

Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 29

June 2007

CWA helps to build a guitar!

Exactly a year ago, we reported on the club visit to the City of London Freeman's School in Ashted, Surrey, when Colin Simpson gave a demonstration to pupils, some of whom had turning experience. This is a follow-up from that visit.

by David Buskell

One day towards the end of September last year, Richard Hoodless and I drove up to the City of London Freeman's School in Ashted with car boots full of timber. This was in answer to a call for help from one of the Design and Technology students, Johnny Sneller.

You may recall that Colin Simpson gave a demonstration at City of London Freeman's School and we have maintained contact with Alex Kew



make a guitar and where could he get them, Alex kindly referred him to Cheam. Johnny's list of timbers was quite specific but even so, Richard and I managed to find a wide selection of pieces that

might be suitable to use. When we arrived and had unloaded, the crunch time came. Was our wood going to be suitable? Luckily, yes it was. It's always difficult to envisage the final object when you only have planks and the fittings laid out on a workbench.

We said that any wood not used on this project should be retained by the school and be used in other projects.

It seems that all went well as Johnny has now made the guitar he planned and as the picture shows, it's quite good. Not sure what it's like to play, but that's another matter!

Richard and I hope this gives you an insight to some of the projects currently being undertaken by students locally and how Cheam can help them realise the project. While the final use of the timber may not include much turning, it is good to see schools encouraging students to undertake woodworking projects which combine many skills.

