

# Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 39

December 2009



## Making our presence felt

**F**or a few doughty members, exhibitions and suchlike must seem like home from home as they give up a lot of their spare time blowing the CWA trumpet.

At the Fairfield Halls Brian Chaves, Malcolm Martin, Chris Barrett and Trevor Etherington (pictured) plus David Buskell and Pat Pierce were the flag-wavers.



Brian and Malcolm looking after the stand at Fairfield Hall



Chris and Trevor doing a stand-minding stint

**T**hanks to David Buskell for his photographs here and on page 2 — without them this would have been a very brief newsletter. RG

## Chairman's Christmas waffle\*



**T**his time last year if anyone had said I would be writing a chairman's address for the Christmas newsletter I would have thought they were daft. Still — here I am. And here you are, reading it.

This year there have been a lot of changes, not least a rookie chairman. Please do speak to me, or to any member of the committee, about whatever you like or don't like; what you would like to see more, or less, of. This is your club. Obviously we can't please everyone all the time. But we need you to have a say in how this works so we have a better chance of pleasing most people most of the time.

Following member feedback from the 2008 AGM we have been experimenting with a new format which relies more on hands on evenings and fewer big-name demos. Personally I have enjoyed the variety. To my mind it has given all of us more of a chance to get up close and personal both with the equipment and with the demonstrators. Although obviously not in any improper sense!

More recently we have changed from our long-standing association with the Cheam Sports and Social Club. This was partly driven by *Goals* who bought up part of the land to build their grounds. There were so many footballers parking in the car park that access for club members and demonstrators had become all but impossible. However, there has been a beneficial side effect in that our new venue, Elmcroft, is also cheaper to rent; bringing a smile to Brian's face.

We have started using the projector and screen this year, to try to allow everyone to see the detail of the work in progress. This has not been without its technical challenges, not least when it blew a fuse while watching me; but the feedback we have had thus far has been positive. Our current projector has been very kindly lent to us by Tony Bryan. We have decided that this is a useful tool and are hoping to be able to buy a new one for ourselves. If any member has any particular knowledge of these, the committee would be grateful for the assistance in choice.

Our club lathe has new wheels; hopefully reducing the

*Continued on page 2*

\*Greg's own heading! Ed



# Memories are made of...pics

No words submitted but lots of pics from David Buskell of September, October and November club evenings. Enjoy...



September 16  
Gary Rance



October 21  
Club members demonstrate



November 18  
Greg Moreton

## January AGM and forum

**Notice of AGM  
Wednesday January 20**

**A**part from the usual reports from members of the committee and election of officers (nomination forms available from the secretary) there will be an **OPEN FORUM**

to encourage members to raise any and all items relating to the club.

The survey which you will have received, and hopefully replied to, will form the initial basis of this discussion and we hope you will participate in the open forum. *The Committee*

### Like the new layout?

Tell me your thoughts. Too small? Wrong shape? Pics not big enough?  
**Ron Grace** (for contact details see back page)

**Chairman's waffle**  
*Continued from page 1*  
strain on those who have to move it. Although this has meant that we are now able to cope more easily with one or two volunteers please don't let this

put you off any offers of assistance which might have been on the tip of your tongue. The more people we have to get involved the less onerous the task is on any one of us.  
Let me conclude by thanking the hard working and long

suffering committee, and those who regularly volunteer — you know who you are. Let me also wish you all a happy and wood filled Christmas. May your lathes turn freely and your workshops be warm in 2010.  
*Gregory Moreton RPT*

# Looking after yourself

Gordon Cookson collects many snippets of information and passes them on to us for our interest and, often, our own good! Here he offers some safety tips from Craft Supplies USA and Good Woodworking.



*Some of these tips may sound like teaching granny to suck eggs, but they could remind us not to be careless when working with sharp tools*

## From Craft Supplies (selected by editor):

Always wear a full face shield. Safety glasses are not sufficient protection against flying debris.

Always use a dust mask or air filtration system and wear adequate hearing protection.

Don't wear loose clothing, gloves or jewellery as they may become tangled with the lathe.

Before starting the lathe, make sure the spindle speed is correct for the size of work being turned. Also, rotate the work by hand to ensure it clears the tool rest.

Be sure the work is securely mounted and free from imperfections or poor glue joints.

Make sure belt guards and covers are in place as well as keeping the tool on the rest before making a cut.

Use the tailstock wherever possible.

Remove the tool rest support before sanding and finishing.

Do not overreach. While many of today's tools have long shafts, they cannot reach long distances over the toolrest.

Keep tools sharp - blunt tools need excessive pressure to cut — with disastrous results.

Properly dispose of rags — and do not leave finish containers open.

Never leave the lathe running unattended.

Stay alert, take frequent breaks and do not carry on when tired.

## Safe lathe speeds

Diameter x rpm = 6,000 to 9,000

So for an 8in diameter bowl:

8in x 750 rpm = 6,000

8in x 1125 rpm = 9,000

Thus the slowest speed recommended is 750 rpm; highest speed is 1,125 rpm.

For out-of-round pieces, use a slower speed until the work is turned round.

Note: 6,000 and 9,000 are not lathe speeds.

## From Good Woodworking (Stephen Simmons on furniture restoration, but equally useful for turners):

Keep a diary of mistakes, note what you think were the causes, your solutions, your degree of success and any other possible options that occurred to you later. Find the time, occasionally to browse through the diary.

# Andrew says

# Farewell



After many years of membership of CWA, most of which were as your chairman, I've decided not to renew my membership of the association.

I have some concerns with the governance of our club and with how some see fit to promote practices with which I do not agree.

I've enjoyed the strong camaraderie and the support that I was given in my tenure as chairman.

As one of the very few founder members remaining, the decision to move on has been a very difficult one for me, but so strong are my concerns that I feel it is my only option.

I sincerely hope the CWA prospers. Have a great Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

*Andrew Griffiths*

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with

## Gregory Moreton RPT

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e-mail: [greg@moreton.co.uk](mailto:greg@moreton.co.uk)

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



# 2010 Programme

January 20	Annual General Meeting	Take part in running your club.
February 17	John Plater	Shapes that sell.
March 17	Mark Baker RPT	Masterclass.
April 21	Gary Renouf RPT	Design and decoration.
May 19	Practical	Discussion on design. Why shapes work.
June 16	Practical	Help in design: useful critique of members' work.
July 21	Allan Beecham RPT	Spindle turning.
August 18	Practical	Candlesticks and lamps.
		Long-hole boring, design.
September 15	Practical	Antique restoration. Shapes for legs/finials/ ornaments. Splicing legs. Raising grain.
October 20	John Johnson RPT	Simple hollow form..
November 17	Practical	Hollow turning: end/side grain; two bowls; Brian's method. Tools.
December 19	Christmas social	Social evening plus events and Frank Clarke competition.

**Club website: [www.cheamturners.co.uk](http://www.cheamturners.co.uk)**

In addition to the above there may also be ad hoc tree harvests, hands-on mornings and exhibitions. Changes to the above programme may be necessary at short notice due to unforeseen circumstances. Check our website for further information.

Meetings start at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month at:

**The Colin Peel Hall, Elmcroft Community Centre,**

**570 London Road, North Cheam, Surrey SM3 9AB (adjacent to Sainsbury's supermarket).**

## Committee

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## Next newsletter

**March 2010**

**Copy deadline**

**March 1**

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