



# Cheam Woodturners Association

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



Turned by Brian Ash

October 2014

## UFOs over Cheam?

### Shaun Clifford reaches for the sky!

Is it a planet? Is it a UFO? But no, in truth it is a very large wavy edge wing bowl made and demonstrated by Shaun Clifford to members at our September meeting. Very large is an understatement — see Gordon Cookson's remarks (page 2) on that subject. And Shaun manoeuvred this lump of sycamore onto the lathe, much to the astonishment of those sitting in line with the chuck rotation!

With such a large piece of timber, truing everything up is not easy and Shaun, having done it many times before, started with the ends. The far most used tool is a swept-back gouge and to see him carving bucketful after bucketful of shavings is fascinating although the noise makes hearing his commentary difficult.

One warning has to be taken very seriously; the sheer size of the piece and the shape being worked on means that the ends, being only partly visible, could cause serious injury.

Working from the centre outwards, the same gouge is used except for the very middle where a smaller version is employed. Again, care must be taken when working in the middle because it is very easy to forget those whirling ends.

One must have sympathy for Shaun in one respect — the microphone stuck to his jersey kept coming adrift and, being a big chap, he was for ever bouncing up and down to re-fix it!

Just one anecdote is remembered by your reporter: about a beginner learning to sharpen gouges who found it very difficult to achieve the required 45-degree bevel. He could get 43 and 48, but 45?

He gave up turning!

*Below: Shaun's progress from block to finished bowl*



*Left: Answering a serious question. Right: In a more jovial mood*



If you have any comments, corrections, or items to add, please contact e-news editor: [ron\\_grace@btinternet.com](mailto:ron_grace@btinternet.com)

We look forward to seeing you all on October 15

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## Multi-talented Bob Higgins (events organiser) goes journalistic with comments about Shaun Clifford's huge winged bowl demonstration

Larger than life Shaun Clifford found the largest lump (350 x 200 x 150mm) of sycamore I have ever seen spinning. Slowly at first, he was brave enough to speed it up.

Larger than life were some of the tools he uses — all ordinary bowl gouges, if ordinary describes some that were over a metre long!

Shaun executed some seriously deep cuts which removed wood like butter.

By the end of the demonstration three bags of shavings were collected from the floor and a superb winged floating bowl had appeared from the lump.

Amazingly there were some soft, fluffy bits in the wood and I was pleased when he said, well that's what happens. And I thought it was my turning!

He managed to keep all his fingers despite this thing like a propeller whizzing round in front of us all. Even more, he has managed to keep all his fingers for 40 years as a turner.

Finally, my thanks to the camera operator. Shaun

is left-handed which means he tends to stand in front of the camera. But we got a large clear image for most of the time; it was as if we were standing next to Shaun. Every now and again the auto focus went a bit off but a little nudge from our camera man and we were back with HD clarity.

For want of a bulldog clip we would have caught all the wise words Shaun had to say about the cuts he was making but alas we have lost the clip that holds the mic in people's tee shirts and the masking tape was not really up to the job. Safety wise Shaun did well not to get entangled and we caught most of the commentary.

The cut bowl was a very artistic sample of what we might try to achieve if we are brave enough!

Next meeting is club night — bring your tools for sharpening — get tips from experienced turners and get your tools sharpened

And take the time to learn about segmenting.

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## Regular contributor on many subjects, Gordon Cookson also submits his notes on Shaun Clifford's big stuff turning technique

Starting size of wood: 480 x 200 x 125mm thick. Proportion of finished pieces: width half of length unless really big winged piece. Takes 10 hours to make and sells for around £250.

Making: involves lots of shear scraping so that one can start smoothing with 180 or 240 grit (I reckon this is finer than most professional turners start with).

Sanding: lots of hand or mechanical sanding with loops of abrasive in a power file around the edges of the wings to round the sharp corners.

Height: bottom of finished bowl is usually about 25 to 37mm off the ground. Legs are about 15mm thick.

No flap: shear scrape legs before taking middle of bowl out, otherwise wings/legs will flap.

