF EVENTS

### 1 June - Dave Springett

This lived up to its billing as an ambitious demo and Dave just about pulled it off. We were all so enthralled that nobody minded the time over run. I'm not going to attempt to describe everything he did never mind how he did it, but I'll try to give a flavour.

Here's Dave starting his demo with backdrop of Steve Page's excellent projection system.



The question that springs to mind when presented with an example of Dave's work is "how on earth did he do that".



There are wooden arrows that seem to have passed through holes in glass vessels.....



...simple shapes that turn into complex looking boxes.....



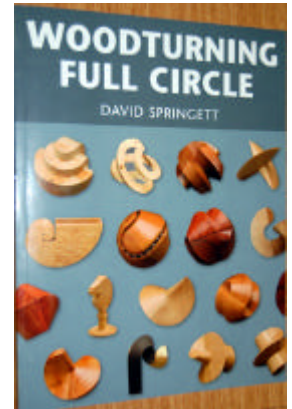
.....and others that assemble into complicated spiral shapes.



Dave insists that the actual turning operations are straightforward and don't even require a high degree of accuracy

That may be so. But to come up with the designs in the first place requires a weird sort of mind that can envisage what happens when you cut up turned shapes and re-assemble them another way.

If this sufficiently excites your interest I suggest you get hold of Dave's book.



Dave kindly gave a quick critique of the members gallery. He was complimentary about the standard of work which was generally quite different to his own work. See the website for gallery pictures.

*I would like to add that I am sure I wasn't alone in being disappointed at the small number of gallery items this time. The trend has been towards a larger display which made this particularly disappointing. The gallery is a showcase for the Club members' work and we need more of it please.*

*Editor*

### 6 July – Mark Hancock

Mark promised us a demo involving "parallel grain" turning, hollowing, carving and ebonising. He had some examples of finished work which can be seen in the picture. Contrary to the 3 legged vessels that we were expecting these items have no legs at all or even a foot. They are just allowed to settle where they "feel" stable.



He started by pointing us to a website <http://woodturningdesign.info/> which currently says it's closed, but still provides some pdf downloads with some tutorials to help with design considerations in creating wood turnings.

*Continued.....*

## Mark Hancock, continued.....

Mark was anxious to simplify the confusion of terminology that exists about turning methods e.g. spindle and faceplate turning, between centres etc. As far as he's concerned there are only 2 types: parallel (with the grain parallel with the turning access) and crossed (you guessed). Whether the work is held between centres, on a faceplate or in a chuck is not relevant to the techniques required and any of these holding methods can be used for either type of work.



The demonstration involved parallel turning a cylinder, roughing the outside shape between centres. Then, mounted in a chuck. From what was to become the top of the vessel, he refined the outside.

This is a most important step since it defines the final form.

He then went on to hollow the interior using the Rolly Munro tool. The numerous hollowing tools on the market can be divided into cutters and scrapers. He prefers cutters and currently considers the Munro tool with its shielded cutter as the best, though the new small Woodcut tool is very good for smaller work. The exception is that scraper types are better if the access hole is very small since the shavings are powdery and can be more easily extracted through the hole.

Then he formed the exterior texture by forming a set of coves at even spaces, then used a mini arbotech to cut the parallel cuts (parallel to the lathe bed)



He talked a little about ebonising, and different gases that you can use (the hotter they burn the better they are at ebonising quickly without checking the wood).

He was kind enough to do the burning outside, so as not to set off our smoke alarms. His mike still worked but we should maybe think about adding a roving camera to our system if this is going to be a regular occurrence. To finish the ebonising he used a bristle brush on the lathe to burnish the burned sections down to a smooth finish.

This finish is good enough to leave it, however to add more interest and colour, he used a rasp file to file back to the clean wood in areas that he wanted colour to catch, then used a spray gun connected to an air compressor to layer on some colours. All in all it was a very informative demonstration, that showed a lot of varied techniques.



