

Cheam Woodturners Association

Newsletter 5

June 2001

IF

(with apologies to Rudyard Kipling)

If you can use a skew
and never lose your cool
And turn a perfect bead with
this very tricky tool;

If you can grind a bowl gouge
but never turn it blue
Or turn a bowl so thin
you can see the light shine through;

If you can get that finish
like experts say you should
And create a thing of beauty
from an ugly lump of wood;

Or turn a pair of candlesticks
with a right and left-handed screw
And hide that nasty crack
with the aid of superglue;

If you can go to workshops
and still learn a thing or two
And help others with their problems
as proper craftsmen do;

If you can master all these skills
before you reach life's span
You can call yourself a Turner
and might even be a man.

Michael de Bosca

Taken from the April newsletter of the Cork Chapter of the Irish Woodturners Guild.

Members who submit articles will be given the opportunity by telephone call or a proof copy in order that they may give their consent/approval of any editing that has been carried out on the original article, before it is published.



Recently Frank Clarke, our Chairman, was asked by an ex work colleague to find a good home for an unwanted lathe, so the hunt was on as to what to do with it. As three of our members, Harry Bell, Larry Napthine and Dave Rogers, are volunteer instructors at the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Unit at Epsom Hospital, it was decided to present the unit with the lathe.

Frank, through his many contacts in the woodturning world, managed to convince Axminster Power Tools to donate a set of six turning tools to go with the lathe. The photograph below shows Frank presenting Harry with the tools at our April hands-on-session. We are sure the tools will be put to good use and congratulate everyone involved on their extremely worthwhile work.

HOSPITAL HELP

We are still seeking volunteers to help in the woodwork room at the Rehabilitation Unit at Epsom Hospital, for about three hours, one afternoon a week. There are a number of machines, including two lathes and we usually work on a one-2-one basis, all at an elementary level. So if you are willing to help others for just a few hours a week, please contact me and I can let you have more details.

Harry Bell 01372 723547



Hands On

Were you at the clubs "Hands on" session on Saturday 7th April, if not you missed a really good time.

With three lathes and three grinders to chose from, we were spoilt for choice. Frank Clarke and Colin Simpson were demonstrating and explaining the intricacies of bowl turning, while Andrew Griffiths showed his expert skills at spindle turning. Len Saunderson was also on hand to explain the vagaries of tool sharpening and grinding.



It was great to have the time and opportunity to relax and talk to such willing tutors as well as our fellow members. I cleared up some dodgy areas and I am now trying out some new ideas. Unfortunately the afternoon went all too quickly, and sadly it was time to clear up and wander off home. Many thanks to the committee for organising the event and to all those that attended for their participation.



I for one won't miss out on the next hands -on session, planned for Saturday 20th October.

BE THERE !

Harry Bell

Don't forget

Club members get 15% discount at both Roberts Tools in Sutton and Crown Tools in Hackbridge see their adverts in the last issue for details

100 to 1

and still going strong!

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The keen eyed amongst you will have noticed that the June issue of "Woodturning " was no.100. I thought it would be interesting to wind the clock back 99 issues and look at the contents of issue no.1 My thanks to Mark Baker at GMC for supplying a copy of the first five issues.

Publication date was Autumn 1990, and for £2.25/\$6.00 each quarter, you got a 66-page magazine, making "the thought of a magazine of their own is such welcome news for woodturners....." a reality.

The cover featured a photo of Bert Marsh in his Brighton studio, with an ad for Mystro Lathes on the back page.

The contents page, shown below, gives an indication of the wide range covered by the magazine, which has been continued and developed by successive editors.

As well as the usual articles, the magazine has a wide range of advertisements, mainly in black & white, from, to name but a few, Axminster, Poolewood, Craft Supplies, Briwax etc.,etc.. So no change, there !

On Page 56, there's even an ad for the London Woodworker Show at Alexandra Palace. No, the magazine isn't psychic, it's for the event in October 1990.

Issues 2 (Winter 1990) and issue 3 (Spring 1991) increased in size by an extra 16 pages, and by issue 3, the magazine was building a solid readership base.

Issue 4 (Summer 1991) was, for me, the star of the early issues. There is a smiling Rolf Harris looking at a translucent bowl he has just turned. Rolf was "Star Turn". Reg Sherwin had offered a free woodturning lesson in exchange for a day in Rolf's company and the privilege of writing about it. An excellent 4 page article on this fascinating entertainer was interspersed with some of Rolf's own inimitable drawings.

I wonder if there were any other "Star turns" in later issues?

Issue 5 (Autumn 1991) had a foreword by Ray Key and articles from the AWGB, AAW, Bill Jones, Keith Rowley and others.

Issues 1 to 5 are in a "Woodturning Annual" limited edition. I am not sure if any back copies are available from GMC.

I hope you have found this trip down memory lane interesting, and that I have provided an idea of how part of our art/craft started and began to grow to the journal we see today.

David Buskell

Seal of Approval

by Terry Smart of Chestnut Products

Most finishing products will benefit from the use of a sanding sealer before application. (The main exceptions to this are stains and oils which need to penetrate into the bare wood and our Friction Polish which is sufficiently heavy bodied that sealing is not essential).

It is probably worth mentioning here that preparation is all important and that finishing will only highlight poor preparation; make sure that all scratches and imperfections are removed before you start to finish.

The type of sealer used should be matched to the choice of topcoat. The idea of a sealer is to fill the open pores of the wood to provide a smoother surface which in turn will provide a better finish whilst using less of the topcoat as it is unable to soak into the wood; it also helps bind the topcoat to the wood and makes it more resilient.

As the name suggests the sealer needs to be sanded after application; it contains an additive akin to french chalk which when the sealer is dry stands proud and makes the surface slightly rough to the touch. This additive is designed to be easy to smooth and should require very little sanding; hence using a sanding sealer is easier than applying an extra coat of lacquer, especially when you consider how hard products such as Melamine and Acrylic Lacquer are and the extra effort required to sand them.

We have three types of sanding sealer: all are clear and can be brush or spray applied.

Cellulose Sanding Sealer is very quick drying (within 5 minutes) and is suitable for use with Melamine Lacquer, WoodWax 22, Stick Wax, Friction Polish Acrylic Lacquer and our Aerosol Lacquers. This is our most popular sealer for turners.

Shellac Sanding Sealer is meths based and dries in about 20 minutes, making it more suitable for large areas (cabinet work etc) where it is important to keep a wet edge running. It can be used with WoodWax 22, French Polish and Friction Polish.

Acrylic Sanding Sealer is our newest sealer which as the name implies is water based and therefore more user friendly. It is touch dry within about 10 minutes and has similar uses to Cellulose Sanding Sealer except that it should not be used with Melamine Lacquer.

NEXT 3 CLUB MEETINGS

19th July Presentation of tool manufacture and sales of Hamlet Tools

16th August Practical Evening

20th September Mike Cripps demonstrating the art of Spindel Turning

Next Hands On Session Saturday 20th October

1.30-5.30, Cheam Church Hall.

£5 per head including refreshments.

Contact Frank Clarke on 020 8942 5463

OTHER CLUB MEETINGS

18th Oct Gary Rance

15th Nov Furniture Restoration/ Table Lamps

20th Dec Christmas Social

DIARY DATES

10th - 12th August AWGB International

Woodturning Seminar, Loughborough University

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Any views expressed in the newsletter are those of the people submitting the material and not necessarily of the committee.