Finish: with heavy coat of Danish oil to start, wipe

off surplus after 10 minutes, then another heavy coat and wipe off surplus after 10 minutes.

Show off: Shaun prefers a matt finish as this shows off the wood rather than the finish.

Warning: necessary repetition of warning to be very careful and wary of wings/legs not hitting you anywhere — hands or head when looking too close.

### Info culled from Mark Baker

I managed to get the following tips on size:

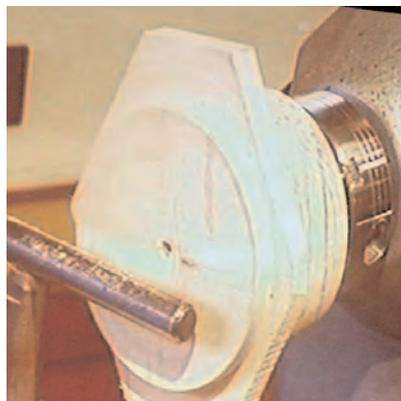
Tazza: (Italian, cup, plural tazze) is a shallow saucer-like dish either mounted on a stem and foot or on a foot alone (Wikipedia).

Ideal size: to prevent toppling when dish loaded; 100mm diameter at base of column; column no higher than 250mm; dish no wider than 275mm.

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# Making of a honey pot

Having left Cheam and settled in Derbyshire, Hilary sends her greetings and best wishes — and tells us about the Hat Man's visit



A couple of months have passed since I last made contact — events move quite slowly in Derbyshire — but Bernard and I have at last got a workshop up and (almost) running, so hopefully some woodturning will be undertaken in the not too distant future.

*Porringer: Dremel mini jigsaw needed for the handles*

August's demonstration at the Sheffield Woodturners was by Andrew Hall, the Hat Man, although he was demonstrating trees rather than hats. He told us that he likes turning for the table, using semi-seasoned wood, which is cheaper and easier to cut and, if the final output moves slightly, then that just adds to its individuality and charm. He uses his own turned platters, bowls and goblets for food and drink every day and said that having applied two to three coats of Chestnut food safe oil, just rinsing them out with warm soapy water does no harm. In passing he said he had been impressed by another turner's



*Goblet: for everyday table use*

recent weight loss and has achieved a similar feat partly by turning bowls that are smaller and therefore can't be loaded with as much cereal for breakfast. Perhaps a tip many of us could use!

He demonstrated a porringer, a bowl with two handles. He started with a block cut to approximately the right size, allowing for the handles. The bowl was turned in the usual way initially mounting it on a screw chuck, cutting a spigot on the bottom and shaping the outside, taking it down in steps to allow for the wings, which must not be too thin or they will break with use. The rim was turned to appear 'through' the wings. Once the turning was complete inside and out Andrew removed the unwanted part of the handles with a Dremel mini jigsaw. This was the only part he sanded down to a finish as the turned finish was smooth enough not to require sanding.

Andrew followed this with a goblet for everyday use – he uses his for orange juice, which he says does not damage the wood.

The final demonstration of the evening was a skep, which is a decorative cover for a honey pot in the shape of a beehive. It is important to measure the honey pot you are making it for first and ensure that you leave plenty of room when hollowing the wood, as the semi-seasoned wood will move and the honey pot may get stuck inside. Andrew used a beading tool for the outside of the skep and finished the beading with a steel wire brush, which he said would give a rope-like finish to the beads if applied while the lathe was turning for around 10 minutes.



*Skep: honey pot cover in the shape of a beehive*

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# On September's table



David Buskell: rough turned by Pierino, finished by me. So far, the smart money is on Iroko



Jeff Cordery: first rule of woodturning is know where to stop. There are two breakthroughs here



Joy Szott: made from raffle prize last month



Alex Bellringer: fountain pens in yew, laburnum and curly mango

## Very important notice!

Sainsburys is having work done to its top parking deck and has imposed a three-hour limit on its car park. This is being monitored by a private company which will impose a £60 fine on anyone who overstays.



