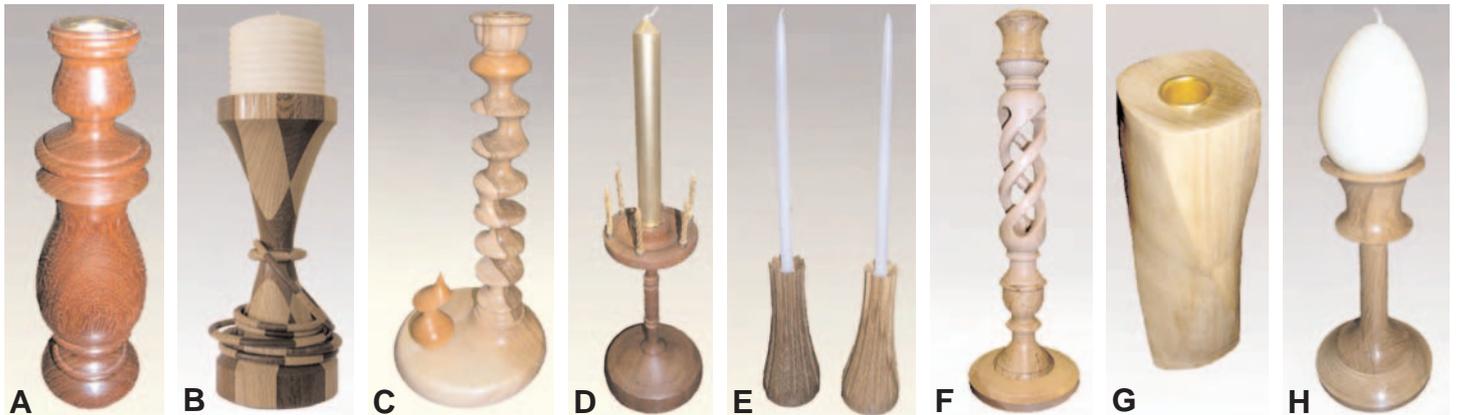


# Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 34

September 2008

## Casting long shadows

Showing a superb sense of design, members produced some excellent candlesticks for the August Frank Clarke competition. Here are some pictures to savour



A: Beg. entry. B: Beg. winner. C: Int. winner. D: Int. entry. E: Adv. winner. F and G: Int. entries. H: Trevor Etherington doubted that his effort was worth entering! What do you think?



Ron Grace (Beg), Jeff Cordery (Adv) and Malcolm Martin (Int) collect their certificates from the chairman

## Odd notes from the Emerald Isle

by Lesley Clarke

**J**ust had a disappointing day in the workshop. Next month's project is a pestle and mortar, one of which I made not that long after I had started woodturning and brought over to the Cheam competition night — August 2003. It miraculously came second — and second in the Cork Seminar

(beginners' section) shortly afterwards — so I thought I might resurrect it and put it into our competition. But no...I'll make a new one.

Our chairman had said that it is good to use fruit wood as it is usually close grained and sturdy, but I hadn't got any, so I decided to go exotic as very few of the Kerry turners have anything beyond native logs and they

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## Technical tips from Ray Key

by Gordon Cookson



### Finishing cuts and rough patches

**A** large amount of his refining of shapes is done with a spindle gouge with a swept-back grind on each side — but much longer on the right-hand side.

To refine the outside shape of a bowl he uses a shear cut with the top  $\frac{1}{2}$ in of the cutting edge on the right-hand side of his reground spindle gouge working from the middle to the edge.

To refine the top part of his signature U-shape vessels, he uses the left side of his swept-back spindle gouge at the 10.30 position.

For the outside of the base of the U-shape vessel, he moves the very long grind on the right side of the spindle gouge backwards to the centre. Yes, it does shear cut that way!

The inside of the bottom is refined with a different spindle gouge with a 30-degree grind.

