

Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 20

March 2005

Successful – with reservations

by Ron Grace

Summing up the year in his annual report for the AGM on February 16, the Chairman, Andrew Griffiths, remarked that he had envisaged the meeting bringing to an end his third and final term of office.

However, the acute shortage of volunteers, conscripts, or press-ganged members to serve on the committee means that five of last year's six members were corralled into duty once more.

Despite this setback, he reported that the past year has been a successful one for the club, with a number of interesting and informative club evenings with two of our members adding to the professional demonstration engagements.

"I hope it will have inspired others to follow," he said.

The club has taken part in a number of craft fairs and offers of wood have resulted in several tree harvests.

The August Frank Clarke Award competition brought forth an impressive array of quality entries. Also present was life member Lesley



Clarke (runner-up in the beginners' section) who donated extras cash prizes to the winners. The competition tonight, he said, was to make something out of a 3in cube – apart from a bag of shavings!

While the newsletter received praise (from as far away as Yorkshire) the website upgrade has been delayed. Andrew pleaded for contributions for the newsletter and said he is planning a photo shoot of members' work for the website.

Although more members have been stepping forward to help with running club nights, another plea was for more help with things like setting up and clearing away.

Only limited progress has been made in attracting younger turners to the club and there have been no hands-on Saturday mornings over the past year – but if demand exists, some sessions can be organised for the coming year.

Andrew concluded by thanking the committee members for their commitment and enthusiasm, many others who have helped to run the club and, indeed, those present for attending this AGM.

All change – but no change

by David Buskell, Honorary Secretary

As mentioned by the Chairman in his report, the big problem facing members during the AGM was that, despite the prompting, reminders, cajoling, bribing and pressurising, only two nominations were received for committee members.

This effectively meant that Fred Cannings and Pat Pierce would be running the club on their own!

However, under the constitution, if the



members so decided, the other four could remain in office for a further year to provide continuity. This was agreed by those present.

The committee then pulled the ace from its corporate sleeve – a change to the constitution. It was recognised that there could be a problem and that there was a choice of dealing with it at this year's AGM or leaving it until next year.

It was decided to go for broke and introduce a change this year. The change was minor – removing the three-year rule – but it provoked

Continued on page 2

Social success

by Ron Grace



The December social evening was a great success with all attending joining in enthusiastically with competitions, sales, practical work and food! Congratulations are due to those who organised everything from the refreshments to the competitions.

Probably the name-that-timber table attracted the most attention with some really tough samples among the 20-odd items. At the end, the chairman announced that nobody had got a 100% correct score but the nearest was Colin Simpson, closely followed by our treasurer, Richard Hoodless – who vainly hoped to be ex-treasurer this year after doing a very creditable three-year stint at the job.

Also attracting a lot of attention was a mini-quiz; just one item! A rather black and heavy mallet comprised the challenge. Two questions: material and use.

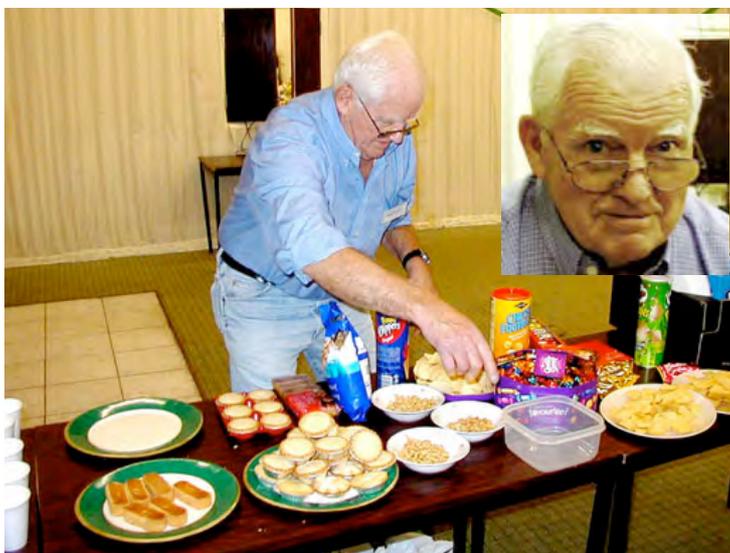
Came the moment of

revelation and it is probably fair to say that everyone in the room was surprised. It was made of Teflon and its use was to hammer home artificial hip joints!

Doug Purssey did an excellent job of catering for the inner man/woman with great platefuls of mince pies, crisps and various other treats – as well as a big box of sweets.

There were lots of tables spread around the hall with timber, tools and accessories for sale at very advantageous prices (I ended up spending more than anticipated). To save embarrassment, I won't name the chap who brought in an office desk for sale; it collapsed in a heap before the evening got under way!

Donald Cording and Alec Gibson were ably manning the regular club abrasive/odd items table. Would it be a good idea to devote some space in the newsletter to this feature they asked? So I took some pics of the men and their wares. They also submitted an item about the service; you can see it, and them, on page 3.



Doug Purssey hard at work preparing the feast of mince pies, biscuits, nuts, crisps and sweets



Above: Members crowd around the name-the-timber table. Below: Colin Ford's huge and very heavy bowl on the display table



All change – but no change

Continued from page 1

a heated debate. Finally practicality and pragmatism prevailed.

The proposal was formally put to the vote and passed with only three members voting against.

Let's hope this will be a spur to get members to think about coming on to the committee. Indeed, during the second half of the evening we managed to get two new members to shadow existing officers for 2005/06.

Finally, while it was difficult for the committee to predict future expenditure, it was decided to keep the current membership fee at £30.

