

# Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 15

December 2003

## Chairman's Greetings



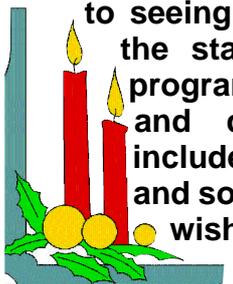
**T**he festive season is once again upon us and it's a time of year that I, for one, look forward to. There is something about cold winter evenings, sitting in front of a log fire, with a glass or two of finest single malt. If nothing else it provides a great opportunity to burn those bowls and treen that didn't quite make the grade!

We are all being made increasingly aware of global warming and of the threat it poses to our planet. There is, however, an up-side and that is that we don't have to mothball our workshops for too long over the winter period. You would be well advised in the interests of détente, however, to take Christmas day off to spend with the family unless (like me, perhaps) you have to turn more firewood to keep them warm.

No doubt you have been beavering away making Christmas gifts for friends and family. I hope they get as much pleasure from receiving them as you do from making them.

I wish you and your family a happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year at the start of an exciting programme of events and don't forget to include chuck, gouge and so on high on your wish list to Santa!

*Andrew Griffith*



## The Frank Clarke Memorial Award competition

**Y**our second chance to become the owner (for just six months!) of a magnificent silver Frank Clarke salver is almost here — but you will have to brave the possibly cold workshop and get down to some serious turning.

The next competition will be on February 18th, the same day as our AGM, and to enter all you have to do is to turn just one item of your own design. For the last competition the project was a simple bowl of no more than 8in diameter. This time it is a **traditional candlestick**.

As before, there will be three categories:

### Beginners

(Guideline: up to two years' experience)

### Intermediate

(Guideline: up to four years' experience)

### Advanced

(Guideline: over four years' experience)

There will be a prize in each category.

A first prizewinner 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 encourages all members, regardless of turning experience, to consider entering the competition and hopes that they will also take an active part in the judging of the entries.

If you need any further details, please contact a committee member.

## Key Dates for your 2004 diary

February 20th to 22nd  
*Alexandra Palace  
International Woodworking  
Show*

May 23rd  
*Surrey Association of  
Woodturners  
Open Day*

April 30th and May 1st  
*Stiles and Bates  
Open Days*

Please confirm details with  
your chosen venue before  
setting out

## Latest news from



**J**ohn, Roy and Sean thank you all for your support since their visit to the club in August. Woodturning blanks sales have been booming since then!

They are pleased to see that many Cheam Woodturners members have taken up the offer to join the woodworking club on the website.

The team also looks forward to being of service to members who visit the showroom personally.

It is important to remember to let them know you are a member of the Cheam Woodturners Club in order to get your discount.

S L H has a finishing event planned for next year and further details will be sent to us when everything has been finalised.



## Cheam Woodturners Association

Affiliated to the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain  
[www.cheamturners.co.uk](http://www.cheamturners.co.uk)

### Notice of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 18th February 2004

#### Agenda:

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 To receive and adopt the minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday, 19th February 2003.
- 3 To receive and adopt the Chairman's Report of the previous year's working.
- 4 To receive and adopt the Honorary Secretary's Report for the previous year.
- 5 To receive and adopt the Treasurer's Report and statement of accounts covering the financial affairs of the previous year.
- 6 To elect a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and three Committee members for the following year.
- 7 To fix the annual subscription for the ensuing year, following submission of a committee recommendation.
- 8 Any other business:

By order of the committee,  
David Buskell FCIS  
Honorary Secretary

Please note that any item for discussion under item No 8 must be forwarded in writing to the Honorary Secretary by no later than 4th February 2004.

## Woodturning tuition

with

## Gregory Moreton RPT

Learn to turn in a Surrey-based workshop on either of two Vicmarc VL300 lathes with a registered professional turner.



Introductory and advanced courses, individual tuition available.

