

# Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 22

September 2005

## Top-notch entries from the few

by Ron Grace

**A**lthough the number of entries submitted for the Frank Clarke Memorial competition in August was painfully low — despite the changes in the rules to encourage more members to take part — the standards set by those who did make the effort was pleasingly high.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the rocket-like performance of Intermediate winner Fred Whitehead who has progressed from the Beginners to the Advanced in just two competitions, February and August this year.

One may suppose that August, especially during a heat wave and school holidays, is a bad time to hold such a competition. Indeed, by my eye, I think attendance generally at the meeting was low.

The committee has been discussing this question at their last meeting and will report back as soon as a plan has been devised.

At that time members will be able to put their views forward. For example, should the August competition be moved to a different month? And should the February version, at present tied in with the AGM, also be moved?

Think about it and when the time comes you will be well-primed to grab a committee member and tell him your views.

● *Note: The result of the Intermediate runner-up was two! Chairman Andrew Griffiths and one other who at present is unknown. More news next issue.*

The winner, Fred Whitehead, had to leave before the presentation ceremony.



*Winner in the Beginners category was Chris Hembrow. Runner-up, Ron Grace*



*Intermediate winner was Fred Whitehead. Joint runner-up was Chairman Andrew Griffiths, seen here shaking hands with and congratulating himself!*



*Advanced winner was Greg Moreton. Runner-up was Richard Hoodless*



*Beginners*



*Intermediate*



*Advanced*

# A 9in bowl for just £1

by Brian Ash



selective  
insofar as all

**A**s members will be aware, the club has been offering some bundles of wood off-cuts for £1. I have been buying them



for my segmented wood-turning projects. However, I looked at a project that would be of general interest for club members and perhaps



encourage you to buy some wood packs.

I decided on a simple bowl and find that from each of the packs I have purchased I could achieve a 9in wide 2in deep bowl blank.

Picture 1 shows the gluing of eleven strips of wood (face to face) using polyurethane glue. Although the pack I used had plenty of wood strips, I didn't have to be

the strips were straight with flat clean faces. I tend to use polyurethane glue on nearly all of my projects; it is very strong and water resistant, but I am sure pva glue would be ok.

Picture 2 shows the bowl blank cut on my bandsaw.



Although there looks to be a lot of waste I could have constructed a bigger blank or sawn the wood strips to length before gluing. I chose 9in diameter for this



illustration as it probably fits most of our members' lathe sizes.

Pictures 3 and 4 show the blank made ready for turning. The main picture is of the finished bowl, turned, sanded

and oiled — not bad for £1 and a little time.

I used oak (because that's what I had) which is not the easiest to turn, Oak end grain and me always have a fight.

Richard/Fred have a large selection of maple and beech, which I think members will find much easier to turn and produce a really good finished item.

## Adding value to your charity turning gifts

**D**on't give money to the taxman! If you make items and give the proceeds to a charity, you can increase the value of your donation by 28p in the £1 by making a Gift Aid declaration.

You have to be a UK taxpayer to do this and pay more tax than the charity will recover from your donation. If you are not a taxpayer, maybe a relative would make the donation for you and make the declaration.

Since the 6th April 2000, donations to many charities can be covered by a retrospective declaration and benefit the charity even more. You can download the Gift Aid form from the internet. ([www.givingcampaign.org.uk/](http://www.givingcampaign.org.uk/))

Older taxpayers using Gift Aid can often benefit by increasing the amount claimed in age-related tax concessions.

Also, if you are pruning your garden foliage, consider whether your local florist will buy it, especially if the owners know you are going to gift aid the money to charity. A good time to make this approach to florists is Christmas when ivy and holly are much in demand.

*Gordon Cookson*

# Extra tips from David Nittmann

by Gordon Cookson

I was very fortunate to be at one of David's practical sessions and here are some extra tips to add to his article in the August 2005 issue of *Woodturning*.

Use a Computer Aided Design (CAD) programme to produce appropriate graph paper to plan the design. David usually uses 36 divisions for the outer beads and eight divisions for the centre five or six beads.

If appropriate, check that each element of the design will repeat with equal spacing.

Check the look on paper but it is not necessary to colour in every element of the design



around the piece. Check how the ink colour reacts on a sample of the wood to be used.

If you want to let the natural cream colour of the wood show, jelutong, holly, maple, cherry and bay poplar — tupelo — work very well.