To true up the bottom of platters with less ripple, he uses the back edge of a square-ground bowl gouge, moving inwards with the flute at 10 degrees away from you.

Liquid paraffin (thin version) can be used before shear scraping when the final finish is to be an oil one and the bowl can be used immediately. Liquid paraffin used to be available from chemists but now it can be had only from a vet or from an agricultural supplier.

Shear scraping (with the scraper at 45 degrees on the

**H**ere is my selection of the many tips that Ray gave us at the Middlesex one-day seminar. Try some if your methods are not working too well or if you are concerned about your safety techniques.

rest rather than the conventional flat on the rest) for finishing cuts is much easier if the edges of the tool have been rounded. Ray's design (made by Henry Taylor) is rounded on all edges and has a pointed end so there are scraping edges for use in either direction.

Rough spots on spalted timber should be treated with cellulose sanding sealer to harden the timber before taking finishing cuts and sanding.

To shear scrape the inside of a bowl, he works towards the centre.

### Using wet wood

**W**hen drying shallow dishes/platters, Ray keeps them vertical to minimise distortion.

It is better to kiln dry wood in ten weeks rather than the usual six — this saves the wood from becoming brittle.

Elliptical shapes come from wet wood nearest the edge of logs when the grain is across the width of the bowl.

Hook tools work best on wet wood.

If a vase dries elliptical with too little wood for a firm grip in a chuck, make a plug for the opening. Put the plug in the chuck and a tailstock in the centre of the base and recut the spigot.

### Detailing

**U**se a fluted parting tool to roll small beads (Note: Ashley Iles beading tools are like that).

Finish a flat surface first and then make the coves or inset beads to avoid blurring of detail when sanding.

For small details, he uses a small skew chisel reshaped to look like a scalpel.

### Hollow vessels

**A**bout 70 per cent of the inside can be hollowed out, after the depth hole, with a gouge with its flute pointing towards 10 o'clock.

Remember to clear out shavings frequently to prevent nasty catches and spoiling of the entrance hole. A piece of small diameter plastic pipe such as used on beer barrels works well!

Final shaping can be done with the  $\frac{3}{8}$ in Taylor bent shank scrapers with the straight part on the rest.

If using the Stewart lozenge scraper, trail the cutting edge at 45 degrees.

The opening for vessels up to 6in diameter is no bigger than  $\frac{1}{16}$ in.

For very small hollows up to 3in diameter, use  $\frac{1}{4}$ in shank Chris Stott hollowing scrapers. To sharpen, hone the top with a diamond file. Try making your own by grinding Allen keys.

Depressions around the opening should not be more than  $\frac{1}{2}$ in because of the difficulty of hollowing back under the rim.

If anybody can get a finger through the opening, the inside should be sanded. Use

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are always interested when new breeds appear. I found a piece of myrtle, just the right size, and turned the outside.

Not bad, but it had a few bird's-eye-like swirls and faults that were not probably the best thing to have in a seed-bashing pot. However, always looking for something aesthetically pleasing, I proceeded.

I decided to insert a piece of something really hard into the base just to impress as I found a large basket of e b o n y / r o s e w o o d / kingwood pieces that had come over from the UK with us in 2002.

I think the piece I used was sonorkling rosewood and resembled a very dark looking purpleheart. Great. I turned a plug that was long enough to go into the bowl a good way and protrude at the bottom to form a spigot, drilled a hole in the base of the mortar and glued it in.

Not bad at all for me, who rarely measures anything accurately and relies on pretty poor vision! I even shoved a handful of sonorkling dust into the hole in case the plug was not a perfect fit....Lovely!

I returned later to start hollowing out the mortar, but couldn't get it aligned in the chuck. I eventually found that the screws in the base of the large Axminster chuck were loose and the top half was wiggling about. Lucky I found the problem or there could have been a bloody mess in the workshop!

