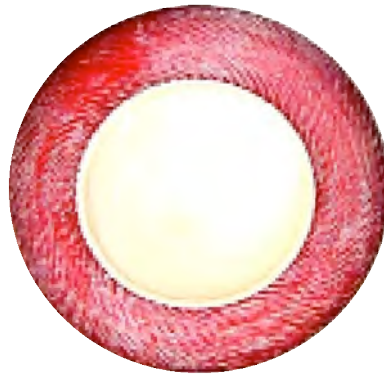


Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 17

June 2004

Superb demos for great club evenings



In March, Colin Simpson shows his skills at the art of bowl turning, texturing (above) and commentating



Simon Hope was unable to keep his April date with us so Tony Walton (left) stepped into the breach with an excellent demo on turning a natural edge bowl from an unprepossessing lump of Aussie burr! He has a nice turn of humour to help along his presentation



The May meeting gave members a close-up view of the demonstration in Brian Ash's garage. Here Jeff Cordery gets some personal tuition from Reg Slack who provided an instructional and amusing evening despite the initial problems (see page 2)

Become an eggspert



Each year Kingston College, through their Pathfinder students, have a sale in Kingston market to raise money for charity. These students make or decorate items for sale as part of their further education course. It has been suggested that Cheam Woodturners could be involved in next year's project by each of us turning some eggs for decoration by the students.

Members interested in this project should aim to turn two or three eggs about 43mm in diameter and 70mm long.

The timber can be anything from plain woods that can be painted (no sealer or oil/wax finish) to more exotic varieties with interesting grain or features.

We aim to have up to 100 eggs by August/September.

Contact Brian Ash (020 8642 8108) for more information.

Mix-up with a punch-up!

by Ron Grace

Like a trail of busy ants, a collection of woodturners' cars wound their way through the streets of Cheam. A treasure hunt? An outing to a forest for a wood-collecting exercise? Or maybe all off to a local fiesta?

Sadly, none of these. A booking mix-up at the North Cheam Sports & Social Club resulted in a boxing ring occupying the space that would normally be taken by a lathe.

Happily, stalwart Brian Ash (he of the triple garage) volunteered the use of same for the meeting, hence the emigration. As Brian's family was unaware of the forthcoming invasion, he borrowed a mobile phone from one of the group of disconsolate members in the car park to give warning. I



Above: Reg Slack preaches the gospel of woodturning.

Below: he turns an egg



believe that it was his wife who commented along the lines: "I don't need to make 80 teas and coffees do I?"

Fortunately the weather was kind (apart from a little light rain while all were concentrating on the demonstration) and our guest speaker, Reg Slack, kept everyone's rapt attention with his lively presentation which included plenty of sound advice interspersed with humorous stories and informative answers to the many questions thrown at him.

Equally fortunately, it appeared that many members were on holiday or otherwise unable to attend; the relatively small number present were able to see close-up the skilled hands of Reg at work and the absence of our usual televisual coverage was unnoticed.

Jeff Cordery does a great job organising events — as well as washing up after the tea/coffee break; he collected a well-deserved prize in the evening's raffle!

Tip



As an old but solid and reliable lathe, the Harrison Union Jubilee (as well as its stablemates) is no doubt the choice of many members.

But it has one drawback which I find tiresome; the wheel for advancing the tailstock spindle demands a lot of hard work to advance the spindle from zero to

its maximum extension. Being the proverbial jack-of-all-trades, I found no difficulty in combining woodturning and metalwork to make and fit a handle, as shown in my picture.

Yes, it is a little tricky drilling and tapping the hole into the sharp profile of the wheel, but the resultant easy and speedy operation is well worth the effort.

Ron Grace

Woodturning tuition with Gregory Moreton RPT

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News from Kerry

Lesley Clarke wrote to the chairman and members of the committee. Here is a slightly shortened version of that letter

Many thanks for your very kind gesture of passing on Frank's life membership of the association to me. Of course, I am delighted to accept it and thrilled that his hard work and dedication to promoting the craft of woodturning is remembered and continues to flourish.

Sadly, none of the three visits I have made back to the UK has coincided with a third Wednesday, but I certainly would have popped along to your meeting had one done so. I continue to follow Frank's interest and still receive the AAW's quarterly journal.

I have also had a few turning lessons – I can't believe how little attention I actually paid to Frank's activities in the workshop, considering how long I stood watching him and discussing what he was doing.

I can't say that I am hooked yet. Irritated and frustrated – yes. Developing a tendency to swear more frequently – yes. Terrified of the tools – yes. Thrilled when a small section of work looks and feels like glass – yes, but that is very rare.

The good news is that I have taken over Frank's membership in the Kerry Chapter of Woodturners and attend their monthly meetings regularly.

His lovely workshop was used last month for a meeting at which I had to demonstrate. So, without trying to be useless, I convinced every-



one that I was, but at least I took a turn at the lathe in the hope that everyone would feel sorry for me and beg to take over. Not a chance!

