

Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 24

March 2006

Young turners encouraged

Andrew Griffiths delivers his annual report at the AGM



The association has been very active over the past 12 months, with a number of the UK's top professionals being the focus of our club nights. I look forward to these evenings and I hope the programme for 2005 has met with your approval.

As a club, we have held steady in terms of members — we've lost a few and gained a few. Last year I mentioned my keenness to encourage the younger turner into the club. We were joined by Worcester Park Scout leaders in November who thoroughly enjoyed the demonstration by Jimmy Clewes and the committee will be exploring, with them, ways of involving the scouts in club events.

We have not had as many hands-on mornings as in previous years — we are constrained by venues large enough and the hire of this hall is prohibitively expensive at weekends. However, a number of us met at the rural workshop of our events secretary late in the year and had a very enjoyable few hours. I want to discuss with you, in the open forum, the future of the hands-on mornings so I'll leave this for now.

The Frank Clarke competition continues to attract a high standard of turning. It is held bi-annually, at the AGM and the August practical evening. If you have not yet entered one of the competitions, have a go — it's open to all members of all abilities and it's a bit of fun. Tonight's theme is "bowl or platter — doesn't matter".

I have continued to press you to help run the club — possibly to the point of harassment. This is our club and its success depends on engagement. I would like to thank those of you who have stepped forward to help out at club nights.

You may remember the survey I conducted

in the last half of 2005. In total, 39 responded which at around 50% of membership is good. The survey gave me an indication of what you want from the club and how you would support it. Over 50% wanted to see more professionals giving demonstrations — but without increasing subscriptions! Similarly over 60% would like to see more members give demos but, interestingly, less than 20% would be prepared to stand and deliver! Four things got your votes for practical evenings; hands-on, sharpening, trade stands and bring/buy. Some of you showed an interest in helping out at club nights and on the committee but disappointingly there was no interest from anyone in fulfilling the roles of chairman and secretary. This is storing a potential problem for the future.

The committee has met several times during the course of the year and the meetings continue to be a challenge to keep them under the 1½-hour target I have set. There is clear enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by every member and I would like to thank each and every one of them who have worked hard to deliver in the past 12 months. Some are standing down, so thanks to Richard Hoodless and Jeff Cordery for all their hard work.

And on behalf of the committee and you, our thanks to Ron and John (audio), Brian (cameraman), Doug/Jeff (refreshments), Ron Grace (newsletter), Greg and Brian Ash (website), Malcolm (library), Alex and Don (abrasives) Chris (wood sales) and Graham (competitions).

Finally, I would like to thank you all for your support and for making the club a forum where we can enjoy camaraderie and share a common passion.

Two new faces join the old committee

by Hon. Sec. David Buskell

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

The chairman, secretary and treasurer gave their reports and these were approved.

Elections to the committee followed and, yes, we have new members!

Colin Ford has now been elected to handle events. Colin has been shadowing Jeff for this year as a co-opted member but is now elected. The programme for 2006 was put together by Colin.

We also have a new treasurer, Stuart Adey. Stuart has also been working alongside Richard to see how things are done. We welcome Stuart to the committee.

The committee would like to thank Jeff Cordery and Richard Hoodless, who are stepping down this year, for all their hard work.

Members were again asked to consider taking an active role in the club by joining the committee especially between now and the next AGM.

Subscriptions for 2007 were difficult for the committee to predict but it was decided to increase the current fee of £30 to £35, which will include

a £5 charge for the new lathe fund. You can also make donations if you wish, so we can get a new lathe sooner!

With no other business on the agenda, the chairman closed the formal part of the meeting. 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 ideas 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 items entered in the 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. Photographs appear on page 3.

I wonder what the committee will think of for the next competition – always a hotly debated topic at our meetings!

Full copies of the various reports can be obtained from the secretary on club nights or by e-mail, as usual.



Stuart joins the committee as treasurer

I remember turning a bowl at school when I was about 12 and proudly gave it to my mother who kept it out on display for years! It took only another 44 years to turn my second bowl – but once this happened I became mesmerised by the spinning wood.

I started using a Record lathe and then progressed to an Axminster/Jet 1442 (depending on which side of the lathe you look)!

As an area manager for a catering company I drive through the countryside screeching to a halt when I see a tree being felled. Sometimes, if I am lucky, I return to the car with my scrounged piece of wood thinking about what shape I can produce – I am obsessed with shapes!

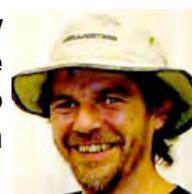
Thanks to a few day courses with Colin Simpson, I'm hooked.

Stuart Adey

Editor's note: Sorry, no picture available. See next issue!

Colin organises our programme

Second new committee member to sign up is Colin Ford, familiar to hands-on enthusiasts as his workshop has accommodated two such events. A profile of Colin will appear, hopefully, in the next newsletter.



