

# Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 27

December 2006

## £3,000 Lottery award buys lathe, chuck, accessories and generator

by Andrew Griffiths



I am delighted to tell you that the application I prepared and submitted to Awards for All has been successful and the club has been awarded £3,000 for the purchase of a new lathe, accessories, tools and a portable mains generator.

This is extremely good news for CWA and the new lathe, a VivaMac, will be launched at December's club night where members will be able to try it out for themselves. It will offer a degree of flexibility not available to us before, allowing a wider range of demonstrations from small spindle work to large faceplate work.

Axminster Power Tools has put together for us an accessory pack (precision chuck and a selection of jaws) at a special price. We will also be able to add some specialist tools to our loan-a-tool scheme.

News of the award has been made known

by The Big Lottery Fund to our MP for Sutton and Cheam, Paul Burstow, who has written to me offering his congratulations to all those involved in the project (it's not every day I get a letter from the House of Commons and my wife thought it was for a knighthood!). He has expressed a wish to visit our club to see for himself the work we do and I will be contacting him to make the arrangements.

A great deal of work was put into the lottery application with numerous evenings and weekends spent in front of the computer — which is now pretty much worn out! Tony Kerlake, Chairman of Sutton Arts Council, was the independent referee for the application. Other people who contributed to the application were David Buskell (on the AWGB constitution), Stuart Adey who provided the club's financial records and I mustn't forget Colin Simpson who encouraged me to consider a lottery grant and helped me with the software.

The hard work has paid off. Enjoy!

### Chairman's greetings

Hardly seems a year ago, does it? AD 2006 seems to have flown by for me and I am looking forward to slowing the pace down a bit over the coming holiday.

I hope you are able to do the same.

It just leaves me to wish you and your families the very best compliments of the season and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year when we can enjoy the 2007 programme of events — full details of which you can find, as usual, on the last page of this newsletter — as well as making the most of the new lathe and equipment.

Andrew

### Editor's message

My thanks to all those contributors who have made my job over the past year much easier and to my proofreader/subeditor/spellchecker (Mrs G). My plea for 2007 is: scribble away some more. Don't worry about spelling, grammar or style — that's my (+Mrs) job. Hand-written, typewritten, e-mail, fax or delivered by hand; I am happy.

Our committee also deserves your thanks and support — still needed are a secretary and events organiser. Any help is appreciated; a hands-on was cancelled in November for the want of someone to make a tiny effort!

Have a great holiday.

Ron

# Making the most of specials **Part 2**

by Gordon Cookson

**D**uring a recent long weekend in Cromer, Norfolk, I very much enjoyed the Norfolk Woodturners' Turn East 2006 day seminar at Fakenham — with John Berkeley, Jimmy Clewes, David Springett and Les Thorne demonstrating. We hope to go again in two years' time for their next event.

Also, while we were in the area, David Burton very kindly showed us the process he uses with Victory oak.

The process starts with woodworm; infected pieces are treated and put into a large plastic bag with the top turned over, but not sealed, for two to three months. A metal detector is used to find hidden screws and bolts (to save on bandsaw blades) before the wood is sliced into various thicknesses.

The pieces are then laid in different-size trays, lined with heavy plastic, on a bed of two-part epoxy resin mixed with oak sawdust. This corrects any variation in wood thickness.

Dry powders are used to colour the resin. All the cracks between the wood pieces are also filled with resin.

When set, the composite sheets of wood and resin are cut into relevant sizes for the different items. When sanding surfaces flat, David has to be careful not to heat the resin otherwise it goes cloudy and spoils the finished article. The minimum

amount is turned away.

All the really small pieces of wood are also kept. Some are set into a recess with coloured resin in a wide rim to a bowl or platter. David suggested that this might be a good use for burr offcuts.

Other small pieces are set with resin and sawdust into moulds to make door stops, book ends and so on.

Wood with hidden metal is split to reveal the metal and polished as a tactile commemorative object. Other awkward-shape pieces without metal are turned minimally into small bowls for, say, keys or loose change.

