

Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 36

March 2009

Five new faces join committee



A new committee was elected at the February AGM, five of whom were not on the previous committee. The new members are (L to R): Jeff Cordery (Events Secretary), Brian Ash (Treasurer), Greg Moreton (Chairman), David Buskell (Secretary) and Trevor Etherington (Membership Secretary). The final picture is Nick Paneth (Raffle Administrator) who has been holding this position for the past two years.

Few entries for Frank Clarke competition

A piece of fruit as the subject of the Frank Clarke competition obviously did not appeal to members, with a disappointing entry of just one in the beginners and advanced categories. The intermediates fared little better with just five. Beginner Tony Bryan was lucky — his dog thought the apple was real and gave it a good chewing! Greg Moreton presents the trophies.



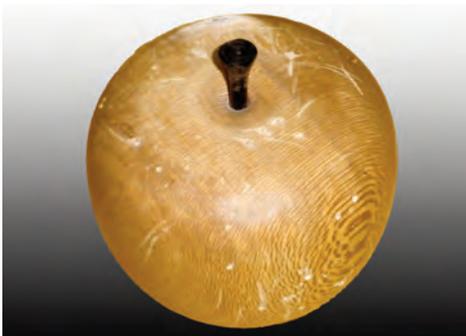
Tony Bryan: Beginner



Jeff Cordery: Advanced



Malcolm Martin: Intermediate



Tony Bryan: dog-chewed!



Jeff Cordery: gold and silver



Malcolm Martin: bowl of fruit

Photos: Ron Grace

What demos do for me

by Gordon Cookson



Having watched many professional members' demos over about 18 years, I ought to know how to turn by now. However, because I don't turn as much as I would like or practise enough, the demonstrators:

- remind me of the techniques I am rusty on.
- show me how to make things I can't work out for myself (or I haven't looked for in books or magazines — I tend to learn better from seeing it done).
- give me ideas for use on different projects.
- show a different way which might be easier, quicker, more effective or safer than the way I do it now.
- their finished display pieces inspire me to make something similar or try to develop their ideas to make them more of my own.
- satisfy my curiosity as to how something is done even if I don't have the equipment, time, skill, patience or inclination to try making the demo piece (it may well help to solve a different problem now or in the future).
- sometimes I feel that club members learn more when something goes wrong in the demo and the reason is explained.
- an inappropriate way of working is demonstrated to show a common problem (as Gary Rance did at the

Middlesex workshop evening recently with a skew chisel jumping back along a spindle — something we all must have suffered from!

Useful tips I have gleaned recently are:

From Sarah Thirlwell, who uses waste acrylic to make bracelets:

□ different ways of holding my wood ones to make cleaner cuts inside and save time on sanding.

From Greg Moreton's demo using old gate posts:

□ a way of holding awkward shape burrs.

□ how to position regular and odd-shaped pieces of wood on a faceplate with four independent jaws.

From Phil Irons' hat demo:

□ the use of a rusty faceplate (in my case a small screw chuck with the screw removed) to considerably speed up the roughing out of the outside of 18 souvenir coasters for the family (from elm used to restore the Cygnet — see my article in the last newsletter).

□ the use of sharp pieces of dense, dark hardwoods to decorate items made out of light coloured woods.

□ and, if I ever get a lathe with a hollow headstock, how to put a light inside a thin-wall bowl or vase to check the wall or bottom thickness when reverse chucking.

□ how to grind the top edge of a fingernail grind on a gouge.

□ a reminder of the different grinds needed to make deep bowls or vases.

In short, demos encourage, inspire and delight me.

You are not alone!

by David Buskell

We all know that woodturning is a bit of a solitary hobby, standing all day at the lathe with only timber and tools for company.

Woodturners are also notoriously generous with their advice and information and we are lucky to have the opportunity to talk to our colleagues at club night about any problems we may have encountered.

For example, I had problems photographing my work so I put a posting on one of the internet forums and waited for replies. I got 14 from all over the world, giving advice and giving suggestions.

Woodturning forums on the net are a good source of advice (links below):

- Woodworkers Institute run by GMC UK Workshop
- Get woodworking, run by the Ally Pally show people.
- There's also the AWGB Forum although this seems to have fallen in popularity.

These forums give you the opportunity to post questions and you'll get answers from all over the world, as I have found.

There are also For Sales and Events sections. Have a browse and see what there is. GMC is even giving away a book if you register for its forum!

Are you stuck for a design idea? Well, there are a few good places on the net for design ideas. Try <http://www.woodturningdesign.info> and download the excellent tutorials on Looking & Seeing — they have some good common sense ideas and excellent suggestions.

The American Association of Woodturners has an excellent gallery and forum so you get the best of both worlds there, design and information.

I'm sure there are other resources and if you know of any, please do let us know about them.

The links are:

- Woodworkers Institute:
<http://www.woodworkersinstitute.com/>
UK Workshop:
<http://www.ukworkshop.co.uk>
Get woodworking:
<http://www.getwoodworking.com>
AWGB: <http://www.woodturners.co.uk>
Woodturning design:
<http://www.woodturningdesign.info>
AAW: <http://www.woodturner.org>
Happy surfing!

Think about it!

Welcome to our new committee — especially Chairman Greg who stepped into the breach to join five members who have served on committees before.

While I wish them all the very best for the coming year, I feel that the lack of new volunteers does not reflect well on the club.