For ideas for designs, look at books/magazines on native



American, Japanese and African basketry and pottery. A good book is *The Many Faces of Mata Ortiz* published



by Rio Nuevo (around £20 from Amazon).

Try to adjust the size of beads near the centre inside to get a bead-size dome in the middle

The burning tool has the same curve as the beads. Use a flap sander to take away over-burning.

As the decoration is so precise, the following precautions should be observed:

(a) To avoid eye strain, limit burning/colouring

sessions to one or two hours with excellent natural light or daylight bulbs/tubes.

(b) Sit upright to avoid backache.

(c) Use a cushion to support your wrists and the workpiece.

Ink each section twice for the best lasting colour. Wash your hands frequently to avoid the colour which comes



off the piece discolouring other parts of the work. Any mistakes in the actual colouring are design opportunities!

If you haven't got access to David's website ([www.davidnittmann.com](http://www.davidnittmann.com)) there was an article with lots of photos of different pieces in the July 2003 issue of *Woodturning* as well as an instructional piece in August this year.

*The photos, all by Tim Benko, were taken from David's website and illustrate just a fraction of his work*

## Free

About 60, 20 x 20in (50.8 x 50.8cm) carpet tiles in excellent condition although they could probably

benefit from a wash!

Colour is gold/brown shades — maybe owing to the odd footprint.

Ideal for keeping toes and feet away from a freezing

concrete workshop floor.

Call Pat Pierce on 01959 573229 after 24th September. He will be happy to bring them to the October club evening for collection.

# Seminar was worth every penny

Malcolm Martin reports on the AWGB International Seminar held at Loughborough University from 12th to 14th August

**O**n my return from an inspiring three days at the AWGB International Seminar, I was keen to get my lathe moving. I was filled with enthusiasm generated by seeing nine sessions of demonstrations by top quality turners from around the world.



Having arrived at 9.45am on the Friday and delivered my three pieces for the Open Gallery, I was pleased to get good single accommodation in one of the students' blocks.

I had been to the event four years ago so I knew something of the campus. At lunch I met up with a colleague from East Surrey, Colin Simpson and Greg Morton.

The opening welcome session was soon over and we scuttled off to the first demo of our choice. I watched the Frenchman Christophe Nancey. First part very interesting as he turned



and hollowed a wet heather root but the second part was noisy and boring as he carved and destroyed parts

of it with an Arbortech and grinder on his lap (looked very dangerous). The piece was then destined for a microwave oven.

The trade stands were very interesting with tools galore, wood from Aussie land, clocks and a mini-Axminster show. After the evening meal we returned to the demo halls for coffee and the opening of the Instant Gallery by Reg Sherwin, honoured guest. Wow! Some of the work on display was fantastic — the standard of work, its ingenuity, artistic exploration and execution of turning — has all improved so much.



Saturday was an 8.40am start with Julie Heryet who turned and hollowed (wet) a thin-wall sycamore funnel with a natural edge at both ends. Brought to an exciting climax as she broke through between the ends. Then off to see Pablo Nemzoff from Israel who showed us how he turns his beautiful figurines which involve the use of some interesting off-centre techniques. He gave an amusing, enjoyable demo.



After lunch I chose to see Stuart Batty. Again very good with lots of tips on bowl and vase turning. All good stuff from the maestro enjoyably presented. Next was the other Frenchman, Thierry Martenon, who was demonstrating how he stuck veneer on to his turnings. This was followed by Nick Agar who was texturing and colouring bowls with angle grinder and carver, coupled with Arbortex wood sealer and stain with great and stunning results.

The critique by Stuart Batty and Nick Cook of a selection of pieces from the Instant Gallery was most instructive for all — especially on the way the American collectors' market judges and thinks about pieces.

At the excellent banquet I



was sitting next to a chemistry teacher from Iceland who had come to eight of the 10 seminars before. The auction of pieces donated by presenters and delegates raised some £2,700 for the development fund. There were some real bargains — but selling woodturning to woodturners is always going to be difficult.

On Sunday we had an 8.45 start to a session with Binh Pho, a fellow from the far east now living in the USA and renowned for his colouring and piecing on thin-wall vessels. He showed his knowledge and techniques in a very easy relaxed manner and I appreciated his artistic skill in creating some amazing work.