5% discount to all members of CWA

Maximum of two students

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[www.learn toturn.co.uk](http://www.learn toturn.co.uk)



# The International WOODWORKING & TURNING Exhibition

I thought it might be useful to get away from Cheam matters and pop along to Stoneleigh Park to see what the show had to offer.

Run by Nexus, which also promotes the Alexandra Palace show, the event took place at the National Agricultural Centre at Stoneleigh near Warwick on October 18th.

The M25 and M40 were clear and, two hours later, I was at the showground. That's just as long as it would take to drive to Ally Pally!

The show is a three-day event and this, the second day, seemed quite well attended.

It was a bit disorientating driving past such stands and offices as The British Charolais Society, Farmers Weekly and Emmental, but this is the agricultural centre after all.

The hall itself was about two thirds the size of AP and laid out in roughly the same way.

It was good to see a wide selection of stands including Axminster, Vicmarc, Apollo, Hegner, Sorby and Poolewood.

I quite liked the look of an Apollo Professional lathe and,

by David Buskell



looking on the stand, I saw a photo of someone holding up a large convex mirror and looking pleased with himself. It was none other than our own Mark Scott.

“The talk of the show seemed to be the new DVR technology which offers a wide range of speeds and plenty of power”

There was the usual range of demonstrators: Gary Rance, Ray Key, Dave Reeks, and Reg Sherwin to name a few.

It was also good to see plenty of timber suppliers: Lincolnshire Woodcraft,

Australian Outback Imports and Ockenden's.

I wandered over to the AWGB stand to have a look at the exhibits and proudly featured among these was a Monkey Puzzle bowl by one Gregory Moreton. A snip at £285. Sorry, I could not add a red dot, Greg. So much for a day away from Cheam.

I took the opportunity to say hello to Tim Danielles from Nexus, who had sent us a quantity of flyers. He promised advance information on Alexandra Palace and any other events they run.

The talk of the show seemed to be the new DVR technology. This is a computer controlled variable speed lathe drive that offers both a wide range of speeds and plenty of power. Two manufacturers were exhibiting the product and it does seem to have the edge over existing variable speed control technology.

It was not a bad little show, and worth the trip to see as a one-off. There is obviously a demand for an event such as this in the Midlands as I am sure the attendance figures will show.

## Mr Tea



Left: Ken Elkington.  
Right: Stanley Coombes

Many of you will by now have heard that Ken Elkington is in the process of moving away from the area to relocate in the North.

Stanley Coombes is also in the advanced stages of

planning a move to the west country. So as from January, we will lose the two familiar smiley faces that serve up our teas and coffees on club nights.

Ken and Stanley, we wish you all the very best for the

## and Mr Coffee



future and hope you will keep in touch with us.

And on behalf of all the members, thank you very much for looking after us on club nights. And keep on turning!

Andrew Griffiths

# Three-centre manoeuvres

## A report on a club night twisty demonstration

**M**ulti-centre and Split Turning was the subject of Peter Blake's demonstration for our October meeting. Peter, from the East Surrey Woodturners' Club, showed us a pair of small semicircular wall shelves he had made, each with a tapered, flat-back support.

Multi-centre turning, as the name implies, involves changing the position of the drive and tailstock contacts with the wood during stages in the turning process.

Split turning involves making a paper joint between the faces of two or more pieces of wood and splitting the joint after turning.

by Fred Cannings

No doubt some of our members will be encouraged to try the technique for themselves. The diagrams below should help.

Several safety points should be emphasised:

Do not use hard centre points into paper joints. Using a four-dog drive and a ring tailstock tends to hold the parts together. Use spring points or drill clearance recesses at the centre positions.