Mark rounded off the evening with a brief critique of the members' gallery items (*picture above*).

## 3 August – Turning Boxes

First up was **Jon Gibbs** who demonstrated turning a fairly conventional style of cylindrical box. Being pressed for time the demonstration covered parts of the process with a description of the whole. Jon's boxes are typically quite small and made of dark exotic wood with a deep shiny finish.



The starting point as with most boxes is a cylinder with a spigot on each end. Jon used a white pencil to mark the dark wood and parted the lid from the base with a fine saw to minimise the waste for optimum grain matching.

*Continued...*

## Turning Boxes, continued....

Hollowing the deep lid first Jon started with a gouge. Jon has invested in a number of special box scrapers which he used to finishing shaping the lid inside and cutting the rebate into which the base would fit. The inside of the lid should be finished at this stage. There was some discussion about which type of sanding sealer is preferred, whether it should be diluted, how to apply it and whether to do so several times between grits. I think it is fair to say there were almost as many opinions as members of the audience. Another case of what works for you...

Switching to the base, the procedure is similar, in this case the top has a spigot cut to fit the rebate in the lid. Jon thinks it is easier to do it this way round as homing in on the right diameter is easier on an outside cut. Dave Gibbard later proved Jon was right by doing it the other way!



*Jon's split wooden chuck*



*The end result*

After tea, it was **Dave Gibbard's** turn. He planned to demonstrate how to make acorn and mushroom boxes which were the subjects of articles he had written for *New Woodworking* (October 2005) and *Woodturning* (May 1999) respectively.



The starting point is the same as with most boxes but after parting and roughly hollowing, Dave's practice is to leave the partly finished lid and base to "rest". Bitter experience has shown that even dry wood can move after hollowing and it can be frustrating to work to a finished fit only to find the lid jamming the next day.

In the case of the mushroom box, Dave usually uses branch wood, often wet, to retain a ring of bark around the cap which forms the lid. In this case the rest period also allows the wood to dry during which movement can be much more serious.

Dave proceeded with the 2 parts of an acorn which he had prepared earlier, first trueing up the lid and hollowing it. This would fit directly into the cup without a spigot.

Limited time did not allow the inside to be finished which would normally be done at this stage.

Switching to the cup, the procedure was similar but with a rebate cut in which the lid was to fit. The part finished lid was then jammed into the cup and the extreme top shaped whilst supported by the tailstock. The pip at the top was then turned, parting off in the process.

The base was then textured using a home made tool which used a toothed wheel from a stone dresser. This was to simulate the rough surface on a real acorn cup.

Unfortunately there was insufficient time to demonstrate the mushroom, but here's a sample.



*Acorn boxes*



*mushroom box*

It was good to see Les Thorne back after his "world tour" and he obliged by doing a critique on the few gallery items this time. More please next time. Pictures on the website.

*Whatever you do,  
don't pull the pin*



It was also good to see Harry Woollhead, conducting a novice clinic in the corner. May we hope this will lead to the re-birth of a regular Novice project?

*Editor*

## COMING EVENTS

### 7 September - Pole Lathe Turning,

Club member Steve Reed will take us back to how turning used to be done before that new fangled electricity.

### 5 October – Converting wood

Bob Hope and Dave Gibbard on how to dry wood for turning or maybe turn it wet.

### 2 November- The Les Thorne road show

Our very own International Megastar entertains in his own inimitable fashion.

### 7 December – Christmas social evening.

Some seasonal fun with plenty to interest non-turners so you can bring spouse/partner if you like.

### NICK AGAR WHOLE DAY WORKSHOP

22 November at the Badger Farm Community Centre, Winchester (next to Sainsburys).

Your chance to see one of the country's top turners at work and get some personal advice. To encourage an intimate atmosphere there will be a limit on numbers at the workshop.

The fee for the day is £20. Contact Bob Hope or another Committee member at a meeting or by phone to book your place.

