

Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 16

March 2004

Chairman reports highs and lows during 2003

by Ron Grace

In his report to the AGM on February 18th, the Chairman, Andrew Griffiths, announced a successful year with a membership of around 70. The programme, he said, has been a good one with many interesting and fun demonstrations. A number of visits to outside activities were undertaken and club nights were highlighted, with mentions of the library, product sales and new audio and visual aids.

"The sad news of Frank Clarke's death resulting from a horrific car crash shocked those of us who knew him," said Andrew. He went on to say how the founder of the club was awarded honorary life membership — which has now been passed on to his widow, Lesley.

In August a biannual competition in Frank's memory was introduced and the entries have been of a very high standard.

For the coming year the Chairman said he hopes to see more hands-on mornings and more engagement with neighbouring clubs. He pointed out that the success of the newsletter and the website relies on collective input and encouraged members to contribute to both.

He also expressed the hope that more members will help with running club nights: "We made a great start at auction night."

Attracting younger people to the joys of woodturning was also on the Chairman's agenda: "I feel there is more we could be doing to promote woodturning to members of the younger generation," he said.

Concluding his report, Andrew thanked the "Unsung heroes of our excellent committee" and all the members for their support.

Committee needs fresh blood!

Members warned that five new members must be elected next year

by Honorary Secretary, David Buskell

At a well-attended AGM the committee thanked everyone for attending and taking an interest in running the club. There were just three apologies for absence and the minutes for the last AGM — having been on the noticeboard for some time — were approved.



The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer gave their reports and these were approved.

Elections to the committee followed and, as last year, there were six nominations for six places so the committee was elected en bloc.

It was pointed out that, under the constitution, most committee members must stand

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IMPORTANT

Events Organiser Jeff Corderly has announced that the May meeting will now be held on

Wednesday 26 May

The demonstrator will be

Reg Slack

Committee needs fresh blood!

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down next year. Members were asked to consider taking an active role in the club by joining the committee. A short profile of committee duties will be published in future issues of the Newsletter and volunteers will be welcomed.

Subscriptions for 2005 were difficult for the committee to predict but it was recognised that there are several factors which might lead to an increase. Finally it was decided to recommend an increase to £30, although a close eye will be kept on developments over the next few months with the hope that the increase will not be necessary.

With no other business on the agenda, the Chairman closed the formal part of the meeting and the open forum which followed produced a number of interesting comments and suggestions which will be implemented where possible and listed on the noticeboard as a reminder.

All present were thanked for some very useful suggestions and a plea made to keep them going for the benefit of good club management.

The tea/coffee break offered time for networking and admiring the wide range of

traditional candlesticks entered in the second Frank Clarke Memorial Award competition. Members present cast their votes, winners were selected and prizes given at the end of the evening. Trophies must be returned before the August meeting which is the next competition night.

After the break, the Chairman drew members' attention to the voting papers that will be in the next issue of *Revolutions* and explained the background, arising from the AWGB area meeting held on Sunday 15th February.

The AWGB's strategy for *The Way Forward* is to become the lead body in woodturning and, to do this, it wishes to attract non-affiliated clubs into the fold as associates.

There was a lively debate as to the pros and cons of this approach and its effect on the branches. Some members thought it might be more beneficial for Cheam to become an associate, rather

than affiliated, as at present.

The Chairman closed the debate by asking members to ensure that they vote, so that the result — in favour or against — will have been made by a representative proportion of the AWGB membership.

The AWGB AGM is on March 28th and the committee will keep members informed of the results of the vote.

“
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”

Note for your Diary Programme change

The demonstration which was planned for April 21 will now be given by Simon Hope of Australian Outback Imports.

Simon will demonstrate turning Australian burrs and club members will have the opportunity to buy a selection of Australian timbers and other products on the night.

Woodturning tuition with Gregory Moreton RPT

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The Wibbly Wobbly Spiral gold candlestick

by Malcolm Martin



The biannual Frank Clarke competition has taken off and has obviously stimulated many of us to have a go. My modest effort of the Wiggly Wobbly Spiral candlestick, I believe, created some interest: "How was that done?"

I will give you an idea. Frankly I had so many mishaps and broken trials that I ran out of time to make a better effort with the wood and finish, so it is not for the faint-hearted.

It was a piece of five-centre offset spindle turning for the stem. Take a piece of straight-grain 2in x 2in wood about 12in long and mark the centres on the ends. Also mark a right-angle cross on each end. With dividers set at about 3/8in, make four marks from the centre mark on these cross marks. Centre pop and number the four outer marks each end (as in the diagram below).

