

**Cheam Woodturners
Association
Newsletter13
June 2003**



Frank Clarke

The Association and its Committee were shocked and saddened to hear of his untimely death

We received news in early May that Frank Clarke, our first Chairman, had died as a result of a car crash. The accident happened in bad weather and as a result the other driver was killed outright. Frank had to be cut out of the wreckage and taken by air to Dublin where he died some days later despite the efforts of the surgical and medical teams to save him.

This is an especially tragic event, happening so soon after Frank and Lesley's move to Ireland where he had just completed setting up and equipping his dream workshop and also adding to his family two dachshunds, Barny and Tinker, whom he loved.

Frank was known and respected throughout the UK's woodturning fraternity and was already becoming so with the Irish woodturners. He had served for a time on the AWGB committee, stewarding major events and furthering links between the AWGB and the wood working trade and enabling members to get discounts.

Frank played an early part in the establishment of Middlesex Woodturners Association and it was his name that the AWGB suggested when the formation of Cheam Woodturners Association was being considered. This great achievement for him was one of which he was very proud. He was elected as the our first Chairman and his contacts enabled the club to get off to a fast start and with an ambitious programme. It was very much around his personality that we owe the Association's early success.

Frank worked for many years with British Telecom, loving the hands on part of his work and disappointed when moved into a managerial

position. He was hands on too in his commitment to woodturning - dedication, reliability, capacity for hard work, always seeing a job through to the end, only limited by the health problems he experienced.

Known to all as Big Frank, his sense of humour matched his size and was such that he often referred to himself as Little Frank. He was an enthusiastic woodturner and an excellent demonstrator. He was always ready to help anyone and was regarded as a friend by all who met him.

He will be sorely missed, but would not expect us to grieve but rather to remember the good times and the good laughs we had in his company. At his wife's request we have made a donation to the RNLI - of which he was a former governor. Our hearts go out to his wife Lesley and his family.

"There are no mistakes,
only new design opportunities"
Frank Clarke

"There are only two types of wood:
wood you can turn and wood you can burn"
Frank Clarke

I enjoyed him gossiping over a beer or four, putting the world to rights and I will never forget his four hour committee meetings.
Andrew Griffiths

Frank was so helpful when I wanted to join a club and later when I was equipping my new lathe and workshop he willingly gave me time and advice. So too with items together for this newsletter -and always with a joke and full of optimism.
Roger Marsden

Show report - Yandles

Saturday 12th April at 8am - nine club members set off in a minibus bound for Yandles. With a stop for coffee we arrived at 11.30.

The show was set up in four or five barn type buildings supplemented by marquees of various sizes. Fortunately it was a dry warm day so it was easy to circulate around whatever caught ones interest on the show plan.

For my own apt I wanted some wood for a particular project and soon found myself rummaging amongst hundreds of bowl blanks and square section pieces. Many types of timber were available. Bowl blanks were of all sizes. Square timber was mostly in pieces 24 inches long and two to three inches square. A second wood shed contained planks of various woods and thicknesses. Tandles is of course primarily a wood supplier and so the sales areas are permanent. Rummage bins held small ends, knotty or split pieces and other odds and ends priced in pennies.

Around the show stands were all sorts of tools and other accessories such as finishes, clock parts, tiles and similar items. Many of the usual trade names were present including Chestnut, Crown, Henry Taylor, Makita, Brimark, Tormek and many others. Record Power were showing lathes and bandsaws. I understand that Yandles shop stocks some tools and accessories even at non show times.

There was a number of turning demonstrations around the site. Richard Hoodless watched more than I did so the following observations are his.

Stephen Cooper was making large vases from wet sycamore on a VB36. He turned them very thin (2mm) using a light inside.

Roger Foden, who has lost his right arm, was turning small natural edge goblets. It was amazing to see him turn beautiful shapes using one hand and his shoulder.

Stewart King was demonstrating wood scorching whilst making vases and apples. He had on display organic apples made from diseased wood.