### TEST VALLEY TURNERS invite you to a whole day demo by GREG MORETON on

3 October at Input Joinery, Weyhill, SP11 0ST

The cost is £15 inc tea/coffee but bring your own lunch.

Greg's website is [www.moreton.co.uk](http://www.moreton.co.uk)

Contact Graham Barnard on 07888 717042 or [gabarnard@btopenworld.com](mailto:gabarnard@btopenworld.com)

## LETTERS

Hi, David.

I will be pleased to download "Your Turn" as and when it is available, I was on holiday when the summer issue was given out but pleased to find it on the door mat on our return. I was going to email you to say that I would download it but I have been having trouble with my P.C. this being the reason I have changed my service provider.

I have only been a member of H.W.A for a few months and found the new "Your Turn" great. I know the enormous amount of work and effort that goes into producing a news letter I only hope other people in the club make the effort to write articles to be included in it.

Being new to the club I have found it quite difficult getting to know people, I am now able to put some names to faces, the news letter has helped me to do this.

I was very impressed with the Bob Hope page. It always amazes me the projects people come up with and then produce a first class item of work.

Thanks again for a great news letter.

Kind Regards  
Keith Barnes

*If you have anything to say, feel free to Email me at [d-m.gibbard@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:d-m.gibbard@dsl.pipex.com) or write to 7 Balmoral Close Chandlers Ford SO53 1TG.*

*If, like Keith, you can download Your Turn from the website to save us the cost and labour of printing and posting and you are not already on our list, please send me an Email.*

## WESSEX HEARTBEAT – Denis Hilditch

Many thanks to the members who have already donated or pledged turned items for our chosen charity of the year, **WESSEX HEARTBEAT**. The time is galloping close to their 'Winter Victorian Ball' where they will hopefully raise lots of funds from our wood turnings for their worthy cause. And remember this is one occasion where the charity may well collect more than the items are commercially worth. If you are short of ideas of what to make you can pick up a suggestion list on the signing-on table.

I would like to collect as many items as possible at our October meeting, so get those chips flying and experience that great feeling that says I've made something to help Wessex Heartbeat to bring joy to less fortunate people. If you are not able to get to the meeting with your work give me a call on 023 80420901 and I will do my best to make some other arrangement to get your donations to Wessex heartbeat. If you'd like to know more about Wessex Heartbeat, visit their website [www.heartbeat.co.uk](http://www.heartbeat.co.uk)

*Denis Hilditch.*

## OUTREACH PROGRAMME – Chris West

When I first proposed an Outreach programme, I had a number of objectives. One was to introduce young people to woodturning. It is very satisfying when showing an 8 year old how a piece of square wood becomes round, how initially it is rough to touch then to smooth it with a skew chisel and have the children touch it and their faces are a joy to watch. A simple cove and their eyes wide open and they say "Wow!" I find that very satisfying and feel that at least one of my objectives is on its way to being met.

Now after last Monday's Club meeting. I'm walking from the car park with Roy Holder and he says with a teasing smile "How long have you been carving?" "I don't carve" I replied. "Yes you do" he replied, "a notice at the Kimbridge Farm Shop says you will be demonstrating carving next weekend". I am normally a mild mannered man who can take a joke and does not normally 'throw a wobbly' over such things. This time I did, in a nice way!

When I turned a few hats a number of years ago a number of members of the public said "that's beautifully carved." I would gently point out that it was turned. It happened so many times that I changed my PowerPoint presentation to include a beautifully carved duck and the third a turned bowl. At this point I'm explaining the difference between carving and turning.

So if you wish to become an Outreach missionary and have fun showing young people our craft and helping me with my crusade, just contact me.

PS. I can now say with confidence that the owner of the farm shop no longer describes me as a Carver. There may be other colourful descriptive words though which are unprintable!