Between the concentric centres (marked 0) turn to a smooth cylinder. Divide the length of your cylinder into 10 equal portions of about 1in apart leaving space at each end for your bottom moulding and spigot at one end and the candle recess at the other end.

Mark these divisions fairly

heavily in pencil as you will want to see them when turning off-centre. Divisions 1 and 10 will be turned forming a concentric hollow, call these 0. From one end mark your divisions 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 0 These numbers reflect the numbers of the offset marks 0,1,2,3,4, you marked at each end.

Now starts the exciting bit. Set up between centres on the No 1 centres. Slow the lathe speed down a bit and turn your first eccentric hollow using a spindle gouge ground with swept back wings, working carefully from each side to remove the wood in the centre and form a hollow. Then using your skew clean up the sides of the hollow up to your pencil mark.

Repeat the operation on the other number 1 division — or not. I am unable to advise as to which order to do these hollows because the farther you progress the weaker the structure gets and the greater there is a chance of a breakage occurring. I am still experimenting.

Sand and seal finish that hollow, it is unlikely you will be able to come back to it. Take great care. I rolled a length of abrasive into a tube to sand into the hollow.

You then centre up No 2 eccentric turnings and do the next two hollows. If you think of it as a car crankshaft, each big end will be 90 degrees to the next so forming a spiral from top to bottom. Do you get the idea?

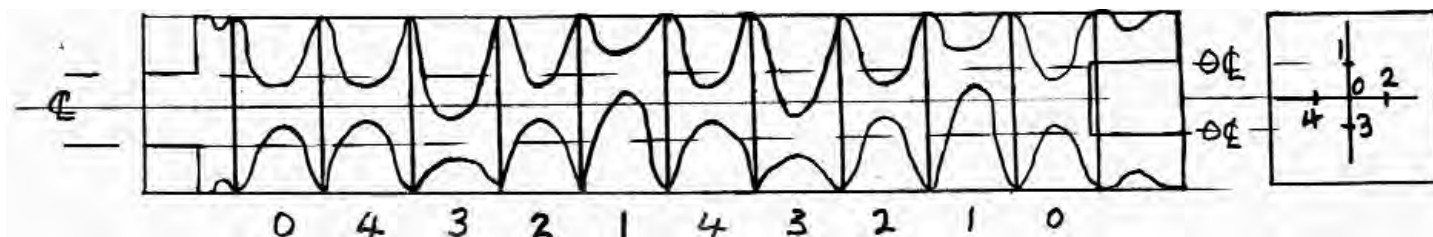
When you get to the No 4 eccentric turnings it gets more hazardous. So wear your safety gear and make sure your tools are really sharp. I am still figuring out the best way to form the hole for the candle in the top.

Please don't ask me how I did it. You can't do it before you do your turning and you cannot do it after! The base is turned concentrically and then reverse turned. I then hot glued a thin wood spigot to the base off centre and turned the eccentric scallop, sanded and finished. Then 15 seconds in the microwave to unglue the spigot, scrape the glue off and clean up. Glue stem to base and Voila!

Finishing to a polish is difficult on such a piece, so I sprayed it all gold.

Good luck. Have fun.

SEE PICTURES ON PAGE 5



Top turners collect their awards

Chairman Andrew Griffiths makes the presentations to the three winners of the second Frank Clarke Memorial Award competition. Frank would have been well pleased both with the high standard of the traditional candlesticks and the enthusiasm with which so many members entered the competition. Left to right are: Pat Pierce (Beginner); Robert Liles (Intermediate) and Richard Hoodless (Advanced)



Turnaround Turnaround Turnaround Tur

What's it worth?

I have never tried to add up the cost of the tools in my workshop; must be heaps! I suspect that this applies to most of us. So security is something which we must take seriously.

Having had various items stolen — including my lovely

XR3i — in the respectable (?) environs of Epsom, I admit to a touch of paranoia about this. You cannot get near the workshop or house without 500W security floodlights hitting you, the brick workshop has a stout door fitted with a five-lever mortise lock and the interior

is protected by infra-red heat sensors radio-linked to a banshee alarm on the house!

How much have you spent on security? I reckon my lock (£30) alarm (£80) and floodlights (£20 each) were a good investment for all my tools.

Think about it.