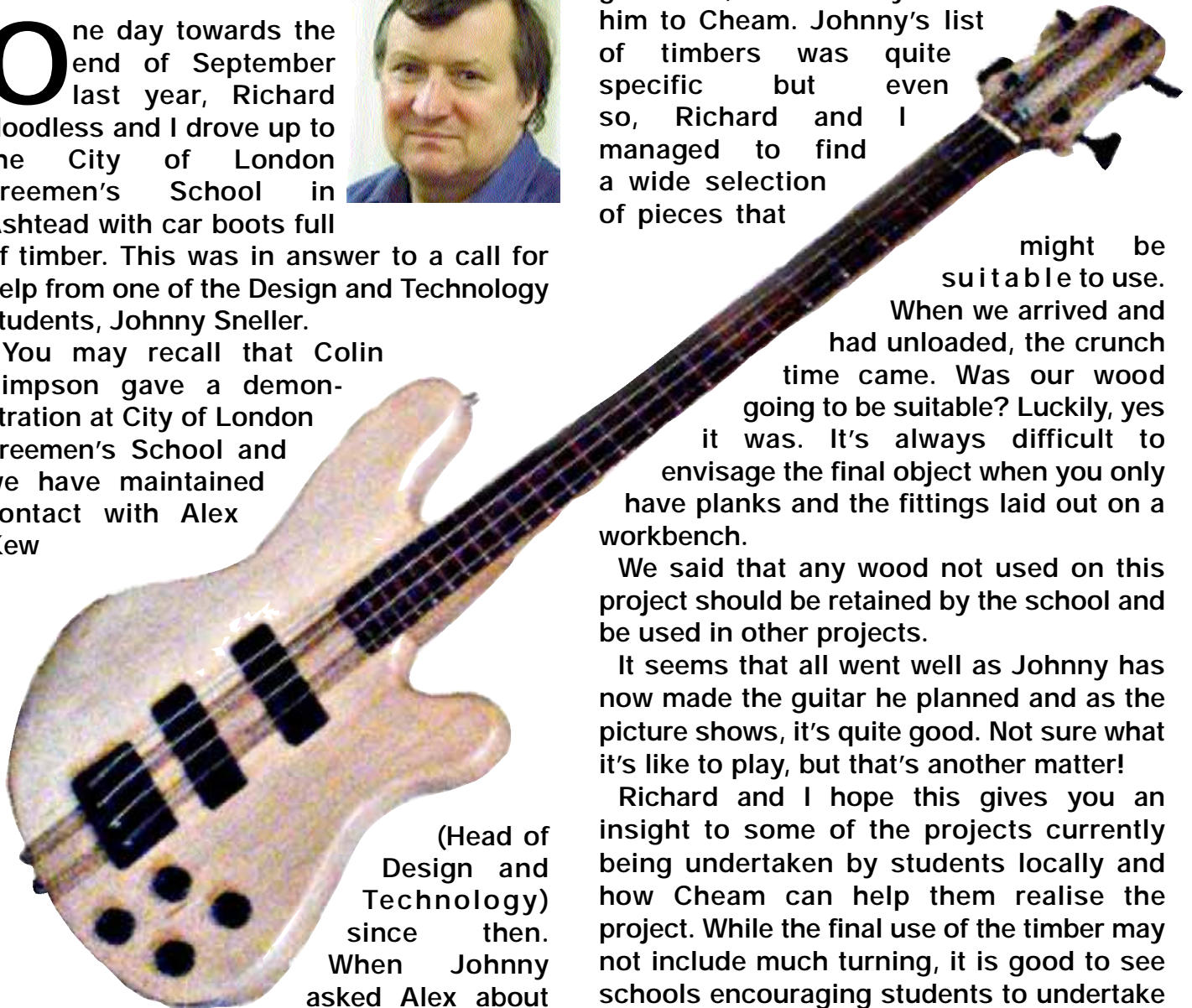


Photo: David Buskell

(Head of Design and Technology) since then. When Johnny asked Alex about suitable timbers for use in his project to

You say...

Dear Sir,

I must take issue with you regarding your write-up of the February Frank Clarke Competition in the club newsletter No. 28. Your statement that pointed out that several members cheated by making hollow forms out of two pieces and joining them together is inaccurate and totally wrong.

I saw only three entries in the competition using this method, one of which was mine and came second in the advanced section.

Turning a hollow form through a small top opening often requires expensive special tools and over the years other alternative methods of hollowing have been developed.

The obvious example I can think of is turning through a large opening in the base of the bowl and then sealing the base with an inserted piece of similar wood.

Turning a hollow form using two (or more) different woods or by cutting a single blank/log into two, hollowing and then joining them again is acceptable and common practice both by professional and amateur turners.

Many well known and respected woodturners have exhibited works turned by these methods and cannot be considered as cheating.

There are examples in various books on the subject (John Hunnex, *A Source of Shapes*) and in past copies

of *Woodturning* magazine.

There is only one answer to your accusation that we cheated — my second will meet with you to arrange the time and place for the duel.

I suggest that as regards weapons we use bowl gouges when perhaps I will have the opportunity to show you first hand hollowing out from the 'base'.

Brian Ash

Thank you, Brian, for what my memory tells me is the first letter I have received in the 3½ years I have served as editor.

Despite the fact that my remark was in humorous vein ("tut tut") I feel obliged to uphold the editorial honour and accept your challenge.

However, as challengee I have choice of weapons. So it is cream puffs at 20 paces.

Time and place I leave to you.

RG

Firewood memory aid

Submitted by
Gordon Cookson

Beechwood fires are bright and clear

If the logs are kept a year
Chestnut's only good they say
If for long it's laid away
Make a fire of elder tree
Death within your house will be
But ash new or ash old
Is fit for a queen with a crown of gold

Birch and fir logs burn too fast
Blaze up bright and do not last
It is by the Irish said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread
Elmwood burns like churchyard mould
Even the very flames are cold
But ash green or ash brown
Is fit for a queen with a golden crown

Poplar gives a bitter smoke
Fills your eyes and makes you choke
Apple wood will scent your room
With an incense-like perfume
Oaken logs, if dry and old
Keep away the winter's cold
But ash wet or ash dry
A king shall warm his slippers by

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Textures and threads

(with boomerangs!)

