

Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 23

December 2005

Christmas Greetings from the chairman

The festive season is upon us once more and the year seems to have flown past. The cold, dark nights are made more tolerable with a roaring log fire, fuelled by off-cuts and logs — and, of course, the numerous 'prototypes' that didn't quite make the grade.

It's been another successful year for Cheam Woodturners. We've welcomed several new members into the association and we've seen a number of excellent demonstrations from some of the country's finest. And as I write this, I have just returned from one of the most successful hands-on Saturdays the association has laid on; an excellent turn-out on a cold winter's day, the hum of busy lathes in the warmth of a large, rural workshop (heated by a wood-burning stove) — and a tasty hot stew which went down a treat! What struck me above all else were the camaraderie and the enthusiasm which we have come to enjoy within our club.

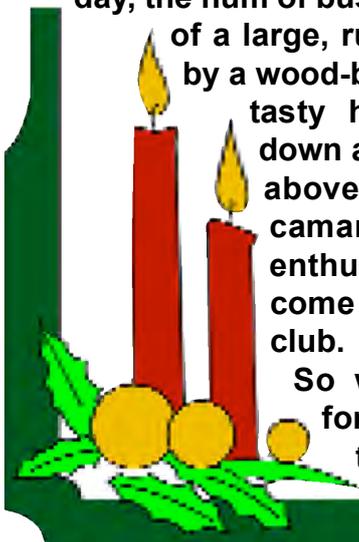
So what have you made for friends and family this year? Whatever it is, it's



bound to be appreciated because it has a bit of you in it (unless of course it happens to be walnut, ash, elm...think about it). Maybe you've tried making something you've seen demonstrated at a club night or perhaps at one of the woodturning shows; it's great to have a go, be creative, use your imagination, think 'studio' rather than 'workshop', after all, you're working with a gift of nature — wood!

Have a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2006.
Andrew

PS. A word of advice; when you make out your wish list for Father Christmas, just be mindful that a VB30 will not fit down the chimney!



Fred Whitehead receives his award as winner of the Intermediate category of the Frank Clarke Memorial competition in August

Cindy has *Wow!* as well as skill

Gordon Cookson was fortunate to see a demonstration by Cindy Drozda in Ripon. Here he offers some of the tips he gleaned

Her work has the *Wow!* factor and she is an excellent demonstrator. Her exquisite boxes and banksia items were featured in *Woodturning* No. 148 or you can look up her website at:

www.cindydrozda.com

The boxes are very special because of her attention to fine details, the proportion of her finials, the contrasting rings where the finial tops sit and at the foot — not forgetting the superb finish on beautiful but expensive burrs.

Her trademark is a surprise when you lift the lid. It is a little crystal, semi-precious stone or a mirror in the centre of the underside of the lid – or gold leaf on the bottom of the box or lid.

I hope these hints from Cindy will be helpful.

1: Make the boxes with loose-fitting lids so the finials don't break; Cindy's customers expect delicate tops that are easy to remove.

2: Use an African blackwood rather than ebony for better detail on the finials. You can dye a light-colour wood for large inset rings or use the wood in its natural state as a contrast.

3: Align burrs very carefully to make the most of them — especially when making a box or bowl with a natural edge so that it is as level as possible.

4: Contrasting trim ring.



Pele, Hawaiian Goddess of Fire (9in diameter, 15.8in tall)

Turn and sand the outside of the bottom before inserting the contrasting ring in the opening so that it can stand proud. Glue only in the corner of the recess to prevent the adhesive from squeezing out and being a problem later, if trying to remove it without damage or discolouration.

When using two-part adhesives, put the catalyst on the ring. Make an L-shape ridge in the trim ring for the lid to sit in. Make the depth of the recess correct first and then the width with very fine

cuts so that the recess is more likely to be the right size. This avoids the problem of having to replace the contrast rim or making a new top.

If you start with getting the width correct, it is likely to be made wider by the edge of the tool as the depth is turned.

5: To sand the inside of the bottom, put a 2in sanding disc centrally on a 1in pad and cut the disc to make a mini-flapwheel. Hold the flaps back to get them inside and use a very slow lathe speed.

6: The waste block for the jam chuck to finish the underside should be slightly softer than the box to avoid damage.

7: Check the depth of the box before shaping the underside.

8: Make a tenon on the bottom to fit into the foot ring. Cindy puts a small groove in the side where it meets the ring and a small bead on the foot ring before hollowing it.

9: Cindy feels that contrasting trim rings will work well with plainer wood than burrs but the finished pieces would be less saleable.