Unfortunately the piece still wouldn't sit properly between the chuck and tailstock...the glue holding the plug wasn't dry. I then spent half an hour trying to get the plug out. It would only come out about three-quarters of the way.

I tried sticky gloves, a hammer, a jar top loosener/remover, drilling holes in the spigot and inserting nails to

give leverage and finally drilled a hole right through, inserted a string and tried to pull it out — all to no avail.

It now sits on the bench awaiting divine intervention. I'll probably end up drilling it out completely and starting again. I knew I should have taken the dog for a walk!

Later...I took my dodgy mortar to the chairman last night to see if he could release the inserted plug and, to my amazement, he couldn't. It must be the first time he has let me down. We decided I'd have to remount the so far un-hollowed bowl and waste the insert in the base, which by now is well and truly stuck but at a precarious angle.

I will then have to turn another mortar and use superglue this time, not wood glue. This really galls me as I am so mean with posh wood. I can see the end result being a bag of assorted chips and sawdust!

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forceps to hold the abrasive and then Scotchbrite through the opening — not the fingers!

The flat tops on some of his hollow vessels are part of the initial piece of wood and not the separate inserts they look like! The wood is sealed with lacquer to prevent colour spread when the edge is detailed with black permanent marker.

### Improving your technique

**P**ractise, try to understand why a problem has occurred, ask others for advice and try other tools safely.

If experienced turners want to measure their speed of turning in order to decide how much to charge, remember that a professional turner will

finish a salad bowl, including initial bandsawing, in the number of minutes resulting from multiplying the diameter in inches by the depth.

## 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, as well as individual tuition, are 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.learn toturn.co.uk](http://www.learn toturn.co.uk)



# Alec Gibson Remembered



*Phoenix: the pen-name that Alec used for his profile articles on fellow club members*

fruits of his labours.

Alec was a helpful and sociable chap, a keen club member and passionate about the shop, spending many hours of his own time looking for stock and getting the best deals possible.

Alec was a great guy who will be much missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

*Ray Spanswick*

**A**lec Gibson lost his battle against cancer on 5th July at his home in Cheam at the young age of 63. Until very recently, he was a proactive member of our club, the familiar and smiling face behind the “shop”.

Alec supported the club in many other way too; writing articles in the newsletter (under his alias Phoenix); participating in craft fairs; and of course managing our shop, keeping it well stocked with bargains he had searched out for us.

Alec always had time for his club colleagues, having a laugh and a chat, never a cross word about anyone or anything, down to earth and a man of integrity.

With his passion for sport, he and I would often exchange friendly banter over my Welsh rugby shirt which I used to wear to club nights with increasing regularity once I discovered it wound him up for some reason!

I know we'll all miss Alec. He was a nice bloke. Gibson's Goods will continue trading in

his memory! The club has made a £100 donation to Cancer Research UK.

**Andrew Griffiths**  
Chairman

I first got to know Alec when our chairman asked for a volunteer to help with the club shop, to work alongside him. I soon became aware of his love for different sports and hobbies.

In his younger days he was a keen rugby player, no doubt receiving a few bruises and administering some into the bargain.

Each month I was kept up to date with the progress of his new workshop and the concerns of his neighbour, who had misgivings about its size.

With the workshop finished, Brian Ash and Jeff Cordery helped to install Alec's lathe so he could spend more time on turning and enjoying the

I had only known Alec since 2002 when he joined Cheam Woodturners.

However, being a near neighbour in Cheam Village, we met quite often. One of his major projects was to get his workshop built and operational.

Having purchased the Cheam club's original lathe and keen to get turning we had a joint sharpening session of all of his woodturning tools. Sadly, taken ill shortly after, he never was able to use the tools, his lathe or work in his purpose built workshop.