Also present were Reg Hawthorn demonstrating miniature turning, Dave reeks with his patent hollowing tool and Dick Apps with a pole lathe. There were others over the two day programme.

There was a gallery of turned work to admire but prices seemed rather high.

The Yandles site also seems to be the home of Somerset Craft Guild. They had demonstrations and a gallery of other crafts such as needlework and painting.

We left at 2.30pm, getting home at 5.30pm. This was a good day out and thanks are due to Geoff Cordery for organising it. Particular thanks go to David Porter who provided the minibus and drove us some 260 miles for the round trip.

Fred Cummings

The March Meeting

I felt I had to write a few lines about the March meeting. It seemed to me it was an evening that had a buzz to it and shows the club is still moving forward. Not only did we have a number of visitors, which we hope will be joining us to increase our membership even higher, there was also the two new televisions to make our evening more enjoyable. The stands set up for the sale of wood and abrasives were doing brisk business, plus the interest and sales for the Chestnut Products demonstrated for us by Terry Smart.

Apart from all this, when I took a look at the work brought in by members it is plain to see the

standard of work has increased and become more creative, and to think, only a few short months ago it seemed members were reluctant to bring their work in for others to see.

I am sure bringing work along to the meetings not only gives encouragement to one and all but also gives more depth and meaning to the whole concept of wood turning within the club and is a constant point of conversation, which in turn is good for making friends and helps us all to gain ideas and knowledge of the craft that has brought us all together in the first place.

Graham Wood.

Air Filter Construction

It was with interest that, at the club, I saw the air filter made by a member because some time ago I also made one, slightly differently.

Having acquired a lathe (Harrison's Union Jubilee), I soon found that dust attacked my olfactory membranes with gusto. I looked longingly at the offers in the Axminster catalogue but something of the order of £150 was prohibitive. Why not, I thought, make my own - using just the filter element (for less than a tenner).

I spoke with a very helpful chap at Axminster who seemed doubtful about my suggestion of using a domestic extractor fan because, he said, you need at least 70W of power. No problem, said I - knowing that the fan I had hoarded in the loft was 65W. Well, it's close.... The filter element is 300mm diameter so I cut a 10in diameter (well, I am mathematically bilingual) hole in two 13in squares of mdf so that the edges of the filter are gripped between them. In another 13in square I cut a hole to suit the extractor fan - which needed a little modification because normally, of course, it is mounted in 3mm thick glass.

The rest of the box (carefully made airtight) was constructed around these squares and I devised a simple clamp mechanism so that the filter element can be removed for cleaning. In the event this has proved to be redundant as I clean it with my workshop vacuum cleaner without removing the element.

How much space between fan and element? I kept it to the minimum - about 2in and it seems to work very well. The fan is normally switched by a cord opening/closing a shutter at the rear but I leave it open and have a switch in the supply flex.

I do admire the simple but effective idea incorporated into the filter shown at the club - a piece of chicken wire to support the element. Mine is much more difficult to make. But what does surprise me is the condition of the element "after 25 hours of use". Not a lot. With mine, just one two-hour session in the workshop results in a well-clogged element demanding cleaning! Maybe I sand too much?

Ron Grace

Gregory Moreton RPT

Professional wood turner Gregory Moreton offers tuition for one or two students in his Claygate workshop

Two day beginners courses and one day advanced or refresher courses are available or hourly tuition can be tailored to your own needs

Gregory is registered with the Worshipful Company of Turners and is a full member of the Surrey Guild of Craftsmen

Please call 01372 467692 for more details
or e-mail gregory@moreton.co.uk

www.moreton.co.uk

The Frank Clarke Awards

The Committee have received numerous suggestions on ways to remember our former Chairman, and have decided on a competition amongst Club members for a trophy and a certificate.

The competition will take place twice a year, once at the AGM in February, and again at a Practical Evening in August or September.

The first competition will be held on August 20th, which will be the first available Practical Evening.

All entrants to the competition will be required to turn an item chosen by the committee. For the first competition, this will be a simple bowl of up to 8 inches maximum diameter.

