Dear Editors

It was a joy to read the host of learning experiences under the title Woodworking and mathematics (MT198). The description of learning that I most treasure is that given by John Holt in How Children Learn (1970) on pages 161-164. He had been part of a group visiting a school of arts and crafts where they had watched a hand loom working. He described his anxiety at not understanding how the hand loom worked and how he came to understand. I used to read this passage as an end point in a substantial maths education course. Each year I found the story affected me more, to the point where I cannot now read the story without weeping.

None of the experiences in Woodworking actually mentioned any particular mathematics. Perhaps that was the point. So might a little mathematics stimulate some learning? I was recently shown a diagram which had appeared in the Mathematics Magazine in 1978.

![Diagram]

Did $B = A/3$ and if so, why? I have played with this diagram and variants of it for several days, using LOGO. I have become convinced that $B = A/3$. I have found other ways of using this figure to trisect $A$, but I still do not understand the original figure, despite believing in it.

**Bob Burn.**


A lot has happened to the ATM website over the last few weeks – a culmination of several month’s planning. A new category of membership has been added – e-membership – whereby members can join for a reduced fee in exchange for opting to get their copy of this journal online only. This will go some considerable way towards the association reducing its environmental footprint as well as, of course, reducing printing and distribution costs, this last being reflected in the reduced membership fee. We recently introduced online credit card verification – meaning that the workload of the office is reduced. They no longer need to verify all the transactions manually – this is now carried out at the end of the BuyOnLine procedure. That seems to be working very well without any hitches – famous last words! To obtain access to all our resources (and there are more due to be added over the coming months) you will need to be an ATM personal member. Hopefully by now you will have received a password by email. If not let the office know your email address (membership@atm.org.uk). This has all been a long process and there are further developments in the pipeline. We have been striving to keep down the cost of implementing rather complex algorithms in order to make it easier to join, renew and for members to manage their ‘online account’. We have also been conscious of the need to ensure that the processes involved save administration. As you will appreciate – designing things to be simple is very difficult. Should there be any glitches, please be helpful and let us know exactly what went wrong, where it went wrong and what you were trying to do. As usual, I welcome constructive criticism. I am looking forward to getting these major systems in place and running smoothly so I can turn back to other general improvements to the website.

**Marten Gallagher**
webeditor@atm-online.org.uk