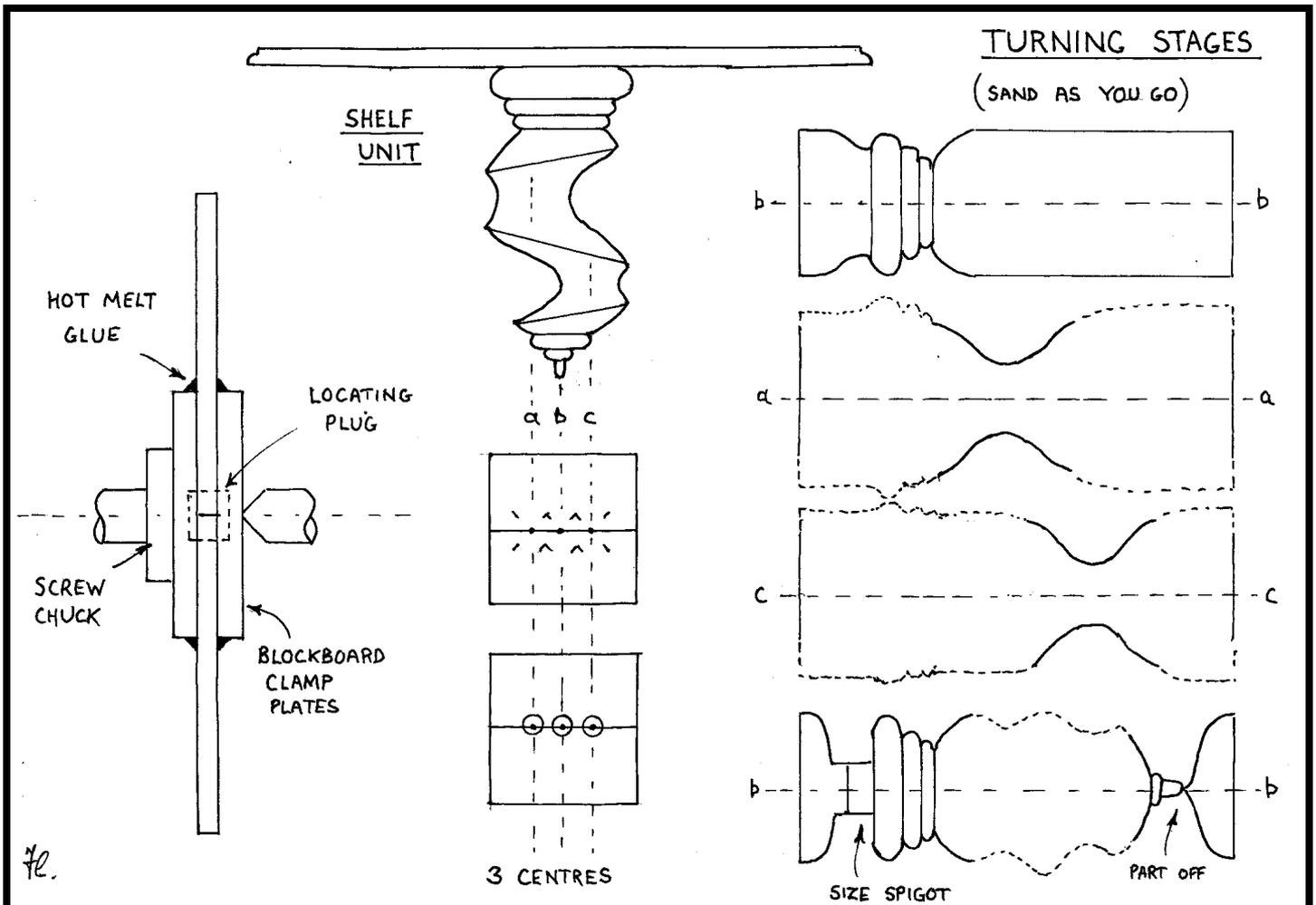
Do not trust paper joints to hold against turning forces. The diagram shows Peter's method of using a glue gun fillet to hold the shelf halves.

Turning should be done gently and, as with all unbalanced work — mind your knuckles!