Chris West

### Outreach Event Reports:

#### Sholing Valleys Study Centre, Southampton 4 July Summer Fayre

Flowers, captive rings, spinning tops, goblets, an apple and an egg cup. That is what I turned at the fayre. It was my first demonstration and I thought it went well judging from the visitors' responses. Many youngsters, who I am sure had not seen woodturning before, showed a lot of interest and stayed to watch for a long time, often returning for more. I was also able to let one young helper have a go. Who knows, a turner of the future?

I had some of my turned items on display which attracted much attention. The club handouts and my dialogue with visitors may generate further interest and enquiries. The downside of the event was that, being on my own, I could not pay full attention to all the people watching. Fortunately my wife turned up later to help.

I was placed next to a musical group and, although their music was good, their loud speakers made it a struggle to engage in conversation with the visitors.

It was, however, a good event which I enjoyed and was a great success for the Study Centre.

Mike Haselden

#### Kilham Lane, Winchester, 11 July

Remember all that lovely weather? Well it ended just before the Kilham Lane fete at which Chris West, Bill Willets and I put on a show.



In the best British tradition, the locals put on their macks and came along anyway to enjoy the barbecue lunch, jolly field sports and our splendid display and demonstration.

We had a lot of mostly sensible questions about the items on display and the turning process with a few bright youngsters taking a very healthy interest. We were rather surprised at the general ignorance about what a spittle is, even amongst the older generation, cooks and a few Scots. So much so that I began to doubt it myself so I looked it up. Guess what; it's not in any dictionary I possess!

Dave Gibbard

#### Beaulieu Out of Town Centre 15/16 August

The centre is used for education of children between 12 & 16 into country ways and farming practice. It was the location for a joint venture between Beaulieu Estates and the National Vintage Tractor Club. There were 80 tractors, 4 steam powered engines, 50 vintage cars and motor cycles. Plus a wood section including making pegs, willow baskets, hurdles and sticks as well as us woodturners. Steve Reed and I demonstrated the original foot powered pole lathe compared with a modern electric lathe. Attendance was not very high but there was much interest in wood crafts and questions like "what you making mister?" from children between say 9 and 14 who showed most interest.

One young girl came along every couple of hours, just to see what I was making. I asked her why she suddenly disappeared. She said "The tractor procession was at 2:30, and I entered my David Brown Cropmaster number 34!" Asked if it is her tractor, she replied, "Yes, I've owned it for 2 years".

20 minutes later she came back with her mother and brother who owned a Massey Ferguson. She wanted to buy the mushroom I was making; needless to say I gave it to her.

Continued...

I got talking to a Christmas tree grower from Amport who was displaying his collection of old hurdle making tools. He wanted new oval handles for old tools. I showed him how to make these on a lathe. He came back with another tool, which needed a handle. We got some green ash that Steve Reed was using to demonstrate turning table legs on the pole lathe and made him a handle. Another happy customer. There was a lot of interest in the pole lathe where Steve had started with an Ash log split into 8 sections and created the basic shape on the “shaving horse” before turning on the pole lathe. (Steve is demonstrating at the HWA September meeting). It was a very good couple of days with opportunities to get hands on especially with the animals and birds of prey.

We even had a Folk group to entertain us in the afternoon and nothing but sunshine all weekend.

*Alan Sturgess*

**Outreach Events to come:**

**Woodland Trust & Education Centre, October**  
Beaulieu, Alan Sturgess

**Kimbridge Farm Shop 21 November, Chris West**

*Apart from Chris's personal crusade, the idea of taking our craft to the general public was part of our justification for the lottery grant. If you have any ideas for more events, or would like to help out, Chris would be pleased to hear from you (01794 512718)*

**ART IN THE GARDEN – Dave Gibbard**

**Art in the Garden  
Hillier Gardens & Arboretum, Ampfield near Romsey.**

This has become an annual summer event at Hillier's, this year being the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The gardens are well worth a visit anyway but the art exhibition adds an extra dimension for anyone interested in arts and crafts. You need to allow plenty of time as a flying visit will not allow enough time to see everything nor justify the cost of entry to the gardens (though there is no additional cost for the exhibition).