10: As lots of woods go brown with age, Cindy has considered, but so far rejected, the idea of using a light-fast dye so that the pieces will always be the same colour as the burr started out with.

A great time was had by all

Colin Ford provides members with a luxury hands-on session

Gentlemen in Surrey now a-bed, Shall think themselves accursed they were not there*.

Indeed, those members who failed to attend the hands-on session at Colin Ford's spacious, well-equipped and warm workshop on



November 26th missed a really special treat. Not only did they lose out on the woodturning instruction and practice — ably and efficiently prepared and



organised by Messrs Griffiths, Buskell, Hoodless and Cannings — but also the generous supply of tea, coffee and tasty hot meat stew kindly prepared by Colin's better half.

by Ron Grace

Running around taking photos meant that I was not able to take full advantage of the instruction/practice facilities on offer. These included light pulls by the chairman, dibbers from the treasurer and hollow work on a large Poolewood by the secretary.

There was plenty of interest in tool sharpening, especially as the club has acquired a jig which offers fingernail



sharpening for gouges. One member, Alex Gibson, brought along an old-fashioned wood armchair with several spokes missing. With expert advice and help from Colin, he effected an excellent repair job. I gather he has another for the next time....

On leaving I thanked Colin for his hospitality with the addition of: "Same time next week?". He gave a little grin and chuckle as though to say: "Not bloody likely!"

*with apologies to William Shakespeare.

Cheam Woodturners Association Affiliated to the AWGB

www.cheamturners.co.uk

Notice of Annual General Meeting Wednesday 15th February 2006 Agenda

Apologies for absence.

To receive and adopt the minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday, 16th February 2005.

To receive and adopt the Chairman's report of the previous year's working.

To receive and adopt the Honorary Secretary's report for the previous year.

To receive and adopt the Treasurer's report and statement of accounts covering the financial affairs of the previous year.

To elect a chairperson, a secretary, a treasurer and three committee members for the following year.

To fix the annual subscription for the ensuing year, following submission of a committee recommendation.

Any Other Business:

By order of the committee,

David Buskell FCIS, Honorary Secretary

Please note that any item for discussion under Any Other Business to be forwarded in writing to the Honorary Secretary at: Woodlands, 52 Upper Selsdon Road, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 8DE by no later than 1st February 2006.

Nomination forms for the officers and committee vacancies will be available at the January 2006 meeting.

Listen to the sound your lathe makes

Jimmy Clewes gives a superb demo — an oriental style box

by Tony Bryan

Jimmy started off by expressing his dislike for southern traffic but it was worth the trip from Durham for the warm welcome he got at Cheam! Jimmy gave us some details of his background as a self-taught turner and emphasised there was no right way to turn — everybody has a different style and opinion. One of his basic techniques is to listen



Both the base and lid had the bulk of wood removed using a fingernail bowl gouge using the tip of the gouge rather than the bevel. A gouge with a long grind on one side was used to give a shear cut for the final shaping to prevent vibration of the unsupported wood.

The inside of the box was formed using the parting tool and 1/4in bowl gouge.

The lid was turned using a Steb centre and revolving tailstock. The bulk of the wood being removed first then turned to its final shape. The base was then rechucked in the exact position of the jaw marks. A shallow taper was made to allow it to be used as a jam chuck with several fine cuts used to avoid the “Oh Dear” factor. Using the jam chuck the final shape of the lid was formed including a small tapered knob. The final touch was to undercut the taper in the base using the parting tool. The final fit was dead bonny, as



Jimmy shapes the box base

to the change in sound as he removes the wood and tonight would be a propeller like noise!

With the ash base, 12x5x3in already mounted on a screw, accurately centred, the work and chuck were marked so that on rechucking the wood would be in exactly the same place. Jimmy drew the shape of the base before starting to turn. To remove the bulk of the wood turning speed was 2000-2200rpm (club lathe!). About 2500-3000rpm would have been preferable to give a cleaner finish.



Jimmy remarked! The finish would have been done using oil.

Jimmy used seven tools. Four 3/8in bowl gouges, a 1/4in bowl gouge, a standard 1/8in

Prior to introducing Jimmy, David Buskell welcomed Adrian Needham, the South England representative of the AWGB, three other members from the Middlesex Club, 15 members of the 4th Worcester Park Scout leaders and 55 members of the club — a record attendance.

parting tool and a 1/8in spindle gouge for detailing.

Each bowl gouge had a different profile for a specific purpose. One of the 3/8in gouges was ground back on one side to enable shear cutting where the wood was not supported and would vibrate. This grind was sharpened using a diamond card.