As a tribute, these photographs are of what you must agree is a great workshop built by ALEC GIBSON

*Brian Ash*



Photos: Brian Ash



# Screw threads and a masterclass

by Fred Cannings

**T**he start of John Berkeley's entry to woodturning was making cribbage pegs, chess pieces, earrings and other small work, often for antique dealers. But his demonstration in June was for the familiar Berkeley subject, Screw Threads and Puzzles.

He developed a big interest in puzzles and has made several videos and written a book on the subject.

For this demonstration his first project was a small, vase-shape box with a screwed lid to be cut from a piece of African hardwood about 5cm diameter.

A piece was cut off for the lid and the body section chucked and drilled to depth with a pilot hole. For easier cutting John favours making the male thread on the lid and the female thread inside the top edge of the box.



*John in full flow and his first demonstration item*



The box was scooped out with a gouge and a hooked scraping tool. It was well undercut to allow easy cutting of the thread. To smooth the inside John held abrasives in medical forceps. Wax was applied with Webrax and the top half of the outside was shaped, smoothed and hand finished with lacquer.

A decorative band was formed around the top by scribing two lines and making cuts between. Using a nail with a filed head in the chuck the box was held to it. The band was then in-filled with gilding cream.

Next came the underside of the lid including the male thread. John cut this very carefully to match the grain when the parts were joined. The box was finished while held on the lid. He reminded us not to polish where parts are screwed together. To complete the lid required a female thread of matching size to be cut in a hollowed spigot of reasonable waste wood. Screwed boxes always require three threads to be cut.

After the break came another box demonstration using a resin material. The general sequence was as before but gouges cannot be used or the work will shatter. Scrapers produce swarf like candy floss but not dust. The material overheats and softens easily. T-cut can be used as a polish.

Overall an interesting evening. We never made it to puzzles.

**H**ollowing, carving and ebonising were part of Mark Hancock's master class on hollow, artistic forms in July.

First Mark explained the terms parallel grain and cross grain turning. It is dangerous to use roughing gouges for cross-grain work so some tool manufacturers list them as spindle roughing gouges. Only a bowl gouge should be used for cross grain work. For smooth cutting he recommends polishing tool rests and backs of gouges.

Much of his work uses wet wood. If circular branch material with central pith is

chosen then eventual drying will cause some reduction in diameter but hopefully no serious distortion or cracking.



*Mark: with his first demo piece*

He took a piece of oak approximately 9in long by 6in diameter, mounted it between

centres and roughed it to a tulip shaped vase outline with a chuck spigot at the base end.

The spigot was chucked, but first Mark plugged the head taper with a dead centre to reduce strain on the hollow spindle and used a live support.

For a fine finish he used a hand held 0.8mm cabinet scraper in trailing mode, sharpened by holding it flat on the grinder rest.

Mark prefers shielded ring tools such as the Rolly Munro when hollowing. He warned to check regularly for chuck

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# If you go down to the woods today....

by David Buskell



**Y**ou're in for a big surprise! Certainly if those woods are just outside Cranleigh. Never mind Teddy Bears you'll find (cue scary music) woodworkers!

A jolly group of seven of us joined John Stinson for A Day in The Woods. John had laid out pole lathes, shave horses, carving and hurdle making for us all to do.

To find the site, we had to meander down unmarked

but for some reason, John seemed to be the best at this!

We had to cut hazel for the hurdles so a team was engaged on that. Bill hooks, saws and chainsaw all came in handy.

A lot of preparation work was done in the morning and we all looked forward to the healthy lunch cooked over the camp fire.

In the afternoon, we finished off the tasks we started. Fitting the legs to the shave



Photo: John Stinson

*Mark Scott shaving his legs: for the shave horses, I think (DB)*

tracks deep into the Surrey countryside, until we turned into John's area. Just to make it the idyllic spot, John kindly arranged for a couple of deer to run across our path on the way to the site.

We all tried our hand at one or two of the events. We have two carving wood spirits on sticks, someone else made a stool, others helped sort out timber for the shave horse legs. We all tried the pole lathe

horses. What do you need five shave horses for? Finishing off the stool. Even the wood spirits on the sticks found extra life and carvings.