Nick Cook delivered a most instructive lecture on marketing, scattered with many anecdotes of what to do and not to do. The sessions after lunch consisted of a number of trade demonstrations. I chose to watch the bowl centre saving tools by Hegner — very impressive. The last session was by Michael O'Donnell from Caithness. His wit and dramatic thin-wall turning in the dark made a memorable end to the turning presentations.

I am so glad I went. I hope next time we shall see more members from Cheam. Start saving now as it is worth every penny!

*Note: Look up the AWGB web site — [www.woodturners.co.uk](http://www.woodturners.co.uk), under Seminar — for notes about each presenter.*

## Are you interested in a tree?

**T**his is a question we get asked a lot by people at shows we attend, via e-mail or even a telephone call.

We have been offered about five walnut trees over the past few months, so I thought it might be useful to explain the club's policy regarding tree harvests.

We cannot fell trees — not insured or licensed. We take only trees already down.

We do not accept all trees. For example, some walnut trees are of no use to us — it depends on the sex of the tree! We check both tree and site access before we agree to take anything.

We do not pay for trees but will make a piece from the wood to the owners' request.

We undertake a risk assessment of the site (Fetcham's problems were a friendly dog and a swimming pool).

We organise a work party (for example, Fetcham in January) to cut up the tree, usually on a Saturday, and take the wood away for temporary storage. AWGB

health and safety rules are carefully observed.

We bring the wood to the club for members to use (sycamore, apple, walnut, cotinus, redwood, rhododendron, yew and oak are recent examples).

Why now? The main tree-felling season is nearly upon us and we may have a walnut tree in East Sheen to harvest in the next few weeks. The club needs to know who is interested in helping out. We want to update the list held by the secretary so we can contact you to ask if you wish to help when we get a tree.

It's good fun, an opportunity to use your chainsaws, improve your knowledge of wood and to mix with other club members in a different environment.

Please contact me on [davidbuskell@yahoo.com](mailto:davidbuskell@yahoo.com) or by telephone to 020 8657 5565 if you are interested in helping out. I need to know your contact details and what skills (for example, chainsaw) you can offer.

Happy harvesting!

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# Chris Barker

by David Buskell

Probably the UK's youngest professional, Chris Barker came along to Cheam in June at short notice, together with a stock of timber for sale.

He made two pieces:

First was a bowl from Masur Birch, a timber from Finland.

He turned a spigot and reverse chucked. Shaped the bowl and foot. Reversed again and finished off with grits 240-320-400-600 because the wood finishes well!

Chris uses melamine polish diluted 70/30 with anti-bloom thinners.

Piece reversed again and bowl cut out, leaving walls slightly thicker than normal. Finish off, sand and polish.

Chris uses a Dremel to clear out the natural edge and puts the polish on with a paintbrush.

The finished bowl was kindly donated to the club raffle and won by Henk.

Next was a lidded box made from Island Walnut — grown off the coast of Tasmania. A piece 10x2x2in was rounded off and spigots made on both ends. Mark out the lid and base making sure of a good grain match. Part off, reverse chuck and cut out the lid, sand and finish.

Chris again used melamine, buffing well and then coated with Briwax.

Fit the base in the chuck and cut lip for lid. Test fit to get a tight fit — Chris doesn't use callipers! Fit lid and base together and shape the lid. Sand and finish as usual.

# One-make demo from Pouncey

by Andy Masters



On a very hot July evening Chris

Pouncey set up his Nova DVR 3000 lathe and unpacked a large selection of Sorby tools

to provide the members with an almost unbiased view of how to use those tools and to answer some of our awkward technical questions.

The lathe looks an excellent, versatile and middle-price machine. It was fitted with a Supernova chuck, Stebcentre drive, revolving Stebcentre and a 9in modular tool rest. This setup looked a very impressive, solid option which worked faultlessly, even though most of the demonstration took place with the lathe on only three legs.

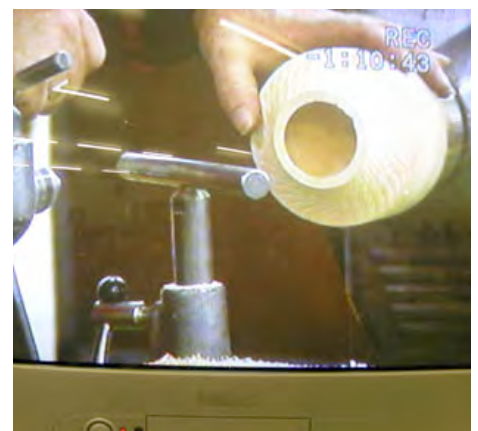
First Chris talked about sharpening. He pointed out that all the sharpening systems are very useful and advised that your grinder should be fitted with an 80 grit aluminium oxide wheel which needs to be kept properly dressed, ideally with a devil stone.