Magic products from a 3in cube

Frank Clarke competition spurs members to new heights



Above: Chairman Andrew Griffiths presents beginner Fred Whitehead with his trophy. Below: His ingenious cube



Above: Advanced winner Richard Hoodless. Below: His superb three decorated boxes all from a 3in cube



Above: Intermediate top man Gordon Cookson. Below: The effort which brought him the reward – a Titan landscape?



Just a few of the other excellent entries



Under new management

Members Alec Gibson and Don Cording have taken over the selling of items that you use in woodturning. These items are sold on club nights and profits made go towards the club funds.

So they ask your support for the club shop.

Upon any enquiry they will investigate the possibility for other items to be on regular sale, such as glues/adhesives, wood stain/colours and waxes.

Both Alec and Don look forward to seeing you on club nights.



Don Cording (left) and Alec Gibson: Running the club shop for the benefit of both club members and club funds. Below: Some of the items available for your delectation and purchase!

Items on sale

Abrasive: 120, 180, 240, 320 and 400 grit.....£1 a metre

Wet or dry sheets: 600 or 1200 grit.....£1 for 3 sheets

Abrasive sheets...£1 a sheet

Latex gloves....£1 for 5 pairs

Safety eyewear...£1.50 a pair

Dust masks.....15p each



Your pics on the web

Put your work on show on the world's biggest display board – the World Wide Web.

Bring your best pieces along to a club evening where the editor and webmaster will be armed with photographic gear.

The resultant pictures will be put on the Cheam Woodturning Association website (www.cheamturners.co.uk) for all to see and admire!

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

For details: ☎ 01372 467692

e-mail: greg@moreton.co.uk

www.learn toturn.co.uk



Storm

Devastation caused by high winds in the early part of January included a 40ft high walnut tree in Fetcham. Luckily for us, the owners, Ken and Jenny Holley are close neighbours of David Jeffs whose beech tree the club harvested in December 2000. That monster (see photo below) was 90ft high, 14ft around the base and weighed in at around 30 tons!

Ken Holley asked if we were interested so, Richard Hoodless and I went to see

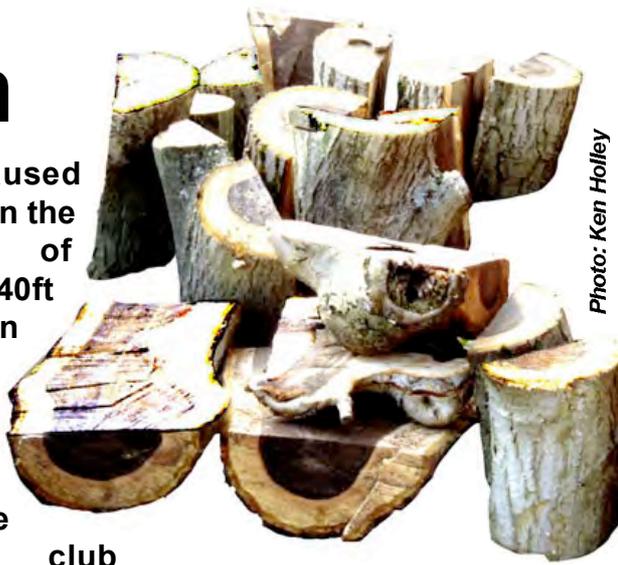


Photo: Ken Holley

the very old tree which had suffered rotten roots.

At the January meeting we asked for volunteers and on Saturday 22nd January a small working party (myself, Richard Hoodless, Fred Cannings, Roger Marsden and Geoff Vicars) spent three

damage

by David Buskell



hours disturbing the peace with three chainsaws (operated more than 5m apart).

Some of the trunk pieces were quite thick and gave the chainsaws a bit of a challenge. In the meantime, Fred was working away at the branches with a bow saw.

All that was left was tidying up and carting the timber home – a supply will be available for members by the time you read this.

Our thanks to Ken and Jenny for both their kind hospitality and the tree.



Photo: Ken Holley

Members swarm around the fallen tree in Fetcham



Photo from March 2001 newsletter

Colin makes ed

Cheers greeted the announcement in February that Colin Simpson has won the job of editor of *Woodturning* magazine. Perhaps the applause was because he was wearing a jacket – for the first time in living memory?

Look out for his first issue; the May edition, number 148.



At the December Christmas social evening, Colin demonstrates his skills for the benefit of members

2005 Programme

Date	Demonstrator/Event	Details/Subject
April 20	Bill Care	Spindle turning
May 18	Jason Breach	Boxes
June 15	Ted Farrow	Tool surgery, skewes and bowls
July 20	Chris Pounce	Sorby tools and techniques
August 17	Practical Evening	Plus Frank Clarke Prize
September 21	John Davis	Turning burrs plus timber sales
October 19	Stephen Cooper	Translucent hollow forms
November 16	Jimmy Clewes	Another masterclass
December 21	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 owing to unforeseen circumstances.

Committee

Chairman: Andrew Griffiths

020 8644 1546

e: mail2griff@yahoo.com

Secretary: David Buskell

52 Upper Selsdon Road,
South Croydon, Surrey CR2 8DE.

Tel: 020 8657 5565

e: davidbuskell@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Richard Hoodless

Tel: 020 8330 1338

Membership Secretary: Pat Pierce

Tel: 01959 573229

e: patpierce@fsmail.net

Events Secretary: Jeff Cordery

Tel: 020 8647 2691

e: jeff_cordery@hotmail.com

Raffle Administrator: Fred Cannings

Tel: 020 8337 8250

Next newsletter

June

Copy deadline: May 30

Ron Grace

Editor

**16A Lynwood Road, Epsom,
Surrey KT17 4LD**

Tel: 01372 723657

Fax: 01372 749685

e: ron@ron-grace.demon.co.uk

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