There are 173 exhibits this year, placed sympathetically amongst the trees and plants in the gardens in a subtle way and often need to be sought out. The list provided on entry is a useful check that you haven't missed anything.

Like most art I can't say I liked everything but there's plenty to suit all tastes here. I thought the David McDiarmid exhibit pictured on the front cover was amusing and might strike a familiar note with those in our craft. It is made of varnished cardboard. I've picked out a few other items to give you a flavour.

The exhibition is on until the end of October. See the website: [www.hilliergardens.org.uk](http://www.hilliergardens.org.uk)



*“Song Birds”,  
Wendy Hoare  
(Clay)*



*“All the  
Gang are  
here’  
Carol Orwin  
(Iron resin)*



*“Ram's Head” David Parker (steel)*



*“Silver Seed”  
Mike Savage  
(Aluminium)*

- Dave Gibbard

## ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

### The HWA Shop

The message from Geoff Spierling who looks after the Club shop is "use it or lose it". Some members have asked for a greater range of items to be stocked. By all means let us know what you'd like to see but there is little chance of extending the range whilst the sales of the things we do stock is so poor. To offer things at a competitive price we need to buy in quantity so it is only practical for us to stock items that everyone uses. Here's a list. So before you buy these supplies elsewhere, check out the shop at our regular meetings. By the way, we could really do with some more cover on manning the shop in case Geoff cannot make it (as happened in July when he was ill. Gerry Dixon acts as a stand-in but Geoff couldn't contact him on that occasion). So if you'd like to help out, let Geoff or another committee member know.

### Stock List

Hermes sanding cloth,  
80, 120, 150, 180, 240, 320, 400 and 600 grit  
.....£2.50 per metre

Hermes sanding discs  
80, 100, 120, 150, 180, 240, 320, and 400 grit  
.....£1.30 per pack of 10

Assorted pack of discs.....£1.00 per pack of 10

Dust masks (FFP2S EN149).....£3.00 each

Cyanoacrylate glue  
Thin and Medium.....£5.00 per 50 g bottle

Cyanoacrylate glue de-bonder..... £2.00

Cyanoacrylate glue accelerator..... £3.00

Polyurethane adhesive..... £4.50

Woodturners wax stick..... £1.75

Rubber stoppers..... £4.40 per pack of 10

HWA badges (cloth).....£3.00

## NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome another recent new member and maybe give him a call if you live nearby:-  
Pete Willcocks from Southampton (023 80395335)

## SIGNING OFF

Here's a reminder of committee contact details.

Jon Gibbs,	Chairman	- 01962774051 - <a href="mailto:jon.gibbs@motorola.com">jon.gibbs@motorola.com</a>
Bob Hope,	Secretary	- 01189813552 - <a href="mailto:bobhope1@aol.com">bobhope1@aol.com</a>
Alan Sturgess,	Treasurer	- 02380892622 - <a href="mailto:aesturg@sky.com">aesturg@sky.com</a>
Denis Hilditch,	Membership	- 02380420901 - <a href="mailto:denishilditch@aol.com">denishilditch@aol.com</a>
Gerry Dixon,	Gallery	- 02380263949 - <a href="mailto:gerrydixon@ntlworld.com">gerrydixon@ntlworld.com</a>
Martin Stallard,	Webmaster	- 01489781987 - <a href="mailto:martin.stallard@interserve.com">martin.stallard@interserve.com</a>
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Dave Gibbard,	Editor	- 02380262660 - <a href="mailto:d-m.gibbard@dsl.pipex.com">d-m.gibbard@dsl.pipex.com</a>

I'm quite enjoying getting back into this job. I really can't understand why it has proved so difficult to get anyone else to take it on.