The first tool he demonstrated was the Spindlemaster, which is a safer version of the skew chisel that only needs its flat face honed to remain sharp. Next the RS200 was put

through its paces with a demonstration of hollowing at 3,500 rpm followed by the simple efficiency of the Sandmaster.

At the break members took advantage of a table groaning under the weight of tools and equipment at reduced prices. Being a generous crowd we did our best to lighten Chris's homeward journey.

Finally, Chris demonstrated how to cut spirals and textures with the texturing tool and spiralling system. The latter is the addition of an indexed rest and new cutting head to the former. The main difference in use being that a texture is produced when the tool rotates close to the direction of rotation while a spiral is made by applying the tool across the line of rotation.



The tools worked quickly and gave impressive results but personally I felt that the cost was too high for an effect that I could soon tire of.

# Tips for Banksias

Gordon Cookson passes on some tips acquired during a Cindy Drozda demonstration

I was interested to see two different items which I hadn't seen made before out of a banksias. One box looked like a space station on a very thin stem and the other was mushroom-shaped.



Cindy gave some advice on choosing banksia nuts.

- A worn, greyish look means they are not as hard and sound as they should be.

- If the lips are proud and a solid brown colour, then the nuts are better for hollowing.

- Grey/white on the outside and yellow on the end means it is likely to be rotten inside but gives a better colour variation suitable for weed/grasses pots or solid mushrooms.

- Cracks on the end mean it will not be suitable for boxes.

If the lips are to be part of a natural edge, it looks better if you choose a part of the nut where the lips are evenly

spaced around the edge. Beware — a natural edge is like a sawblade! Use a 2in sanding pad to save your fingers.

Chucking should be inside the fur layer to give a firm grip.

The so-called negative-edge scraper works very well on banksias. This is where a small amount of the top edge of the scraper is ground back to produce a slightly bigger angle at the edge. (See Mark Baker's article in *Woodturning* Issue 135 for more details).

Turn the outside from larger to smaller diameter as this gives the best finish.

For finishing cheaper items, Cindy sands to 600 grit and uses an acrylic lacquer. For more expensive pieces, she goes up to 4000 grit and one coat of salad oil.

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## Overload!

To all contributors to the newsletter this month, my grateful thanks.

My apologies to those I could not fit into the space available (without a sharp wristslap from the our treasurer for exceeding my budget!)

Struck down as I am by a million microbes, I hope you will forgive any errors you may find. RG

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## Latest additions of videos, DVDs and books to the CWA library

### BOOKS

Woodturner

Bert Marsh

Woodturning projects

Mark Baker

### VIDEOS

Texturing by Colin Simpson (demo)

Burr Bowl by Tony Walton (demo)

Woodturning by Stuart King (demo)

An Evening with Mark Baker (demo)

Robert Chapman Turns (demo)

Woodturning by Brian Ash and Jeff Cordery (demo)

Woodturning by Gary Rance (demo)

Routing Jigs and Gadgets

Roy Sutton

Advanced Routing

Roy Sutton

Router Bit Magic

CMT Tools

Turning Green Wood

Michael O'Donnell

Woodturning Workshop

Roy Sutton

Turning Wood

Alan Holtham

### DVDs

Two Ways to Make a Bowl

Stu Batty and Mike Mahoney

From the Tree to the Table

Mike Mahoney

The Ellsworth Signature Gouge

David Ellsworth

There is a £2 charge for the videos and DVDs, but books are free.

A complete list of library items is available from the librarian.

# 2005 Programme

Date	Demonstrator/Event	Details/Subject
October 19	Stephen Cooper	Translucent hollow forms
November 16	Jimmy Clewes	Another masterclass
December 21	Christmas Social	Social evening plus events

**Club website: [www.cheamturners.co.uk](http://www.cheamturners.co.uk)**

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

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## Next newsletter December

**Copy deadline: December 1st**

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