

Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 31

December 2007

What's your resolution for 2008?

Chairman Andrew Griffiths vows to push the boundaries of his imagination during the coming year to create a winning entry in the club Frank Clarke competition — or some nice firewood!

“Anything you'd like for Christmas for your workshop?” my wife asked. It is now a foregone conclusion in our household that my woodturning obsession features somewhere on my wish list. This year will be no exception, Mrs Griffiths.



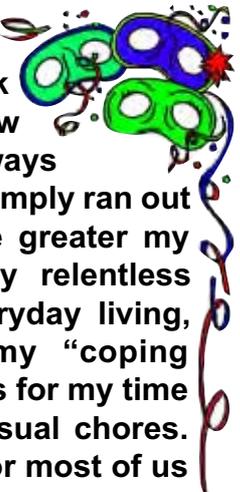
I sometimes wonder though, whether the meaning of Christmas has been lost somewhere along the line. I like Christmas morning; what sets the scene for me is getting up early and going to my local church with other hardy individuals for the “spoken” service. An opportunity to reflect.

At the last club night, I remember standing in the car park alongside seven or eight fellow turners and, while we were pouring over some freshly cut ash, rhubinia, cherry someone had brought along for us, the rain was pouring down on us and it was cold. But it didn't seem to matter. I physically took a step back to capture the moment in my mind; looking at several wet bodies, drooling over lumps of wood, I thought to myself, “this is what our club is about and we're all as mad as each other!”

The run-up period to Christmas is a busy time for some woodturners. Finding the time to



devote to woodturning seems to be increasingly difficult for me and when I lock up my workshop after a few hours of turning, there is always more that I wanted to do but simply ran out of time. The more I turn, the greater my appetite. With the seemingly relentless pressures put on us by everyday living, woodturning is one of my “coping strategies” but it competes for my time along with DIY and the usual chores. I'm sure this rings true for most of us



As Andrew mentions in this Christmas message, the next Frank Clarke competition subject is a decorated rim platter. So now is the time to don the thinking caps, get out the tools and start turning. Good luck to all.
RG

but it's important to maintain a balance and make quality time really count. And, let's face it, unless I spend more time practising, I'm never going to win the club competition! (Incidentally, the subject for the next competition in February is a decorated rim platter so get turning).

We've had some really good demonstrators visit us this year and they've given us lots of encouragement to be creative telling us to experiment, have a play, and push the boundaries of our imagination. One of my resolutions for 2008 (I not telling you what the others are!) is to set some time aside at weekends to do just that. By next Christmas I should have a substantial pile of firewood! What will your resolution be?

It only remains for me to wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 2008.

Andrew

An attentive, captive audience

On a surprisingly warm and sunny bank holiday monday in August, CWA had two sites booked at the very popular Sutton Environmental Fair held in Carshalton Park.

The club team, led by Chairman Andrew Griffiths, met early to erect the two club frame tents in which the members demonstrated the skills of woodturning, showed samples of their work and sold them to the public.

The club used the new lathe that was ably transported by Tom Seakins and all was quickly and efficiently erected by about 10.30 as the crowds began to gather.



Demonstrating: Jeff Cordery shows off his turning skills

The Sutton Environmental Fair comprised a very good cross-section of exhibitors and demonstrators of a varied skill base — including organic gardening, recycling various materials such as glass, secondhand tools, beer tents, different religious

by Phoenix

beliefs and Mystic Meg — so we at Cheam woodturning fitted in nicely! I believe we were the only woodturners at the fair this year.

Jennie Starbuck gave a very interesting demonstration of her unique and delicate style of decorating turned items

of woodturning which held an audience captive for most of the day.

Brian Ash came along to give moral support as did a few wives and family from the club.



The club double site: early on, visitors show a keen interest

which interested many members of the public. Jeff Cordery, Andrew Griffiths, Martin Dudley, Fred Cannings and novice turner Alec Gibson also gave demonstrations of the skills

I think the members who displayed and sold their works of art were all very satisfied with the effort made and I expect a few more members of the club will turn up next year.

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Personalities in focus

Alec Gibson

by Phoenix

Born in 1946 in Dorking, Alec has spent all of his life in Surrey apart from various trips abroad for work and holidays. He has lived in Cheam since 1972, Gander Green Lane, Fromondes Road and latterly Glebe Road.

He started school life in Thornton Heath, moving to Hinchley Wood County School in 1956 where he stayed until 1965, enjoying school life with plenty of sport, rugby and athletics.

He met his wife, Monica, in 1967 and they finally got married in 1970. They have two children: Joe, 34, lives in Scotland and Emily who is married and lives on the Isle of Wight with granddaughter Daisy and new grandson Zak (who is now making good progress in Southampton Hospital after a small setback following two major heart operations this year).

On leaving school in 1965 Alec started work as an export shipping clerk working for Shulton (Old Spice). He stayed until 1983, eventually being Overseas Marketing Manager for various countries to which he travelled on a number of occasions.

From 1983 until 1990 he worked for himself, gardening and property



busy with gardening, helping a builder friend, being a grandfather and trying to build a new workshop as his garage is now bursting at the seams.

He joined CWA in 2002, but started turning sometime in 1995 when he did a short course with Dudley Folkhard in Merton Mills. He has since completed a two-day course with David Reeks down in the wilds of Kent which he found very interesting. He knew David as Alec was a cub scout leader for a number of years with David's wife Helen.

His greatest achievement to date is overcoming cancer in 1980, so he is a survivor! His future aims in woodworking are to get his workshop operational and actually turn an item he can enter in the Frank Clarke Competition.

He has time for being a member of the Cuddington and Cheam Horticulture Society and watching as much sport as he can on TV.

At the moment he also runs the club shop during club meetings.

maintenance, until 1990 when he joined NBTS (blood transfusion service) where he worked as a mobile team member and manager until 1997 when arthritic knees forced him to leave,

He then joined a firm building and fitting out shops in UK, France, Spain, Germany and Italy, travelling around these countries in depth.

He took early retirement in 2002 and now keeps himself

2008 Programme

January 16	Stuart King	To be decided
February 20	AGM and Frank Clarke competition	
March 19	Julie Heryet	Chasing threads and making boxes
April 16	Paul Nesbitt	Multi-centre turning without expensive chucks
May 21	Club turners	Your opportunity to show off!
June 18	To be announced	
July 16	Mark Hancock	To be decided
August 20	Practical evening and Frank Clarke competition	
September 17	Dave Springett	To be decided
October 15	Colin Simpson	To be decided

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).

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Next newsletter

March

Copy deadline

February 29

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e: About to change — please telephone

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