Don't forget I still need your contributions. Interesting projects like Bob Hope's trinity in the last issue. Have you been anywhere and seen anything that might interest others? Any triumphs in your workshop you'd like to tell us about, or disasters we should be warned of? Letters (or Emails) are always welcome. Tell me what you like about our Club or what you'd like to see done differently. Events you'd like to see arranged (particularly if you can help to arrange them!) Speakers or demonstrators you have seen and can recommend. Or hints and tips or amusing anecdotes.  
It's Your Turn.

*Dave Gibbard, Editor*

## Post Script

Here I am thinking I've wrapped up another issue, ready to print it off for the management to proof-read when I notice the page count is odd. You might think odd is quite appropriate considering the rest of the content but there's a problem. And it's all your fault if you are one of the dwindling number who take paper copies. The printers charge us per side of paper, even if there's nothing printed on it. I did consider squeezing the 9 pages down to 8 but that would challenge the eyesight of many of us so it has to be 10. Another way of looking at it is that this one is for free. So I thought we'd have a little fun....

### **GENESIS** *from Ron Broadway*

In the beginning God created all Earth's creatures. He created the mule, saying, "Verily thou shall be mule, working from dusk to dawn, carrying heavy loads. You will eat grass and lack intelligence. And live 40 years." The mule answered, "To live like this for 40 years is too much. Please, give me no more than 20." And it was so.

Then God created the dog, saying, "Thou shall guard the dwellings of Man, and be his loyal companion. You will eat his table scraps and live 30 years." And the dog said, "Lord, to live 30 years as a dog is too much. Please, no more than 15 years." And it was so.

God then created the monkey, and sayeth "Thou art Monkey and shall swing from tree to tree, acting like an idiot. You will be funny, and you shall live 20 years." And the monkey said, "Lord, to live 20 years as a laughing stock is too much. Please, Lord, give me no more than 10 years." And it was so.

Finally, God created Man, and told him, " Thou shall be the smartest creature on the earth having mastery over all the other creatures. Thou shall dominate the earth and live for 20 years." And the man said, "Lord, to be Man for only 20 years is too little. Please, Lord, give me the 20 years the mule refused, the 15 years the dog refused, and the 10 years the monkey rejected."

And it was so - God made Man to live 20 years as a man, then marry and live 20 years like a mule working and carrying heavy burdens. Then, to have children and live 15 years as a dog, guarding his house and eating the leftovers after they have emptied the 'fridge; then, in his old age, to live 10 years as a monkey, acting like a clown to amuse his grandchildren.

*Keep them coming Ron*

### **Limericks** *from Denis Hilditch*

There was a woodturner named Clutterbuck  
Who turned more wood than a woodchuck  
could chuck,  
He'd chuck it and turn it,  
If he 'cocked up' he'd burn it  
But the best of his work was by luck!

*And this, inspired by Dave Springett blaming his equipment:*  
While turning a nice piece of hickory  
And designing a new bit of trickery.  
Dave Spring said "look"  
"This one's not in the book"  
And done on a bench that's quite rickety.

### **Anagrams:**

DORMITORY:	DIRTY ROOM
PRESBYTERIAN:	BEST IN PRAYER
ASTRONOMER:	MOON STARER
DESPERATION:	A ROPE ENDS IT
THE EYES:	THEY SEE
GEORGE BUSH:	HE BUGS GORE
THE MORSE CODE:	HERE COME DOTS
SLOT MACHINES:	CASH LOST IN ME
ANIMOSITY:	IS NO AMITY
ELECTION RESULTS:	LIES - LET'S RECOUNT
SNOOZE ALARMS:	ALAS! NO MORE Z'S
A DECIMAL POINT:	IM A DOT IN PLACE
THE EARTHQUAKES:	THAT QUEER SHAKE
ELEVEN PLUS TWO:	TWELVE PLUS ONE
MOTHER-IN-LAW:	WOMAN HITLER

*Thanks to Ian Woodford for these*

That's all folks..