At our April meeting, Colin Simpson stepped in at very short notice to demonstrate some of the club's loan tools (or boomerangs as he called them — they must come back!)

by Leigh Hellings

First on the list were the spiralling/texturing tools. The thing that struck me was how variable the effects could be, changing the angle of cut and speed all make different results.

Therefore, spending time trying lots of ways of doing it seems important.

Next Colin showed us the Rolly Monroe and Big Brother hollowing tools. The basic principle for hollowing is the same for each tool. Once you've drilled a hole in the centre, either with a Jacobs chuck and bit or with a spindle gouge, you put the

to get shavings in either direction, even on end grain.



told was to practise. You need gentle, circular movements and you **MUST** let the teeth take the tool along the wood and repeat light cuts.

I do like Colin's natural, open, self-deprecating manner, especially when answering questions and he gave an excellent, interesting, often humorous, sometimes tense (during thread chasing you could hear a pin drop), sometimes noisy (during texturing it sounded like a dentist's drill or submarine dive warning!) demo.

I want to borrow the lend tools and rush home to try the techniques which were demonstrated. Do



Hollowing: tool selection a little bit on the big side for this job Colin!

Finally Colin demonstrated thread chasing — which he said he had not tried before! But he spent three hours practising and was able to demonstrate in front of all of us enquiring members. Impressive. The most important thing I feel we were



Texturing: making a pattern on a parallel spindle

tool under your arm to help stop pivotal force, tool on the rest and try to cut sideways so it's more side grain than end grain and should be easier and cleaner. You should, with practice, be able



Box lid: showing how to cut the male thread



Sample: one he made earlier showing a variety of textures

borrow these tools, they are a great resource, you could try before you buy!

The club asks that we return the tools in the same condition we borrowed them in, on or before the next club night. Let us know how you get on!

Running rings around a goblet

by Malcolm Martin

In March, Chris Barker showed us how to combine a goblet and rings from a piece of yew branch wood about 3in diameter. The piece

Being too long for his needs, he cut a spigot for his chuck on one end and cut a



Photo: Brian Chaves

Chris Barker: in chatty mood at the start of his demonstration to make a goblet

was mounted between centres to avoid the core running down the centre where the stem would be.



Photo: Brian Chaves

Just starting: the yew branch is mounted and hollow started

valuable piece off the other with a parting tool. When fitted in the chuck he removed some of the wood in the middle to a cylinder, leaving full bark on each end.

He formed the cup at the outer end using his favourite spindle gouge. He worked

from the outer edge, careful to leave the bark on the periphery. When shaped he sanded and finished the inside of the cup to a fine polish using two coats of melamine sealer rubbed down between coats with three grades of Webrax, finally buffing with a wax polish.

He then formed two rings from the body of the piece using his special 3-in-1 ring forming tool, ground both sides so that it can be used from the

left and right sides to form the ring.

Taping the rings in place he then formed the outer side of the cup leaving an interesting bark ring at the outer edge. He then carefully pared away the timber to form the stem of the goblet using a skew chisel working from the tail stock to the inner end. Sanding and polishing followed as he progressed until the foot was formed retaining the bark and final parting off.

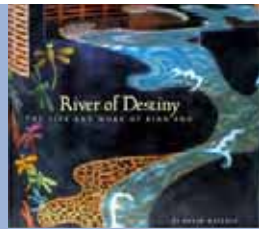
Result — a lovely goblet with a slim stem with two entrapped rings. A great demonstration of skill and technique and we were amply entertained with anecdotes and tales of past disasters.



Photo: Brian Chaves

Finished: delightfully delicate stem with surrounding rings

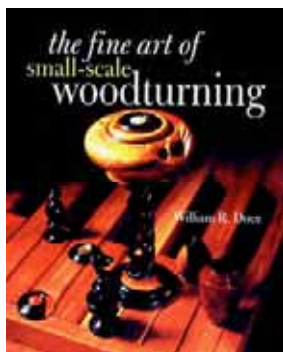
Alec Gibson has a copy of Kevin Wallace's book River of Destiny



about the life and work of Binh Pho. He is willing to lend it to members "on the understanding I get it back". Contact Alec on 0208 642 5890.