Think about it for next year. You may well enjoy being part of the organising team.

Totally bonkers!

Richard Littlejohn of the *Daily Mail* is always banging on — rightly in my opinion — about the way in which the 'Elf 'n' Safety fanatics are taking over the world, much to the discomfort, and often cost, of the public at large.

It seems that someone has left the asylum door

Health and Safety Notice

Please be aware of potential hazards and avoid walking across the plastic sheet and around the electrical equipment unless you need to be there. You are advised to protect your eyes if you choose to come near the lathe whilst the turner is turning.

open with the arrival of 'Elf 'n' Safety in the hallowed portals of the CWA clubroom — see picture above.

Now, while I am in favour of due care in both workshop and clubroom, putting up notices, more appropriate to school-children, in an adult club for woodturners is totally bonkers.

Here are some choice examples from Mr Littlejohn:

- An amateur dramatic company in Brierley Hill, Staffs, planned to stage a performance of Jack And The Beanstalk. They were told that despite the beanstalk being 30ft tall,

Jack would be allowed to ascend just 4ft of it — and only then with a harness and hard hat.

- A local council proposed to cut down horse chestnut trees in case conkers fall and hurt people — they never have in umpteen years.

- Jobsworths ordered pubs and local authorities to take down hanging baskets of flowers in case they fall and hurt somebody — they never have in living memory.

- Binmen have been told to wear earmuffs while collecting glass for recycling — slooowly so as to make less noise in order to protect their hearing.

Heaven help us says Littlejohn. I agree. I strongly object to being ordered around like a delinquent five-year-old (a milestone I passed nearly 70 years ago!).

Ron Grace

AGM minutes

A full report of the AGM discussions is not included in this newsletter.

If you wish to see the minutes of the meeting, these will be posted on the noticeboard in the near future.

However, if any member wants a copy, this can be obtained by sending an e-mail to David Buskell: davidbuskell@yahoo.com

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
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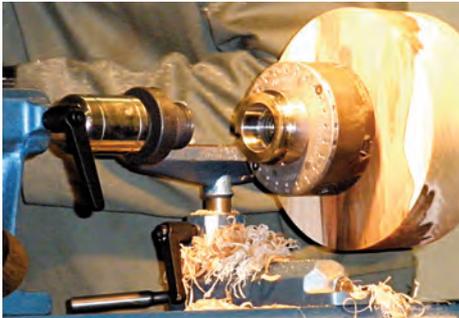




Photos: Ron Grace

Phil Irons — the man in the hat (because he generally wears a Texan style headpiece turned from a solid piece of wood) was our demonstrator for January. His talk was mainly about sharpening followed by the turning of a small-scale hat.

If you cannot sharpen properly then you cannot turn properly. Phil is a firm



Two chucks: great solidity of mounting for hat making

believer in jigs — and he sells them! He explained the differences between forged tools and those ground from solid bar.

Forged tools cannot be ground to a fingernail shape.



Full size: one example from Phil's display table



Question from the audience: Phil doesn't seem too sure!

This requires a jig, which enables tools to be sharpened at a constant angle. He explained how to form the fingernail shape on a new (or old) tool by holding it flute down on the grinder rest before sharpening the cutting edge

Next came some advice about the safe holding of tools, suggesting to keep one's thumb along the tool and fingers below the tool-rest.



Bulb aid: even thickness of timber is helped by backlight

In answer to a question about grinding kit, Phil suggested using a 1400 rpm machine with white wheels and a True-grind jig.

After tea break a piece of green apple wood was mounted on a small faceplate and roughed to a cylinder. A spigot was turned on both ends and a chuck fitted to each spigot. One chuck was on the head-stock and the other supported by a special revolving tail-stock with a thread to suit the chuck,



Bang: unfortunate demo end — but see the even thickness

giving great solidarity of mounting.

The small hat (about 10 x 10 cm) was roughly shaped and a very thin rim cut using a lamp above the head-stock to judge thickness. Next the inside was scooped out.

Cutting the outside was achieved by mounting the hat



It was this big!: questions answered with aplomb

on a special hollow jig with a lamp inside, powered via the hollow head-stock.

Unfortunately at this point a split developed and the demo had to end.

Experts show their Christmas spirit

Skill, combined with speed, were vital ingredients for club turners who took turns to make a miniature Christmas tree during our December social. Here are some pictures of those brave souls who risked their reputations in front of the mob, the results of their efforts plus the exhibition table!



Jeff Cordery



Greg Moreton



Peter Westermann



Gordon Cookson



Very attractive results



Andrew Griffiths



The exhibition table

Pressure on space means that only one item (below) can be shown from the exhibition table. RG

Photos: Ron Grace



David Buskell: platter

2009 Programme

April 15	Robert Sorby	Demonstration + tool sales
May 20	Dave Reeks	Masterclass
June 17	Club turners	Using green wood
June 20	Ashtead Village Fair	
July 15	Simon Hope	Screw threads and decorative finishes
August 19	Frank Clarke Competition	Plus practical evening
August 31	Carshalton Park Ecofair	
September 16	Gary Rance	Spindle masterclass
October 21	Club turners	
October 25	SAW Open Day	
December 5	Fairfield Halls Fair	
December 16	Christmas social	Plus practical evening

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

June 2009

Copy deadline

May 30

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PLEASE NOTE CHANGE

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