I had purposely chosen a project (making several identical egg cups of a novel design, as seen in the Woodturner July/August 2003), that I knew was much too advanced for me, in the hope that it would encourage others to participate – something that Frank and two or three other turners, who always had to do the demonstrations, desperately wanted to nurture.

I was given advice by a couple of the experts who, eventually, when they saw that no one else was going to help, saved me and completed the project.

Hopefully I showed the gathering how not to do lots of things and perhaps that will have spurred them on. In the April competition last week, the unprofessionals, for want of a better word, had to make a bowl. There were only three entries, but I had a go and worked on one of the yew pieces that Frank had rough-turned three years ago.

The bowl took many trips across and around the workshop, defying gravity and missing me by inches; it had every fault in it that Frank would have been instantly drawn to – the greatest of which was a groove on the outside, about $\frac{3}{4}$ in from the bottom, where the parting tool had hit the bowl as I carried out my final manoeuvre.

Damn it, I thought and probably said, but I was not going to waste the piece yet. I won't tell you how I got the bowl back on the lathe after I had sealed and waxed it, (bubble wrap played a big part!) but I did.

I deepened the groove slightly and then simply glued some thick, gold string into it. From a distance it looked great and the Kerry turners thought I had reinvented the wheel, such was their amazement. But I could hear Frank saying: "Soppy cow, now you've got superglue on the bowl as well as little indentations from the chuck". I suppose my reply would have been: "They are merely a design modification!"

Anyway, my entry gained the most votes, probably for ingenuity and honesty, and I was really chuffed. The points I earned from it have to go towards the year's accumulated score, so I suppose I will have to have a go every month now.

The nice news is that the secretary and chairman have asked to have the June meeting in Frank's Folly again, but someone else will be doing the demo!

With every good wish to everyone and a bark and a bite from Barney and Tinker.

Mortar and pestle challenge for Frank Clarke competition

No not a big gun — but a simple kitchen implement! A mortar and pestle (pestle and mortar if you prefer) is the project for the next Frank Clarke competition. Bring your effort along to the August club night and you could walk away with a magnificent salver.

As usual, there will be three categories: beginner (up to two years' experience), intermediate (up to four years) and advanced (more than four years). Those who have won the first prize in any category must enter a higher level the next time.

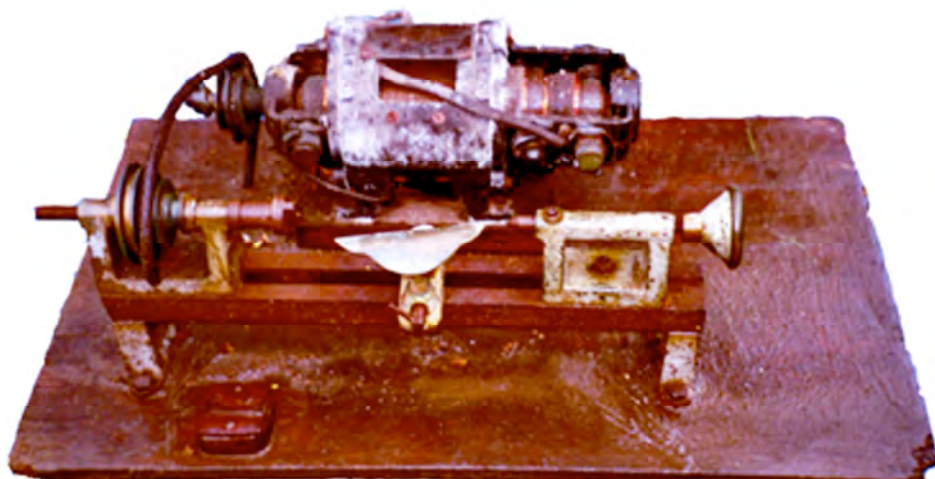
Entries will be identified by a number only and judging will take place by members present casting their votes in each category.

Prize winners will be announced at the end of the meeting at which time trophies and certificates will be presented.

You can certainly do better than this commercially produced mortar and pestle



In need of a clean and paint



This little lathe, one of three, was made by two students and myself in 1945. Each of us made patterns for the castings; I did the tailstock and cross-slide/toolrest parts.

These parts were cast in the woodworking shop at Wimbledon Technical school, the iron bed was poured at a

small foundry in Wimbledon.

All parts were machined in our school workshop, including the headstock and tailstock spindles.

Motors were not available at the end of the war, so surplus aero engine rotary converters were modified to run as motors.

Us boys were told that they

by Frank Agnew

came from Merlin engines which were used in the legendary Spitfires and Lancasters.

Perhaps for its 60th birthday I'll get it from the back of the shed and give it a clean, paint and polish!

Have you got a tip? Or perhaps a newsy item like this one? Then why not tell the many members who would love to hear about it? Write to the editor, with a photo if possible.

2004 Programme

Date	Demonstrator/Event	Details/Subject
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	Gary Rance	Hanging pomander and box
December 15	Christmas Social	Social evening plus events

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

Changes to the above programme may be necessary at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances.

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Next newsletter

September

Copy deadlines:

By hand at club night — 18th August

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

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