There will be three categories:

1. Beginner
(Guideline: up to 2 years experience)
2. Intermediate
(Guideline: up to 4 years experience)
3. Advanced
(Guideline: over 4 years experience)
with a prize in each category.

A first prize winner in one category may not enter that category again, and must enter the next highest level in future competitions.

The judging of the entries will be by all members present on the Club night concerned. All entries will be identified by a number only.

The prizes in each category will be a trophy (returnable prior to the next competition night) and a Certificate, which may be retained.

The prize winners will be announced at the end of the meeting, when the presentations of trophies and certificates will be made.

The committee wholeheartedly encourage all members regardless of turning experience, to consider entering the competition, and hope that they will also take an active part in the judging of the entries.

If you require any further details, please contact any Committee member.

Chestnut Products - Terry Smart

The meeting was held 19th March but only much later I remembered I had agreed to write a review. I now have only hazy recollection of the event. Terry Smart, a fine fellow, gave an entertaining and informative presentation, Chestnut Products are excellent etc. but the fine detail was elusive. I did take notes which I have read with interest and some of which are now reproduced. I was amazed at how much I had forgotten.

Products are aimed at woodturners. They have a panel of experts to try out new finishes/products. Consider the size and end use when selecting a finish. **Lacquers** are hardwearing and water resistant. **Sanding sealers** are soft and need many coats. They are a good base for wax. Interior use only. Try using products un-thinned. This is revolutionary advice on which I do not feel qualified to comment.

Shellac Sanding Sealer based on meths dries more slowly than cellulose and is thus more suitable for large items. **Acrylic Sanding sealer**, water based dries in 20 mins, OK for toys and tougher than cellulose. Terry claimed it did not raise the grain? **Woodwax 22** Beeswax and carnuaba in paste form. Clear toy safe. Best on sealed wood. Quick drying so polish quickly on lathe. **Melamine Lacquer** Hardwearing finish. 5 mins to dry but 7 days to cure. Must allow film to dry properly before application of next coat. Gloss finish. Can be cut back or burnished. **Friction polish** can be applied to bare wood but best results on sealed wood (including shellac). Best for small items. Apply with lathe static then polish with firm pressure. **Burnishing Cream** Apply as last step onto relatively thick finishes such as Melamine lacquers. Will have little effect on thin coat of sanding sealer. **Finishing oil** is similar to Danish oil but contains tung oil and has higher gloss and does not darken the wood as much. 4 hours to dry up to 6 coats can be applied. Not food tested. Tough water resistant seal. Easy finish to revitalise with another coat. **Lemon oil** Low build, non gloss, matt finish. Water resistant. No colour but lemon smell. Non oxidising so probably not crosslinked/cured.

Peter Westermann

Hints & Tips

A use for toilet roll centres and other tubes

I remember Frank Clarke showing me how he had stuck a number of toilet roll centres together to form a holder for his abrasives. I have used the same concept in a number of ways using different materials. Some 1 1/4 inch plastic waste pipe has been cut into roughly 4 inch lengths and glued in a honeycomb arrangement. This forms a useful upright stand near the lathe in which I keep allen keys, rulers, drill bits, etc. Some 1 1/2 inch plastic pipe has also cut into four inch lengths, glued in a line and fixed horizontally above the lathe. This holds all my small strips of abrasive, whilst another set further away provides a store for the spare rolls of abrasives. In a cupboard where I had a range of non woodturning toolssomewhat haphazardly stored I have used lengths cut from a 4 inch cardboard tube which came inside a roll of carpet. I find it easy to identify the tools from their ends in this large honeycomb. In all cases I used the bandsaw to cut them and a glue gun to join them together. I have just come across a plastic tube from the centre of a carpet roll - any ideas?

Roger Marsden

CLUB MEETINGS

July 16th

Brian Waldrige
Involute turning

August 20th

Practical Evening
Subjects to be decided

September 17th

Dave Reeks
Turning wet bowls and
converting timber

WORTH NOTING

August 8th - 10th
AWGB 9th International
Woodturning Seminar, Loughborough

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NEXT NEWSLETTER

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