Another was sharpened to use the tip to cut rather than bevel rubbing. The 1/4in bowl gouge was used for the final internal cuts, the bevel on the tip was ground to about 80 degrees. All the gouges were sharpened on a jig. In use they are held on the lathe rest and into the hip using body movement only.

To finish Jimmy demonstrated how to use and sharpen the Hamlet Big Brother hollowing tool. Turn the cutter over so it is “on centre” and tuck the handle up your armpit.

Jimmy’s commentary and the answering of questions as he went along made this the most informative and humorous demonstration we have had. The end was met with tumultuous applause.

Six Ds route to woodturning success

While in Ripon, Gordon Cookson watched Julie Heryet give a demonstration and offer turners some advice



Julie started her tip-packed session with her six Ds — Department, Development, Design, Detail, Delicacy and Disasters.

She stressed the importance of standing comfortably while turning (Department) with the spindle height the same as your elbow when your arm is by your side. Moving your body, rather than arms, will improve

the quality of curves as well as avoiding back strain.

On the Development front she said one must try to improve skills by practice and learning from others.

Design means carefully considering the shape and purpose before starting to turn an item — but be prepared to alter if there are grain, knots or faults in the timber.

Include Detail only when necessary and be sure it looks as if it is supposed to be there.

On Delicacy — use it only when appropriate.

Don't worry about Disasters. Everybody has them — learn from your mistakes and, if necessary, ask for advice on how to improve matters in the future. See her website: www.julieheryet-woodturner.co.uk

Here are some useful tips from Julie Heryet

Natural-edge bowls

The finished bowl looks more balanced if the wood is mounted on the lathe so that the highest and lowest points of the rim are level with the pith in the centre.

Goblets

Roll the edge of natural-edge goblets so that the bark is outside. Make the final cut inside from the centre outwards to produce the smoothest cut. Don't have the pith down the stem because it is weaker and more difficult to turn and likely to break.

The foot of a functional goblet should be wider than a decorative one. Undercut the edge of the foot to give a shadow on the table and the appearance a lift.

If using wet wood, part off with a concave base so the goblet will stand level when it dries.



An example from Julie's website

A good way of watching your skills develop is to keep a goblet made at regular intervals with a date on it, so that you and other people can compare them and comment on what you like and what can be improved.

Hollow vessels

A wide variety of tools can be used for hollowing, with cutting tools working best on wet wood and

scrapers best on dry timber.

Longer handles are needed to counteract the force caused by the overhang from the rest to the cutting edge. A good ratio is 5 to 1 for handle to overhang for hollowing tools, compared with 3 to 1 for bowl gouges.

If the hollow is to have a natural fissure, turn and sand the outside, then put masking tape over the crack and then gaffer/duck tape over the top to support the edges of the gap while hollowing.

If you are going to rough turn a wet wood hollow, make the sides an even thickness of about 20% of the diameter.

Put end sealer on the outside and maybe put it into a little kiln — say, a cupboard with a tight fitting door and one or two light bulbs permanently switched on in the bottom and some holes at the top to let the warm, humid air escape.

Axminster is 'one of the best'

by new members Malcolm and Brigitte Squires

Our first Axminster show — we've been to other big woodworking shows and consider this to be one of the best.

The Westpoint Exhibition Centre just outside Exeter is one very large building surrounded by ample parking.

Apart from Axminster displaying and demonstrating



Traction Engine by Michael Clark

probably all of their wares on 15 stands, there were 31 independent demonstrators and over 90 other exhibitors, with Record and Sorby not being among them.

Some six woodturning clubs were demonstrating along with nine independent turners as well as wood carving, metal turning, furniture making, stained glass, routing, boat building, model aircraft, railways and traction engines, hand



woodworking tools and Japanese joinery.

Well known turners demonstrating were Bert Marsh, Gary Rane, George Hughes, Guy Ravine, Jenny and Graham Norman, Mat Calder, Nick Agar, Ray Key, Stuart King and Stuart Mortimer.



Basket Bowl by Rodney Page

Spending the whole day there (10am to 5pm) we were able to watch demos during the quieter beginning and finishing periods. We were

there for their preview day and it was packed (sold out in advance).

The Professional Gold Award was won by Rodney Page for his Broken Through

beginners Gold was won

by Mike Leaman for his Vase of Artificial Foxgloves in a number of timbers.

On the Axminster stand we came across and spent some time with Derek Nightingale, who will be running turning courses at their Sittingbourne branch in the near future. Derek had sold us our equipment several months ago and spent over four hours on that occasion giving us almost a complete tutorial.