Each piece is marked, using pyrography, as containing Victory oak. David is also going to use timber from the Cutty Sark when it is repaired as well as the keel of Sir Francis Chichester's Gypsy



In the June issue of the newsletter, Gordon Cookson discussed putting thin slices of rare timber on to a cheaper material. This technique is used by David Burton who makes a variety of items using timber from HMS Victory

Moth after its recent restoration.

For those interested, the address, telephone number and website address are: The Famous Tree Company, The Victory Oak Collection, The Dormouse, Church Road, West Beckham, Norfolk NR25 6NX. 01263 820092. [www.Victoryoak.co.uk](http://www.Victoryoak.co.uk).

## 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](mailto:greg@moreton.co.uk)

[www.learntoturn.co.uk](http://www.learntoturn.co.uk)



# Nuts!

...make beautiful bowls

**B**owls and platters was the subject of Tony Walton's presentation in September and he started off with a bowl made out of a Brazil nut husk. He pointed out that care is needed when turning the outside because it is already hollow! There is no grain and plenty of dust but it turns to a fine finish. Sandpaper 320 grit plus sealer and wax will finish it.

The inside of the husk is best worked with a light touch using a round-nose scraper. Tony's own-manufacture sanding ball is very effective for the inside. The finished husk looks like marble.

Second up was a large piece of oak about four years old. The outside was turned and textured, followed by dyeing with



by Alan Elkins

a vinegar-wirewool mix. When dry this was sanded down to leave good diagonal lines. This works well with high-tannin content woods.



*Inside job: Tony's sanding ball*

A superb tip: Before applying a polish, paint the work with white spirit — this highlights the marks and torn grain. You can then go back and sand. White spirit dries quickly and raises the grain for a final sand (with less dust).

## Monkey business postponed

**I**t had been Greg Moreton's intention to show us how to make a monkey puzzle bowl, but hall electricians couldn't cope with his lathe!



*Nearly finished: Greg talks about bowl gouge grinds for the very thin goblet stem*

So a log of silver birch was pressed into service and he produced a thin-stem, natural-edge goblet in double-quick time!

*Sorry — no space for a longer report.*

*Ed*

## Can you lead an eventful existence?

by Jeff Cordery



**T**he role of the Events Secretary is basically quite simple. He — or she — is required to book eight demonstrators within the budget set by the club treasurer.

These must be booked before the start of the next club year so that the whole year's programme can be published on the club website and in the newsletters.

In fact, to engage some popular demonstrators, the booking needs to be done a full year in advance. The difficult part is staying within the budget set for the year.

Also, you have to check that the current month's demonstrator will attend and has maps and directions to find our meeting place.

As Events Secretary you may also be contacted regarding other events, such as Turn Essex, to which the club has been invited.

The benefits of the post are that you get to meet and talk to a wide range of expert woodturners. You have a good reason to strike up a conversation with a variety of demonstrators, at events such as the International Wood Exhibition at Alexandra Palace, with a view to

booking them for the club.

The first thing you quickly learn is that most professional woodturners are nice, interesting people. The second thing is that reputation and costs are absolutely no indication that the demonstration will be any good.

I think a change of Events Secretary is needed as I tend to book those demonstrators I admire. I have done this for nearly six years so someone else will have a different view and book different ones. This can only be good for the club.

If you are interested in the role please talk to me.

# 2007 Programme

January 17	Les Thorne	Three bowls from one log.
February 21	<b>AGM and Frank Clarke competition</b>	
March 21	Chris Barker	Goblets and captive rings.
April 18	John Davis	Metal inlays and colouring.
May 16	Joey Richardson	Texture, colour, piercing and airbrushing.
July 18	Mark Baker	Masterclass.
August 15	<b>Practical evening and Frank Clarke competition</b>	
September 19	Chris Eagles	Splitting and turning a green log.
October 17	Nick Arnull	To be decided.
November 21	Jimmy Clewes	Another masterclass.
December 19	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. 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

Chairman: Andrew Griffiths

020 8644 1546

Secretary: David Buskell

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

Tel: 020 8657 5565

e: davidbuskell@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Stuart Adey

Tel: 01372 272143

e: stuartadey@ntlworld.com

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

March

**Copy deadline**

**March 4**

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.