Then time to tidy up and douse the camp fire which had done sterling work during the day boiling the kettle and cooking lunch.

We all headed off towards the main road hot, bothered, smoky but happy with the time spent in the woods.

## Cheam best in Maeldune show



Photo: Roger Jeal

*At the Maeldune Festival in Old Malden on 24th June, the Mayor of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor David Berry, chose the CWA stall as the best turned out one in the show*

## Yandles in brief

**I**nclement weather did nothing to damp the enthusiasm of visitors to the Yandles' show on 5th and 6th September.



*Just a few of the interesting pictures I took during my enjoyable day around the many stands*



*Ron Grace*

# Tumaround Tumaround Tumaround

**F**ive years. Yes, this issue means that I have produced 20 newsletters. I hope that you all have enjoyed them. Is it time to move on? Is there someone out there who is keen to sit in the editor's chair?

I have to say that it's not an easy chair. Taking the pictures is a major part (although I confess to being a bit of a perfectionist in tuning, retouching and cutting out) then comes knocking copy into shape and fitting

it all into the limited number of pages that I am allowed by the budget. Headline writing, captions, page layouts....

Still, let me know if you are interested!

Great joy. I have been elevated to being an Intermediate in the club's Frank Clarke competition by winning the beginners' platter on two successive occasions. In the past I have been second of two entries (!) first of one entry and finally first of two. Not very impressive. So I was

a little taken aback when a couple of members almost suggested I had been economical with the truth by entering my slaved-over candlestick in the wrong class.

No, gentlemen, I am not a very good turner, as several other members will testify, just bloody-mindedly determined over several weeks to make a winner.

I am looking forward to next month's Masterclass by that nice chap Colin Simpson and in November

we shall be welcoming Reg Slack.

The last time he joined us (May 2004) we were ejected from our hall by a double-booked boxing match and Reg demonstrated his skills in Brian Ash's workshop.

Let's hope that doesn't happen again and I'll see you all then in the North Cheam Sports and Social Club.

*Ron Grace*



Photo: David Buskell

*Amusement: members enjoy the fun when I show off an earlier, disastrous effort at making a candlestick for the competition — even Chairman Andrew appears amazed!*

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tightness as wet wood crushes.

About six grooves were cut on the outside using the Rolly tool then 12 longitudinal grooves using a small Arbortech tool with a chainsaw type cutter. The

club lathe index system was used and the cutter moved along the toolrest. The open end was gently mounted on the chuck, the spigot turned away to a pointed base and the Arbortech grooves joined across.

To ebonise the outside a

propane torch was used. The scorched surface was buffed with a pine brush and the grooves filed back to clean wood.

Various dyes or paints can be airbrushed on to finish. Mark's final advice was to play and have fun.

## 2008 Programme

October 15	Colin Simpson	Masterclass
Oct 26	Surrey Association of Woodturners show	
November 19	Reg Slack	Masterclass – how it should be done
December 17	Christmas social	Practical evening — charity event

## 2009 Programme

Jan 21	Phil Irons	The man with the hat — making a hat for us!
Feb 6/7/8	Alexandra Palace	(date to be confirmed)
<b>Feb 18</b>	<b>AGM, forum (Form and Finish) and Frank Clarke Competition</b>	
March 18	John Johnson	Involute turning
April 15	Club turners	
May 20	Dave Reeks	Masterclass — details later
June 13	Ashtead Village fair	Date to be confirmed
June 17	Club turners	
June 20	Worcester Park Fair	Date to be confirmed
July 15	Simon Hope	Masterclass - details later
<b>August 19</b>	<b>Practical evening and Frank Clarke competition</b>	
August 31	Carshalton Park Ecofair	Date to be confirmed

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

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### Next newsletter

December

**Copy deadline**

**November 30**

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