



Cheam Woodturners Association

Associated with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain
Twinned with Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association



April 2014

World Wood Day celebrations in style

Considerable enthusiasm welcomed the subject of World Wood Day at our March meeting. An astonishing array of timbers appeared on the display table — at a rough guess 30 examples, both as finished items as well as chunks of raw wood waiting for the touch of turners' tools.

To give an idea of the coverage, here are the countries noted: South America, Cuba, USA (South Carolina), Israel, Canada (Vancouver), Burma/Malaysia (teak), Ireland (bog oak), Africa (ebony, lignum vitae), Australia, New Zealand, Australasia and India. Regrettably, few members completed the information slips which meant that I was unable to associate samples with people! Nevertheless, the degree of interest was evident by the difficulty I had in getting close to the crowded table and take pictures.

Following the initial enjoyment of the World Wood Day at the table, Dr Richard Crook took centre stage.

David Buskell reports: "Richard explained his work as a botanist and some of the history of that field of study. He explained the formal method of naming plants (and trees) set out by Linneaus in 1735 (thanks Wikipedia!) and, as a botanical artist, showed an example of his work.

"Richard then went on to show us some pieces made out of mainly exotic timbers and compared them with uncut blanks of the same material whilst giving us information such as where the timber was found, weight and turnability. A fascinating insight into the timber we use."



Richard Crook

Finally the lathes were put to good use with demonstrations of making beads both with a beading tool as well as with a gouge (shown by Jeff Cordery). We even had a lady visitor, Sabine Green, who did well at her first effort on a lathe, under the tutelage of Brian Ash.

Again, interest was very high, making picture taking difficult — until your reporter stood on stage and shouted for attention to get the picture shown below. More pictures on page 2.

Ron Grace



Members pause lathe instruction and practice to show their faces for the photographer



Pictures from the World Wood Day table



Many members ignored the information slips — so we do not know many names! Here is the only information gathered. 1: Ebony heads from Africa in 1920s. 2: Francois Greeff, oak. 3: West Africa open-grain idigbo. Sap acidic and corrosive. 4: Doug Fisher, big leaf maple from Vancouver Island. Bowl turned off axis and off centre, carved, dyed and with 22 carat gold leaf centre. 5: How do you turn an elephant? With some difficulty! Thought to be ebony. 6: Francois Greeff, oak and bamboo jewellery stand. 7: Francois Greeff, knot a puzzle! Sycamore finial, mock orange (Philadelphus) bar and stopper, yew pot. Undo the knot and the wine's yours! 8: Gordon Cookson, olive, from Israel. 9: Banksia cone from Australia. Cut open to show unusual hairy growth. Unpleasant to turn as very rough on the outside and very dusty. 10: Francois Greeff, honeypot in cherry showing growth rings and natural inclusions. 11: Goblet in box, probably from France but could be Box Hill ! (Don't blame me, I just copy from the label — Ed). 12: Don't know who to credit for this. Australian red cedar, from the AAW annual symposium, Tampa, Florida in 2013. Made by Ken Groves. Ron Grace

And here are some of the members who had a go



L to R: Francois Greeff has a good turn! Chairman Jeff Cordery offers some advice. Another member gets help from Jeff. Hon. Sec David Buskell shows how it should be done.

If you have any comments, corrections, or items to add, please contact e-shot editor: ron_grace@btinternet.com



Shiver me timbers! (says David Buskell)

No shortage of timber here! Jon Paine our friendly tree surgeon, called to remind me that he has:

Planks: 7ft x 16in x 5in walnut, milled last May;

Logs: 3ft x 10in birch sliced down the middle (unusually colourful for birch);

4ft x 10in robinia, sliced down the middle;

holly, 3ft to 5ft long, 8in to 15in diameter, the largest sliced down the middle;

cherry, 4ft x 9in sliced down the middle;

plus halved cherry branch stem union x 4.

All are available to Cheam and other local club members.

You can contact Jon on 07763 226729 or via badgers11@tiscali.co.uk.

The timber can be seen at this link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/lwvnjsj3n41y7on/O6FFOd1elv>

Jon is a member of the Arbtalk Forum and he tells me that one of the other members is advertising

freshly felled monkey puzzle. The tree is located at Ockham, just opposite Wisley if you want to check it out.

Contact Alex on 07981 905009 or via his Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/SawmillProducts?ref=hl>.

This is an occasional feature and if you are aware of other timber suppliers, do let the newsletter editor (ron_grace@btinternet.com) know about them.

Jon Paine reports:

On Arbtalk there's a tree surgeon in Poole — Yaffle trees — who is also a turner and sets aside a lot of good timber that he acquires through his work. He has stated that his blanks/pieces are always for sale so I was thinking that given his situation and the source of his timber, his prices may be a little lower than those of mainstream retail outlets.