Peter concluded with a talk on thread cutting — he also sells thread chasers. Points made were:

- Threads need close-grain timber such as boxwood, blackwood and so on.
- Remember to allow for thread depth when preparing workpieces.
- Cut female threads first. It is easier to adjust the male.

This was an interesting evening, kept lively by Peter's style of presentation and members showed that they appreciated his efforts.



# TOOLS 2003

## The Axminster Show

by your roving reporter

**T**his was the first time for the show in its new home, the Westpoint Centre outside Exeter, from November 6th to 8th. For the record: Croydon to Shepton Mallet, two hours; Croydon to Exeter, three hours 20 minutes.

Was it worth the extra journey? Well, only you can decide.

The hall used is about the same size as the third hall at Royal Bath/West, the one just past the Bri-Marc village. The layout is the same. Each stand had a unit of about 8ft x 8ft or multiples thereof, along a grid of aisles. The hall, although smaller, housed more exhibitors, as they all had smaller spaces.

On the Saturday, the show was graced by the presence of Norm Abram in the Bri-Marc village. I hadn't heard of him until Mark Scott mentioned his programme to me one club night. He certainly is popular, as the queues stretched around both top ends of the hall and along the sides. This caused congestion and did not make it easy to see any of the stands along these areas.

There was the usual selection of trade stands, a major Axminster presence, celebrity turners and the usual Turning Challenge. Axminster catalogues were offered in return for a donation to Devon Air Ambulance. The Competition Gallery was off to one side and could easily be missed. This is a shame as there were some great examples of work to be seen there.

The majority of the refreshments were outside. Fine if you like to sit and drink your coffee in the biting wind.

To sum up, it was a busy show and people were buying, which will please Axminster. The new location has better connections (one mile from Junction 30 of the M5) but I found it lacked the atmosphere of the Royal Bath/West.

## Committee

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## Next newsletter March

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

## Get it here

**L**ooking for a new gizmo, widget or accessory? Or want to sell something that you no longer use? Then you could find just the answer to your needs on an internet

site that gets little publicity.

Run by Brian Partridge, [www.woodturners.co.uk](http://www.woodturners.co.uk) is exclusively for AWGB members to advertise personal property for sale. Commercial advertising is not allowed.

Normally, adverts run for a

maximum of four weeks, but for unsold items this can be extended.

Log on to [www.woodturners.co.uk/for\\_sale.htm](http://www.woodturners.co.uk/for_sale.htm) to have a peek at what's on offer, or you can contact Brian on [brianpart@aol.com](mailto:brianpart@aol.com).

## Please write to Richard

**N**ow is the time for all good turners to send money to Richard Hoodless! Subs for 2004 are due on January 1st. Drop a cheque for £27.50 to Richard at: 71 Mayfair Avenue, Worcester Park, Surrey. KT4 7SJ. NOW!

## Contributions welcome

**E**ditors can never get enough. Stories, that is. And I am no exception. Don't worry about grammar, presentation or style — just send your ideas, tips, reports to me. Address, e-mail, fax details above. **RG**

# Woodworking at the Palace

**W**oodturning, carving, routing, machining and finishing will all be featured in a series of Masterclasses at the International Woodworking Exhibition at Alexandra Palace in February.

What is more, there will be plenty of other workshops from leading craftsmen, both new and familiar to the shows, and woodturning will, as always, be well represented.

New features in the planning stage this year are a feature workshop on Ways with Wood sponsored by Hegner UK and a stand put together by a number of the livery companies of London representing the different woodworking crafts and skills.

There will be a number of competitions for enthusiasts covering woodturning, carving,

toy making and model making.

The woodturning competition is sponsored by Craft Supplies and Record Power, and there is an open entry for any item predominantly turned with hand skills in the two categories of Enthusiast and Prestige. The latter category is for past winners of the competitions and for professional turners.