Worthy winners with platters

Once more the standard of entries for the sixth Frank Clarke competition was extremely high. Here are the winners.



Beginner John Davidson collects his trophy from Chairman Andrew Griffiths



Exactly one year on, Richard Hoodless repeats his advanced class victory



Fred Cannings is the happy recipient of the trophy in the intermediate class

Here are some of the many entries — in all classes



Middlesex entertains Cheam

by Hon. Sec. David Buskell

A little while ago, I received a call from the secretary of Middlesex Woodturners inviting some of us along to their social evening.

Middlesex had decided to do something different from

Doggie bags were provided — and needed!

We had all been asked to bring along a piece for the instant gallery and my walnut bowl was



President, Stuart King. Stuart gave helpful comments to the turners whose work he picked up and it was all taken in good spirit. Tip of the week: make sure your finish is good quality!

Next came the raffle. I know we have an extended raffle at Christmas but this one went on for a long while. Good one; I even won a prize!

We then returned to having a chat and trying to demolish the food.

In the background Adrian Needham, the club chairman, had put on a couple of videos for those who just wanted to sit and watch. The club shop was doing good business and I think I saw a few people order embroidered sweat shirts and tee-shirts. Something for us to consider?

All in all, a very pleasant evening and well worth the trip. It's always good for clubs to meet up, I think.

My thanks to Mike, Adrian,



Spoons: from Stuart King's collection, made from a variety of woods by a variety of turners in a variety of countries!

the usual meeting and had chosen four clubs with whom they had an affiliation, to invite to their social evening.

You will remember that our Frank Clarke was a member at Middlesex before setting up Cheam and we also have a few people who are members of both clubs, hence the invitation to us. So, on a cold and foggy Thursday night I set off around the M25 and down Western Avenue to the GAA ground in West End, Northolt, where Middlesex meets.

The evening was a complete success. The first part was general socialising — and Middlesex is a friendly group to talk to.

We then had some food — more like a mediæval banquet.

displayed on the table along with a whole host of other items turned by the club



members (photo above). Then, the moment of truth. A critique by the Middlesex

Stuart and all the committee for the invitation and I hope we will see you at Cheam soon.

My wonderful new workshop

When I moved house



by Gordon Cookson

prior to getting married last Easter, I was really looking forward to a decent-size workshop (is it ever big enough?). A great change from turning in my small upstairs bedroom with thick rubber pads under the lathe legs to dampen vibrations! Hopefully, my experiences may help others.

Planning/design

My neighbours agreed to the basic plan which was for the workshop to look like a summerhouse. Initially I thought a B&Q timber summerhouse with a 5ft x 9ft shed and 15ft x 9ft workshop would do. However, under local planning rules it was bigger than a normal garden shed and because it would be within 6ft of the boundaries it would have to be of non-combustible materials.

Fortunately, it was not big enough to need either planning or building regulations permission — but electrics had to be installed by an NIC approved electrician or the council

would insist on inspecting the 18in deep power cable trench, make two wiring inspections and charge me a fee!

Building details

I decided to build the summerhouse from scratch. At first, I felt I should have been more specific when getting the quotation, but the friendly building/electrical team made really helpful suggestions as work progressed.

Thermalite blocks were chosen for the back and sides — rendered to keep out damp. To match the back of the house, reclaimed yellow stocks backed with thin Thermalites and a pitched, tiled roof were chosen.

An ugly prefabricated concrete garage would have been cheaper, but difficult to insulate and fix things to.

To preserve the view from the house of the huge trees on the other side of the railway cutting behind the workshop, the roof pitch was set just over the minimum for stability and drainage. Roof cross-ties are high enough to

hang my micro dust filter below with room for me with my dust helmet on.

The ties vibrate when certain trains pass, so the storage shelves are screwed to them. I may also have to add lips.

I chose high density fire-resistant ceiling panels between the rafters for heat and sound insulation as well as double glazing. French doors wide enough for machinery and timber are flanked by top-opening windows to thwart burglars and errant cats! These leave less space for shelves and so on and unwanted visitors can see inside!

Electrics

The supply cable will easily handle the maximum future load. The system is protected by one rcd in the house and one in the shed out of the dust.

Connection to the house electrics may not be as simple as one might hope because of certification and physical installation problems! Everyone said you can't have enough socket outlets so as I didn't know where everything was going, I settled for

Like so many other turners who say that, having changed to variable speed, they wouldn't go back, I have bought a variable speed control unit with a three-phase motor for better torque combined with an on/off foot switch.

This will need fitting into a box with a long kick bar so that I can use it when doing

deep hollowing or working through a small opening when I need both hands on the tool.

The foot switch will replace the old on/off switch which I could move to where I was working so I could use my thigh to turn the lathe off but not on.