Waste not, want not

As an avid collector of odd pieces of timber and old furniture for use 'at some time in the future' — and a hoarder of same — I often have the need to find the centre of an oddly-shaped piece, such as a complex moulding, in order to get the maximum diameter when turned.

Yes, you can have a guess at it, but here is one way to get it right every time.

Turn a very short piece — about 1/4in or 3/8in long — to the diameter of the job in hand. Using the mark made by the tailstock centre as a guide, drill a hole through the middle. In my case this is about 1/8in because I have an automatic centre punch with a shaft 1/8in in diameter, so you have to match the hole with whatever means you have of marking a position — could even be a pencil lead.

Positioning the disc on the end of the moulding gives a very accurate centre point — although you may need several discs of different diameters for various sizes of work.

Ye Good Olde Days!

Complaints made about antiquated equipment, with gentle hints to our better halves about new lathes, should be silenced by this picture of a really old model buried in the cellars of a museum in Cyprus and pounced upon by your editor.

Quite a decent job, really: belt drive, solid cast bed, ex-bedframe toolrest, timber chuck, triple headstock bearings.



Remember:

May 23rd
 Surrey Association
 of Woodturners Open Day
 April 30/May 1
 Stiles & Bates Open Days

Easy when you know how!

I had a small problem in that the main pulley that drives the chuck shaft, started to knock and move out of alignment with the drive. No matter how many times I tried to tighten the grub screws, I could not solve the problem.

Eventually I phoned the manufacturer, Apollo, who told me that the grub screws that hold the pulley on to the drive shaft, are themselves held in place by two grub screws acting as a locking device.

Removing the locking grub screws, then tightening the grub screws to the shaft, and replacing the locking screw, cured my problem.

Tom Seakins

Great stuff

My thanks to the stalwarts who provided pictures and words for this issue of the newsletter. Many years ago when I produced a club newsletter, the offerings were so small that I wrote most of it myself!

Keep up the good work everybody.

You must have noticed that I try to use a photo of each contributor. If you can provide one, fine. If not, I always take my camera to club nights, so tip me the wink.

Ron Grace



Photo: Ron Grace

Malcolm Martin's Wibbly Wobbly Spiral candlestick (see page 3). Left: Finished in gold as seen on club night. Right: A second example, this time in black



Photo: Malcolm Martin

Library



from Malcolm Martin

news

Most popular books

Title	Author
Sharpening	Jim Kingshot
Turning Pens and Desk Accessories	Mike Cripps
The Craftsman Woodturner	Peter Child
Turning Projects	Richard Raffan
Turning Goblets	
Face Plate Turning	
A source Book of Shapes	John Hunnex
Woodturner Project Book	P Jones and C Mercer
Woodturning a Fresh Approach	Robert Chapman
Decorative Tech for Woodturners	Hilary Bowen
Woodturning Master Class	Tony Boase
Practical Tips for Woodturners	Best from Woodturning Mag
Picture Framing Made Easy	Penelope Stokes
The Resourceful Woodworker	Robert Waring
Router Handbook	Patrick Spielman

All six Videos are very popular

A list of all books and videos is available. If you want to reserve a book, please let me know. Some other books may be as popular as those listed above but some people have been keeping them out for quite a long time.

Please return videos after one month. If you want to retain a book/video (and it is not reserved) please re-book it out. This will help me to keep a better track of books and videos.

Ashes to ashes

On Sunday January 25th, Don Corling, Henk Schouten, Geoff Vicars, John White and organiser John Stinson went to East London for a tree harvest

by John White

According to the thermometer in my car, the air temperature as I left West Ewell was -1°C and it was looking like a second weekend running getting my feet cold on a Cheam Woodturners' outing (see page 8).

Several months ago our worthy chairman had announced that there would be an opportunity to harvest some wood from somewhere in East London and it seemed like a good idea at the time. Fortunately, when I arrived at Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park, Mile End, the air temperature had gone up to a scintillating 5°C .

The cemetery was opened in 1841, the last of London's magnificent seven cemeteries, at the time of a rapidly growing population. By the outbreak of WWII



it had become very overcrowded and had fallen into neglect. Then war time bombing damaged both of the chapels (Anglicans and Dissenters).

The last burial was in 1966 and the Greater London Council took over the site. From 1967 to 1986 the GLC cleared headstones from large areas of the cemetery and the two damaged chapels were demolished.

The borough of Tower Hamlets took over from the GLC and, in 1990, the Friends of Tower Hamlets was formed, under the patronage of David Bellamy, to encourage greater use of the space and as a sanctuary for people and wildlife. In 1993 the Soanes Centre, a purpose-designed building which is capped with a green

roof, was opened by David Bellamy. The centre offers educational and environmental programmes for the local community.