Prizes include products from the two sponsoring companies with the first prize winner having the option to take a woodturning course with Craft Supplies at their course centre in the Arriege in the South of France.

More details can be found in *The Woodturner*, *Practical*

*Woodworking*, *Routing* and *The Woodworker*.

Alternatively, contact the editorial offices on 01689 899200 for details.

Nick Hunton, the editor of *The Woodturner*, is offering to collect and return entries for the competition if suitable liaison and times can be arranged with the club.

You can save money on tickets to the show by booking them in advance on 01353 654422. Tickets prices are: adults, £8 on the door/£6.50 in advance; senior citizens, £6 on the door/£4.50 in advance. Car parking is free.

These tickets will also give you free entry to The International Crafts Exhibition in the adjacent hall.

The exhibition, which runs from 20th to 22nd February, is open from 10am to 5pm (4pm on Sunday).

## Wheels within wheels

**B**ecause I am the family jack-of-all-trades, when tucked snugly in my all-purpose workshop I am surrounded by a huge range of tools, some small, some big.

Now my workshop, like those I suspect of many fellow-clubmen, is not very grand. We NEVER have enough space! And while it is a reasonable brick-built structure, internally it measures just 12ft x 15ft.

Fit in two woodworking benches, a small metal-working bench, another for pillar drills, shelves just about

everywhere, a router bench, radial arm saw, bandsaw, circular saw, disc/belt sander — oh, and a space-demanding Union Jubilee lathe — and you will see that making anything bigger than a pipe-rack creates a space problem.

My solution is wheels. Router bench, radial arm saw, bandsaw, circular saw and disc/belt sander have all been mounted on substantial, lockable castors.

For each tool there are two non-swivel wheels and two lockable swivel wheels. Each 4in diameter wheel has a

maximum capacity of 50kg!

This makes space-juggling so much easier. Simply manoeuvre the appropriate tool into suitable working place, press down lock pedals and away you go. Finish work, release pedals and move tool back out of the way.

Wheels, incidentally, are from Axminster — under £10 a set of four. My only gripe is that Ax supplies screws, nuts and washers suitable for fixing the castors to metal structures. My mounts are timber so I have to buy long coach bolts/screws while my stock of short machine screws/nuts is on the increase! RG

## around Turnaround Turnaround Turnaround Turnaround Turnaround



**A**s the new occupant in the editor's chair, a few words of introduction may be appropriate, especially as I first joined the club a little over a year ago with quite a lot of experience of reading about turning but with very little practical experience.

First, I am not only a woodturner, I am a woodworker using as many techniques, tools, materials and other trades that are needed for any project, including, wherever I can work it in, turning. Many were the skills learned by personal experiment and much of my experience was gained at my father's knee, as it were.

Even as a small child I remember dismantling various toys to see how they worked. It was much later that the reverse operation was discovered. Tuning, repairing, renovating and modifying push-bikes, motorcycles and cars taught me a lot about metalworking, seven years' evening studies added electrical/mechanical engineering and related subjects; marriage and house ownership brought in decorating, painting, carpentry and related building trades.

With all this one might have thought I would run a building company...but I liked writing so I took up journalism. And many years working on a wide variety of magazines, from reporter to editor, qualifies me — I hope — for this chair.

And being retired it's good to keep my hand in by producing this newsletter as well as play golf, try one's hand at turning, do nothing — all part of life's rich pattern.

I am grateful to Roger Marsden for his help in making for a smooth handover and I am sure everyone in the club would like to express a vote of thanks for his 3½ years' hard work producing the newsletter.

New brooms sweep clean, they say. Well, I've made some changes and I have some ideas for the future. Hope you like them.

*Ron Grace*

## d Turnaround Turnaround Turnaround

## Keep them sharp

**S**harpening — or more accurately grinding — turning tools on a carborundum wheel spinning at close on 3,000 r.p.m. (or 1500 if you have a slow-speed job) is fraught with apprehension, unless you have one of those ingenious and very expensive grinding jigs.