I understand that, when turning large diameter pieces

or off-centre wood, I should use a 1:5 motor-to-mandrel pulley diameter ratio to get the required torque at the necessarily slow mandrel speed. Time will tell!

I took the advice of Richard Hoodless and bought from the very helpful firm of Newton Tesla in Warrington.

Tel: 01925 444773

www.newton-tesla.com



High-level view of Gordon Cookson's wonderful workshop

double sockets, above bench level, every three to four feet. Wiring is in surface mounted plastic conduit.

The daylight fluorescent tubes are attached to the cross-ties and in double fittings back to front to maximise shadowless light. A mains-powered heat alarm is mounted in the roof (dust would prevent a smoke alarm from working).

To combat rust — and encourage me to work in the winter — I will be fitting four- or five-foot tubular heaters with thermostats low down on each side wall and a fire-safe fan-operated ceramic or black heater for extra warmth when I start turning.

Fitting out

I didn't realise that concrete needs a month per inch of thickness to become fully dry — in my case, five to six months. If I had laid flooring earlier, it would have been ruined by the damp.

As it happened, this time passed before I was ready to cover the floor and the carpet tiles provided by Pat and Pam

Pierce have the advantage of not needing protection over the concrete — and they are easier on falling chisel edges, easy to replace if damaged and more comfortable to stand on!

I laid the pile all facing the same way to make vacuuming easier.

A local pub renovation meant I was able to salvage the parts of six chipboard wardrobes. Four were reassembled with extra shelves; other bits made more shelves fixed with

slotted shelf supports on 2in x 1in battens held with special breeze block plugs, instant grab glue and 4in x gauge 12 screws. Horizontal battens prevent bowing.

My microwave oven is now in one cupboard ready for seasoning, changing thin-wall shapes and giving woodworm a terminal headache!

Insurance/security

Both workshop and contents are covered by the house and contents policies (both the same company in case of conflicts/problems in the event of a claim). I am going to fit a five-lever lock in place of the present standard one.

Future

There is still plenty of work to do, setting up lathes and tool racks, unpacking many tool boxes and looking for a friend with a chainsaw to sort out my woodpile! This is on several pallets I saved for my wife, Claire, to stand on so that her elbow, rather than shoulder, will be level with the mandrel.

Roll on the day when I can restart turning — and should I teach Claire to turn?!

Woodturning tuition

with

Gregory Moreton RPT

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5% discount to all members of CWA

Maximum of two students

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e-mail: greg@moreton.co.uk

www.learntoturn.co.uk



Go West, young man

There's no Axminster show this year, so what will you do if you fancy going west later in the year?

Turn West 2006 is a new two-day turning seminar being launched in August 2006 in association with Hegner UK.

It will give you the opportunity to see five of the world's best turners, each with his or her own distinctive style.

Turners to be featured are:

- Donald Derry — USA
- Helga Becker — Germany
- Emmet Kane — Ireland
- Nick Agar — UK
- Our Colin Simpson — UK

The event will be held over two shaving-filled days on the 5th and 6th August at a location in Filton, Bristol.



Mark Baker, Hegner UK MD, and Colin Simpson

This has excellent travel access from the M32, M4 and M5 motorways. It will probably take only about 2½ hours from Cheam, so easier to get to than Exeter. Seems like a good buy at £125 for the two days.

For more details, check out www.turn-west.co.uk. We will get more information as soon as possible for the club notice board and a further reminder about the event will be in the next newsletter.

Helping to save valuable timber

The coastline of the south-east, from Shoreham to Eastbourne, has the world's largest population of mature elms.

The ElmAware project aims to promote these majestic trees as the distinctive feature of the outstanding natural beauty of the surrounding countryside.

Elms occasionally have to be felled, with large logs going to sawmills. Up to now

“
Up to now, the smaller wood has been destroyed
”

Jennie shows how to decorate

In January, Jennie Starbuck demonstrated to members her talent for unusual effects



Left: Jennie in full flow. Above: her collection on show. Below left: a creation with unusual edges. Below right: a spider's web bowl, complete with spider!



the smaller wood has been destroyed but ElmAware aims to find a use for this wasted resource. Examples are crafts people who would like to receive green elm wood and retail outlets willing to stock locally made wood products.

Cheam has made contact with ElmAware and is on the list of organisations to contact if wood becomes available. Details will be announced at club meetings or e-mailed to interested members.

Please let David Buskell have your details if you would be interested in receiving this timber.

For more details on this project see Woodlots, February/March 2006 issue, which can be found on the www.woodnet.org.uk/woodlots website.

2006 Programme

Date	Demonstrator/Event	Details/Subject
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

Club website: 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. 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).

Committee

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Next newsletter

June

Copy deadline June 1

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