<http://arbtalk.co.uk/forum/woodcraft-forum/65439-bowl-turning-thread-20.html>

Yandles: worth a visit

In my opinion, the Yandles show is one of the best, if not the best, on the calendar. I write this within a few days of the show taking place and a few more days before our next meeting.

Yes, it is a long way to Somerset but, lucky me, a family member lives close by, meaning I do not have to do the return trip in a day.

Worth all the effort? I urge you to have a look at the Yandles web site. No less than nine woodturners demonstrating their skills, carvers, chairmakers, blacksmithing, pyrography and much more.

When manufacturers are considered, I counted around the 60 mark. And, of course, the organisers have loads of lovely timber on sale as well as lots of tools.

So if you want to check out a new piece of kit, this is the place to go.

If that's not enough, I can vouch, from experience, that the food emporium, the Cedar Tree Café, is one of the best that shows offer.

Missed it? Never mind, you have a second chance on September 5 and 6. Check out their website: www.yandles.co.uk for more details.

Ron Grace

The Road to Conversion

There are times when things go horribly wrong. Electronics misbehave, tools go rusty (another problem I have suffered recently) and the tool you know you have is hiding somewhere in the workshop.

So it was with despair that I switched on lathe No. 1 (Harrison Jubilee) a few days ago, only to be greeted with, er, nothing. Preliminary diagnosis was, as often is, electronics — in the inverter regulator. Dammit, I am getting too decrepit to go crawling around the dusty floor to drag out the motor and give it a check, so I bit the bullet and researched for a new inverter, hoping the motor, which I installed several years ago is tough enough to withstand my far too infrequent use.

The result of my searches was an outfit called Inverter Drive Supermarket. Very impressive. Hundreds of inverters. Telephoned, no "Press this, press that" just a very helpful chap by the name of Neil with plenty of useful advice. (If a woman answers, hang up — I found her most unhelpful!).

Within two days I had a new speed controller (with reverse and all the appropriate bells and whistles). Will keep you informed next issue. But do check IDS website: www.inverterdrive.com. Ron Grace

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Gordon comes back with lots of lovely information

A keen correspondent from my newsletter days, Gordon Cookson has returned to the fold with a bunch of leads which may be of interest. First up is a cutting from the Middlesex Woodturners Association, with the title *Can I make it better*, by their newsletter editor Alan Spargo.



Gordon Cookson

Far too long to include in our e-shot, it is worth dipping into.....

The whole idea is to make turners think about what they are about to do and what they are doing. For example, "Would I like to live with or use it in my home?"

Seems, on the face of it rather pointless, but it is surprising to realise that a number of items you have made and now keep are eyesores? dust collectors? hidden away from view ! Does it fulfil its purpose? A bowl could be a container for, say, fruit or it could be just decorative.

Look critically at your work, says Alan, and consider ways of improving it.

You may like to have a browse at the MWA website; there are many instructional items as well as some very nice pics of their members' work. See: <http://www.middxturners.com/>

Still with Middlesex (and Gordon!) — is a very useful piece from the Health and Safety Executive. It is entitled Toxic Timbers and goes on to list more than 50 timbers, their uses and possible health effects.

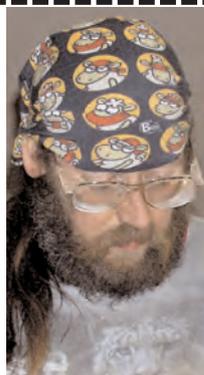
While it is a valuable warning document, it seems doubtful that many turners would be able to put a name to a piece of wood offered to them! So the advice is, be cautious always. Nevertheless, it is interesting to have a browse at: <http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/wis30.pdf>.

Gordon presented me with a photocopy of a Forestry Commission treatise entitled *The Six Most Unwanted*. It gives a brief rundown on the history, damage and timbers each one attacks — together with advice on what to do if you should come across any. Take a good look at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases>. (Message from editor: Wish there were more contributors like Gordon. So come on, get composing on your keyboard!)

Ron Grace

Well, what else can you eggspect from Greg?

The demonstrator this month is Greg Moreton. His displays are always of great interest with plenty of useful tips. So far he hasn't yet divulged his topic, but with Easter just around the corner, eggs may be on the menu.



An Aussie worth checking out.....

I found a useful video channel while browsing YouTube. Search for Australian Brendan Stemp (and look at his AmoBS series of videos — all you want to know on a topic in a minute!)

Brendan also does some longer videos such as his one on using resin. It can be difficult to match the products he mentions as we don't always have the same ones available over here.

I am sure there are lots of other woodturning/woodworking channels — have you found a good one that you want to share with everyone? *David Buskell*



Untidy! Despite members enthusiastically embracing the idea of showing off their work in a celebration of World Wood Day in March, most took little care to keep the show table tidy and in line with the plans carefully worked out by committee members. Please try harder next time !

You woodn't believe it.....

Look out for the monthly raffle prize, er, this month. Some nice turning opportunities for you to win.

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