I have a rather clever home-made jig culled from an excellent little book entitled *Sharpening with Waterstones\**, but even so there are times when my eyes don't let me get the bevel angle quite right — a sign of advancing years?

This is where your trusty old woodworking pencil, preferably with a soft lead (even better a wax pencil), comes in handy. Rub the pencil over the bevel you are about to grind. Present the tool to the revolving wheel and just give it a touch. Inspection will show exactly where the wheel touched the bevel and then a suitable adjustment can be made to the angle of presentation.

No more multi-faceted bevels!

Before anyone jumps up to say that you can see where the wheel touches because

bright, new steel appears — especially if you have rubbed a sweaty finger over the bevel — I maintain that the pencil method is easier for us oldies to see.



*\*By Ian Kirby, ISBN 085442078-9. Publishers: Stobart Davies, Priory House, Priory Street, Hertford SG14 1RN.*

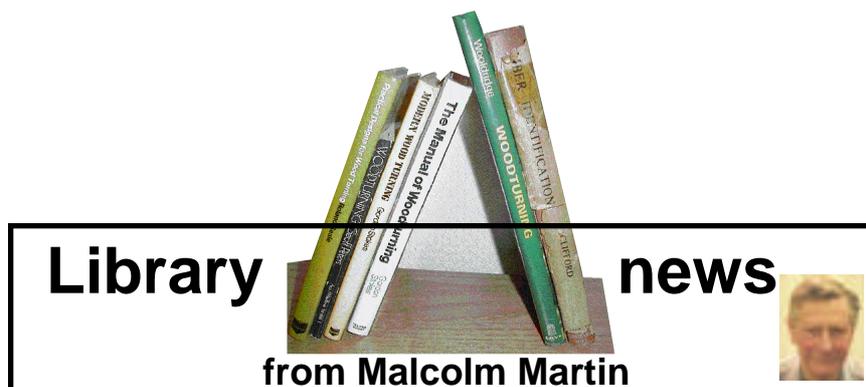
Although primarily aimed at sharpening non-turning tools such as chisels and plane irons, there is much useful stuff in here.

*RG*

## 2004 Programme

Date	Demonstrator/Event	Details/Subject
January 21	Meantime Design Greg Moreton	Clocks etc and sales. Using Meantime products.
February 18	Annual General Meeting Frank Clarke Prize	Take part in running your club. Club contest.
March 17	Chris Pouncy	Turning demonstration using Sorby products; plus sales at special prices
April 21	Jose Abraao	Hollow burr turning and sale of Good Timber products.
May 19	Reg Slack	Masterclass and off-the-cuff problem solving.
June 16 July 21	Mark Baker Bob Chapman	Japanese forms. Masterclass plus grinding and sales of tools.
August 18	Practical evening Plus Frank Clarke Prize.	
September 15	Reg Sherwin	Masterclass plus sales of special tools.
October 20	Brian Ash Jeff Cordery	Inlays and segments. Routing on the lathe.
November 17	Colin Simpson	Texturing.
December 15	Christmas Social	Social evening plus events.

In addition there may also be ad hoc tree harvests, hands-on mornings and exhibitions.



**Y**our library becomes ever more popular. The bulk of our present stock has been very kindly donated or provided on long-term loan by members. More woodturning books and videos are always welcome. The videos have proved very popular and it is hoped to expand our stock.

Following discussions by the committee it has been decided to make a £2 charge for the loan of videos only. This money will go towards the purchase of additional videos and help to defray the higher cost and limited life of videos compared with books. It was also decided to dispense with the present £1 returnable deposit system for books. Members are asked to return books within two months maximum and videos within one month maximum.

We have some new books and videos on order which we think will be popular and instructive. Don't all rush at once! So turn to a book or video when it might be too cold to turn in your workshop.