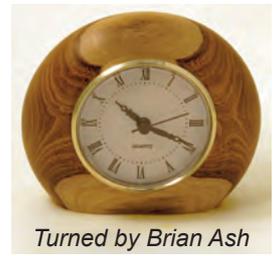




Cheam Woodturners Association

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



Turned by Brian Ash

June 2014

A learning session report by Tony Bryan



Our May evening was advertised as another open hands-on club night, so we tried to demonstrate and try some different aspects of the workshop. We had the opportunity to try our hands at different types of finishing, grinding our own tools and using a bandsaw, apart from our usual activities.

Much interest was shown in the bandsaw analysis given by our chairman but apart from David Buskell demonstrating how to use it for things other than bowl banks, I am not sure any member had a go despite free blanks being available.

Only a few members brought tools to try the sharpeners available. The TruGrind was the most popular, with John Sutton doing a great job sharpening and demonstrating. The Sorby jig was not used as it is more time consuming to setup.

The club grinder is simple to use but was not demonstrated.

The display of finishes by Chris Barrett and Chris Taylor was excellent, with a variety of

finishes available for members to try, but very few members took the opportunity.

Richard Hoodless supervised Trevor Etherington to make a box. Trevor seemed happy even if the lid was not a perfect fit!

Gordon Cookson supervised the club lathe, several members tried their hand, at one stage a top and a bottom separated (see picture) but that is wood turning!

Richard Crook gave us an insight into the accuracy of making a pepper mill. A handout was available.

My thanks to all those members who helped directly on the evening — they were all willing volunteers!

We had neither the camera or the public address system available so it made the meeting more difficult to control and we have no video record of the event.

The evening was well attended and any suggestions for any additional features will be welcomed by the committee.

More pictures on page 2



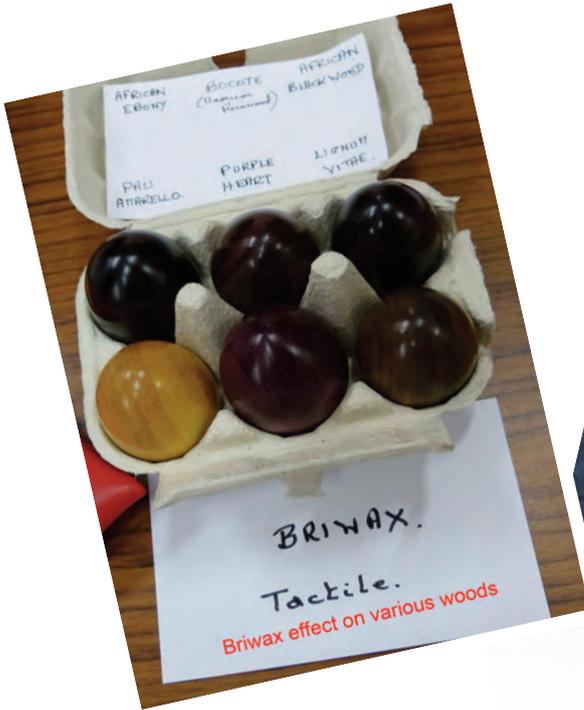
The finishes table: deserved more attention from members

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

We look forward to seeing you all on June 18

Page 1

More pictures from a successful May evening



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On the show table in May



Jeff Cordery
(inspired by last month's demonstration)



Richard Crook, sapele



Janne ?



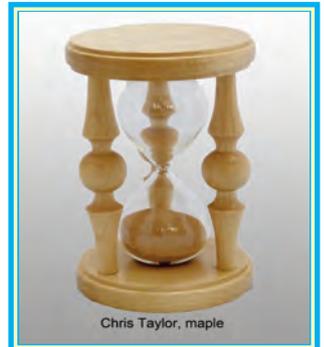
Ian Billett, London plane and cherry



David Buskell, Yew, 8x8x2in, "Square Dance"



Gordon Cookson, burr oak
"Use of an offcut"



Chris Taylor, maple



Francois Greeff
yew

Could you fill this gap with an example of your turning? If pride in your work justifies it, bring it along to the next meeting and I will photograph it, retouch it and add a nice background (as I did with these).
Ron Grace