Apart from the many beautiful bowls and spindles were several creations one might not associate with woodturning, such as Michael Clark's reproduction traction engine that won a Beginners Gold Award and a replica of a Record Elf wood lathe, by Nicholas Clark made of Sapele.



Foxgloves by Mike Leaman

There is one thing that we must mention: on the way to Axminster you can pass by Yandles of Martock — a large timber yard in Somerset with attached craft and tool shops.

Being canny they have a corresponding mini-show of their own involving

Record and Sorby — and offer a large range of timber and bowl blanks at discounted prices for the show period.

We literally filled up our motor-caravan to bursting with elm, yew, beech, poplar, oak, cherry and pine.

Malcolm saw a big burr he loved but as his financial

controller was right beside him with her calculator and icy eye on his credit card he didn't dare!

It was Brigitte's birthday the next week and Malcolm bought her a through-the-centre lathe auger and Dremel mini multi-tool tool at the show for her birthday.

Just what he wanted!

Simpson fills the gap

by Alan Elkins

Stephen Cooper called in sick so Colin Simpson stepped into the breach.

He offered us a choice: "Something Square" was the cry. So a square dish was decided upon.

Make sure the stock is truly square and mark the centre accurately. Watch your fingers on the corners! Turn fast, approach slow, caress the wood, using a bowl gouge with a fingernail profile.

Flatten the face, cut a spigot and profile the outside. Mount it in the chuck and turn the inside making the inside and outside parallel at least until you get into solid stock — then the edge will be nicely parallel.

Second half was a natural edge bowl in yew, in just 50 minutes. A branch which is not round gives an interesting end result.

Turn a spigot then the rest was completed with the piece held in O'Donnell jaws to give access for the tool to both sides.

Inside, then outside, foot adjusted and parted off. Sounds easy and appeared to be so.

Out-takes

Use big muscle groups rather than small for better tool stability: the hip rather than swinging the arm

Tannin in some woods slows superglue — use accelerator if necessary

Scraping — you want shavings or the scraper is not sharp.

Editor's note

Apologies, but no space for pictures. See our website to fill this gap!

Davis likes Oz wood

by Colin Ford

John Davis started woodturning after retiring from the police force. He followed a family tradition becoming a professional woodturner.

John often uses wood which originates from Australia. He is especially fond of jarrah which, he explained, is similar to oak — hard and dense and with natural fissures. However, he has had more success selling bowls made from red mallee, a wood which, as its name suggests, has a beautiful red colour and it was from this wood that John made a lovely winged bowl for us.

John mounted the burr initially on a faceplate; he kept the bark on as it sticks well with this type of wood. To rough out he used a $\frac{3}{8}$ in bowl gouge with a fingernail grind. He also used the bowl gouge to form a spigot for reverse mounting in the chuck. Once the underside of the bowl was made to a



satisfactory finish the faceplate was removed and the piece mounted in the chuck to enable the top of the bowl to be cut.

Starting from the outside edge of the bowl, he cut into the ghost line and formed a flat surface. At this point the bark could have been removed and the outer edge scorched if required. Scorching must be done before final cuts of the top edge are made, to enable elimination of unsightly marks. Sanding to this edge is also carried out while the lathe is static to avoid rounding over of the edge.

Once happy with the finish, John removed the bowl from the chuck and replaced it with a domed piece of wood with a piece of foam glued to it.

He then put the bowl over the foam and bought the tailstock up against the spigot on the bottom of the bowl. He then removed the spigot leaving a slight concave finish to the underside. For finishing John recommends three coats of Danish oil because wax often fills a natural edge and is difficult to remove.

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with

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2006 Programme

Date	Demonstrator/Event	Details/Subject
January 18	Jennie Starbuck	Decorative work
February 15	AGM and Frank Clarke competition	
March 15	Gary Rance	Hollow forms
April 19	Alan Hazel	Treen
May 17	John Berkeley	Screw threads
June 21	Brian Wooldridge	Thin wall turning
July 19	Dave Reeks	How to handle a burr
August 16	Practical evening and Frank Clarke competition	
September 20	Tony Walton	Bowls and platters
October 18	Colin Simpson	Design – members bring in problematic pieces for discussion
November 15	Greg Moreton	Turning large monkey puzzle bowl
December 20	Christmas Social	Details to follow

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. Check our website for further information

Meetings start at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month at:
North Cheam Sports and Social Club, 658 London Road (A24), North Cheam, Surrey
(adjacent to Sainsbury's supermarket).

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Next newsletter March

**Copy deadline
February 25th**

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