In March 2001 the park was designated a local nature reserve, the first in the borough. The music hall 'coster' singer Alec Hurley (Marie Lloyd's second husband) was buried here and the day we were there a service of dedication was held by the British Music Hall Society, with its chairman Roy Hudd at the newly restored graveside.

On arrival at the centre, John Stinson introduced us to Ken Greenway. Ken is the local nature reserve officer and, after his initial offer of a coffee, gratefully accepted, started on his briefing.

The years of neglect of large areas of the park had meant that some of the trees had to be removed to create space for others and we were going to remove a couple of 40ft ash trees and maybe a sycamore if there were time.

Health, safety, and insurance considerations meant that Ken would be the only person allowed to use a chainsaw in

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Just an idea

by Graham Wood

When roughing out, I use my vacuum cleaner to suck up the bulk of the waste straight off the end of the cutting edge.

By holding the end of the vacuum hose in the groove of the roughing tool, about an inch from the cutting edge, and running both the lathe and the vacuum cleaner at

the same time, most of the waste is drawn into the cleaner and not all over the workshop.

There are several drawbacks; the vacuum bag can quickly fill up and the shavings of some woods can block the hose. And I think you need both hands to hold the gouge and the hose which means you cannot use one hand to hold a pair of



callipers for sizing.

I get over this by using the callipers and a parting tool first to cut a groove down to the size and then, using the above method, remove the remaining waste.

As with all techniques it takes a bit of practice and it may or may not suit you. But I think it is well worth a try.

Continued from page 6
this public place. We collected a couple of wheelbarrows and a load of hand tools and proceeded to the area where the trees were, for the on-site checks and risk assessment as well as checking out and fuelling the chainsaw.

After deciding on the preferred direction for the first tree to fall, a path was roughly cleared and then Ken showed us his skill at felling a tree. It dropped very close to the intended area and we then set about it with hand tools (apart from Ken, still with chainsaw) to dismember it.

The branches and unwanted timber were moved to piles some way away so that they could be collected by a chipper at a later date, the

remaining useable timber was cut into manageable lengths, eventually to be split to make it easier to move them and save at least one cut before they were prepared for turning.

At our December meeting I had wondered what John Stinson was going to do with the box of bits he had bought at the auction; now, having seen the wedges in use, I know that it was a worth-while investment.

One of the previous week's points that was made on the chainsaw demonstration was well illustrated after Ken had caught a stone with his saw and had to set to and sharpen it. At some point we took a lunch break and during the afternoon the second tree was felled, this one falling

spot-on to the area planned for it.

By the time that this was cleared and cut it was time to shift the remaining wood that we were taking home, back to the centre so that we could load it into our cars. Alas there was not enough time, or people, to tackle a sycamore.

As we loaded up, a potential mishap was averted when John Stinson noticed that all the bolts securing the body of his (almost new) Erde trailer to the its axle had dropped out and would soon have parted company if he had attempted to tow it back across London.

Many thanks to John for organising this event and to Ken for all his help. I hope that not too much of our efforts ends up as firewood.

Photos by John White



Ken Greenway prepares to fell the first tree



Some of the wood waiting to be loaded

Timberrrrrr!

January was a fruitful month from the point of view of stocking up with fresh timber.

On the 17th John Stinson, accompanied by an enthusiastic group of members,

sallied forth for a chainsaw day.

On 25th, he also organised a tree harvest (see pages 6 and 7). It would be reasonable to suspect that the two events were similar!

From these pictures that John supplied, you can see that everyone had a great day out (if somewhat cold!) and carted away a goodly stock for seasoning and turning.



Members' page

**This space especially reserved for you to make notes NOW
about your contribution to the next Newsletter.**

Final deadline: May 29th.

Get scribbling

Programme of events overleaf

2004 Programme

Date	Demonstrator/Event	Details/Subject
March 17	Chris Pouncy	Turning demonstration using Sorby products; plus sales at special prices
April 21	Simon Hope	Australian burrs demonstration plus sale of timbers and products.
May 26	Reg Slack	Masterclass and off-the-cuff problem solving.
June 16	Mark Baker	Japanese forms.
July 21	Bob Chapman	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.

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Next newsletter

June

Copy deadlines:

By hand at club night — 16th May

By e-mail, fax or snail-mail — 29th May

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