Richard Crook, ash
Ebonised and gold cream



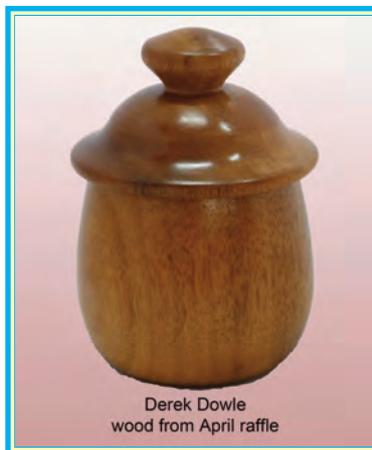
Francois Greeff, sapele mahogany



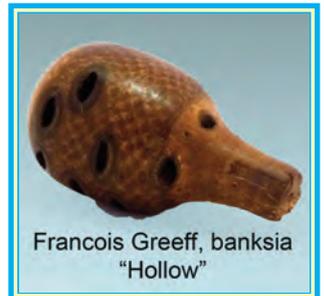
Ian Billett
maple and cherry



Richard Crook, beech



Derek Dowle
wood from April raffle



Francois Greeff, banksia
"Hollow"

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Useful techniques from Yorkshire

Our northern correspondent, Hilary Sinclair, reports on latest club activities in Sheffield



Here I am again, another month on and still no workshop to get turning in! We haven't even managed to get the concrete base laid yet so the frustration is growing. However, we have had a very kind offer from a couple at the Sheffield Woodturners to use their workshop and two lathes while we are waiting. They have the luxury of living in the Derbyshire Peak District for 18 months at a time then moving to New Zealand for 18 months — and while they are in New Zealand they don't need their own lathes because the NZ club has a hut with 10(!) lathes permanently set up that they can use at any time — what a luxury.

In the meantime Bernard and I are still attending Sheffield Woodturners. The latest demo was Dave (Atco) Atkinson, whom some of you will know as the treasurer of the AWGB. Following the dismal display the previous month this was superb. We had three demonstrations and we all agreed that it was an excellent idea to show us techniques without necessarily finishing the pieces to a high standard, as there is nothing more boring than watching someone sanding a piece. The finish was, of course, pretty good — most demonstrators can manage to get the piece to a good standard by turning alone.

Dave's first piece was a tall thin natural edge goblet; these apparently sell very well. He used a log and reminded us that it was essential to make sure the pith did not go down the exact centre of the log or it would break when it



Natural edge goblet



Lidded box with long finial

was turned right down.

The second demonstration was a lidded box with a long finial. Dave used an interesting technique for finishing the inside of

the lid — he had created a softwood jamb chuck with a hole bored right through the centre and adjusted the size so the finial lid would fit right through it and could be held firmly in place while the underside was given a properly turned finish



Turning a finial with large gouge

and not just a sanding, while still protecting the finial from damage as it would fit through the centre of the chuck.

We are always being told we don't need as many tools as we buy and it was fascinating to see that Dave used almost exclusively a 5/8th inch bowl gouge for his turning, even the fine spindle work, occasionally using a skew to refine the detail.



Softwood jamb chuck for finial lid

His third project was what he called a propeller bowl from a laburnum log. This was extremely effective with the bowl turned 'through' the wings. The log was held on a screw chuck while the



Laburnum propellor bowl

bottom half was turned, also holding it in place by bringing up the tailstock and turning a spigot on the bottom then refining the back of the wings before turning it round and turning the other side.

As well as their demo evenings Sheffield Woodturners have a separate hands-on evening each month. This starts around 6.30 and goes on until 9pm with all three lathes set up so members can have a go and newcomers can get some help and advice. While we were there this month at least two ladies were being shown the finer points of turning and someone else was being shown how to use the club bowl saver.

At the same time the club had just introduced an



Newcomer has a go

innovation of a club challenge asking everyone to bring along at least one lidded box to display (usually only one or two pieces are brought for show). This wasn't a competition just a show and chat session, but there was an excellent selection from the very tiny to the very large — some members will appreciate the very large off-centre turned piece, about 2ft long, with a very small lidded bowl



A 2ft long off-centre piece with very small bowl

turned in it. The full selection (including a couple of boxes from Bernard and I) can be seen at <http://www.sheffieldwoodturningclub.org.uk/Pages/PhotoGallery/ClubEvents/Boxes2014/boxes2014.html>.

Best wishes from a rather damp Derbyshire

Jason does boxes — pagoda style

Just a very brief note that Jason Breach is doing pagoda style, square edge boxes for his demonstration this month. Apologies for a lack of more information — blame British Telecom (see below).

BT has a lot to answer for.....

Arriving home from holiday, well in time for finishing and issuing this e-news, I was astonished to find that I had no telephone and no broadband. All calls to my number went to an unfortunate neighbour somewhere in Epsom and British Telecom confirmed my diagnosis that a crossed line was the problem.

So why not uncross it?

This seemed to be a little problematic for the giant organisation. The high-speed telecommunications world has apparently passed it by.

"Can you fix it quickly?" Apparently not until next Wednesday — the day of our club meeting!

So, this is a very rushed e-news communication.

Sorry.

Ron Grace