



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

We look forward to seeing you all on October 15

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