Quotable quotes

1. Turning should always be fun.
2. Turning is a personal exploration, so satisfy your inner muse first.
3. A successful turning is an equal balance between technique and design.
4. The success of your project is dependent upon a positive attitude, not expensive tools or secret tricks.
- 5 There is no shame in making a mistake; just try not to make the same one twice.
6. Never stop looking for inspiration, especially outside the world of turning.
7. A finished turning will always look better than one only half turned. By finishing what you start you just may surprise yourself.
8. The proper way to use any tool is whichever way works best for you.
9. Never be discouraged by people saying, "That's pretty, what is it?"
10. Design gimmicks and fads have the approximate life span of free burl at a turner's convention. Avoid them at all costs.



From the *Fine Art of Small-scale Woodturning* by William R Duce (Sterling Publishing Co Inc)

Gordon Cookson

Diary dates

Crafts Council

(www.craftscouncil.org.uk).

ORIGIN: 2-14 October 2007

The London Craft Fair at Somerset House, London.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY

13 November to 17 February 2008

V&A and Crafts Council joint exhibition of spectacular craft at the V&A.

COLLECT: 25-29 January 2008

The International Art Fair for contemporary objects at the V&A.

Club shop prices

Cora cloth abrasives, 100mm wide 80, 120, 180, 240, 360 and 480 grit £1 metre
Velcro discs, paper backed, 50mm diameter 60, 80, 100, 120, 150, 180, 220, 240, 320, and 400 grit 20p disc
Velcro padded discs, foam backed, 50mm diameter 80, 120, 180, 240, 320 grit. 25p disc
Velcro sanding pads £6.50
Silicon carbide sheets 600/1200grit. . 3 sheets £1
Webrax abrasive sheets, ultra, very fine and general purpose. £1 each
Safety glasses, while stocks last £1.50 pair
Latex disposable gloves £0.15 pair
Dust masks. 20p each
Moulded ear plugs, soft and flexible. 60p pair
Non-slip mats, tape measures, super glue, clamps and knives £1.50 each

New items available from June meeting

Ken Croft woodturners' polishes as advertised and recommended in May *Woodturning*.

Hard wax polish 50ml tin £1.50 each*
Hard wax polish 200ml tin £3.50 each*
Soft wax polish 50ml tin £1.50 each*
Soft wax polish 200ml tin £3.50 each*
Soft polish non-toxic 50ml tin £1.70*
Soft polish non-toxic 200ml tin £3.70*
Beeswax and carnauba wax blend stick £1*
Pure carnauba wax stick £2*

* I have bought two each of these items as a trial and propose to get more if and when club members are happy with them.
We have to buy at least 10 of each item to get the wholesale price, so we will not make a profit on the above until I place a bulk order!

NB: All items can be obtained at all times from:

Alec Gibson

25 Glebe Road, Cheam, Surrey SM2 7NS.
Tel: 0208 642 5890 Mobile: 0783 317 7972
e-mail: monalec.gibson@btinternet.com
This price list will be updated every month

2007 Programme

July 18	Mark Baker	Masterclass.
August 15	Practical evening and Frank Clarke competition	
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

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: Martin Dudley
62, Kingsley Grove,
Reigate,
Surrey RH2 8DY.

Tel: 01737 218875

e: mpdudley@onetel.com

Treasurer: Stuart Adey

Tel: 01372 272143

e: adey829@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary: Pat Pierce

Tel: 01959 573229

e: patpierce@fsmail.net

Events Secretary: Jennie Starbuck

Tel: 01932 888144

www.artycraftywoodturning.com

Raffle Administrator: Nick Paneth

Tel: 01737 761283

e: npaneth@sweethaven.biz

Next newsletter

September

Copy deadline

September 3

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.