# Refinish it!

In our September issue we reported on refinishing — but only briefly. Here are David Buskell's thoughts from his address notes on the subject

The demo came from request from Francois Greef as he has items donated to his charity shop and for which he wants advice on how to refurbish. Gordon Cookson also acquires charity shops items from time to time and is interested in finishing. Both were invited to speak during the discussion.

Why do we want to refinish wood?

- Donation — refurbish for sale
- Purchase at charity shop — refurbish for sale
- Damaged in transit
- Part finished work
- Movement in timber
- Practise new technique
- Item fit for another purpose
- To show off advances in your woodturning technique

How do we proceed? Several items to consider:

- What is the wood?
- What is the finish on the wood?
- What is the new use?
- How to remove the finish
- What finish to re-apply

But before this, we need to know how to hold the piece:

- Between centres

- Existing chucking point
- Doughnut chuck
- Jamb chuck
- Hot melt glue and sacrificial timber
- Make a new chucking point

What are ethical problems if we sell?

How do we describe the 'new' piece? Is it 'xx timber, refurbished by YYYY' or some other way? We need to consider how we describe the finished item as more consumers want to know the origins of the work they may buy. Francois may also have issues if he puts an item for sale in the charity shop.

Problem solving

Some suggestions for advice if you have a woodturning/woodworking problem:

- Ask your fellow club members — and remember these will include those in Central Oklahoma Woodturners!
- Check out the various forums: Woodworkers Institute, AWGB, World of Woodturners, American Association of Woodturners.
- Look on YouTube — the main source of information these days.

Woodturning is not unique. Your problem has probably been experienced by many other turners before you so try to take the benefit of their experience.

## Notice of Ordinary General Meeting

The October 16th meeting will start with an Ordinary General Meeting with one agenda item only — to consider a proposal from the committee for the subscription rate for 2015.

The meeting will take place at 8pm. If you cannot attend, get a proxy form from the secretary.

Then it is onwards with the practical part of the evening — sharpening and segmented work.

## Look out for Christmas pens demo by Alex Bellringer

Special demonstration volunteered for our Christmas social evening, will be by Alex. See some beautiful samples of his work on page 4.

*Ron Grace*

# Your club needs you! says Jeff Cordery

In order for Cheam Woodturners Association to function as a club it must have a committee. It cannot exist without one. The function of the committee is to manage the club in a way that meets the needs of its members and conforms to its constitution.

Briefly this includes ensuring that the club has somewhere to meet and the rent is paid for the premises. Someone is responsible for booking demonstrators and ensuring that they are paid for their services. It also includes ensuring that membership fees are collected and accounted for and new members are recruited. The club also has a monthly newsletter produced by a committee member.

You may notice that none of the above responsibilities has any requirement for any knowledge of woodturning, but simply a reasonable level of common sense.

Some of us have been on the committee since the club was set up and we now intend to stand down. The committee needs new members with fresh ideas to ensure that the future needs of members are met.

Depending on the post, the duties take up a couple of hours a week at most and the committee meets about four or five times during the year. Most of the committee work and communication is carried out by email.

I am sure that most of you would consider that you have a reasonable level of common sense. If you do then you are perfectly qualified to be a committee member.

Please talk to one of us about helping your club committee.

Best regards to you all,  
Jeff Cordery,  
Chairman.

## A message from our Membership Secretary, Trevor Etherington

I, on behalf of the committee, have arranged for Gil Kenward of Surrey and Sussex Hardwoods to attend our club evening on the 15th October with a selection of blanks and other items for members to buy. Gil usually gives us a good deal so members who are looking for timber to turn should come with suitably charged wallets.

This invitation is in response to a request by a number of the new members: "Where do I buy turning blanks?".

There are, of course, other suppliers in the area. Examples include Stiles and Bates down in East Kent, W.L.

West and Sons in Petworth, Sussex, S&L  
Hardwoods in Croydon, Axminster in  
Bobbing in West Kent,