

Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 41

June 2010

All hands on lathes

**“Farmers fear unkindly May
Frost by night and hail by day”
Thus goes the delightful old
Flanders and Swann Song of
the Weather.**

**But the weather was warm in
the Elmcroft Community Centre
when members took up their
gouges, skewers and parting
tools to practise under the eyes
of some of those more
experienced. Here are some of
the pictures I took.**

by Ron Grace



A tale of a cheeseboard

by John Dye

One of a rare breed, John is a volunteer scribe, making the editor much happier. Are there any more like him in the club?

A friend of mine, having seen a platter I made, asked me to make a cheese board for him .

I thought I would use a fairly large piece of sycamore that I had — about 15in in diameter and 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ in thick, cut reasonably round on the bandsaw.

My lathe is not large enough to take this over the bed, but has a swivel bowl-turning headstock, which I thought was ideal. Also, as I wanted to show off and impress, I thought the design should be as big and thick as possible without any visible recess.

Here I should add that this was the first time I had attempted anything as big as this. So my action plan — you all have plans of action, right — was as follows.

Make a suitable waste spigot that will fit into my chuck (for those of you who want to know — Peter Childs master chuck). Glue spigot to cheese board and use extendable jaw thingys to hold edge when one side trued and sanded. I didn't plan to use

any finish. Easy peasy — spigot made; glue...

...hmmm, should I use paper/woodglue, PVA, superglue?

OK, it's a big beast so superglue — loads of it was the preferred way. Cleaned the blank off with 80grit and had a flat surface. Spigot got the same treatment.

Superglue on spigot and fingers, realisation I had not marked the centre of the blank. Never mind, guess with eye. Plonk — spigot on blank, fingers stuck to spigot — lucky me only one hand stuck. Ever tried to manipulate a heavy chunk of wood, with one hand stuck to it, to try to get it into a table vice, with impressively made extended bits so that this big beast can be securely stuck? If you feel the need, try it. You won't do it again.

OK so in the vice, cramped on, how to get my fingers unstuck? This is when you really make good use of a skew chisel; it takes off a layer of skin yes, but it does also part the fingers from



the wood. Superglue is fast-acting, it's a big chunk of wood, so leave it in the vice for an hour or so. Luvverly jubbly, as some wise man once said. Time for a cup or two of tea.

Returned after said hour or thereabouts, got potential cheese board attached to waste spigot onto headstock which was suitably swivelled, spigot engaged in Mr. Childs finest securing mechanism — tool rest in position, manually turn the wood (as we all do to test tool rest in correct position) lowest lathe speed selected, bowl gouge sharpened and poised.

Happy days — turn the lathe on and sycamore spectacularly parts from the spigot and flies off to the right like a catherine wheel. It hits the wall, bounces back towards me, misses my head by about half an inch and beds itself in the door of a cabinet, smashing through a wood panel. That wasn't supposed to happen I thought.

Plan B, new design, its going to be a lot smaller, its going to fit between centres and its going to have a recess.

Guess what, it worked!

So over to you guys, where did I go wrong in the first place? I look forward to being enlightened in the next newsletter.

Turnings and tools

Don't let long-forgotten turning efforts linger in the loft, cupboard or wherever — put them to good use for a worthwhile cause.

The Diamond Riding Centre for disabled adults and children, in Carshalton, has an open day on September 19. Anything from a light pull to a bowl will help to raise funds. If necessary, I will collect from you.

Unwanted hand tools (not electric) will come in handy for my other charity, Tools for Self Reliance. Rusty? Blunt? Don't worry, they will be transformed in our local workshop.

Any tools (carpentry, plumbing, mechanics) except gardening, are welcome; and African ladies want Singer sewing machines with round bobbins and side handles.

Call me: David Dawson, 020 8647 1718.



Diamond Riding Centre

Toolpost invites you

As in previous years, Toolpost is holding its Spring Open House at its showroom, Unit 7 Hawksworth, Southmead Industrial Park, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7HR.

Dates are Friday and Saturday June 25 and 26; hours 10 am to "around 5pm — or later if you're still enthralled".

Jan Hovens from Holland will be demonstrating miniature turning and thread chasing, Tracy Owen covers hollow forms and Andy Harrison will deal with timber conversion — from Bole to Board.

Entry is free, as is parking, while free light refreshments include the plea to contribute to Macmillan Cancer Support.

A good tip is to go on Saturday which Peter Hemsley assures us is not so crowded.

Need more timber?

Westonbirt Arboretum holds timber sales (9.30am to 1pm) on the second Sunday of every month except August when sales will be during the Festival of the Tree from August 27 to 30.

Westonbirt is three miles south-west of Tetbury on the A433. Nearest motorway is the M4, exit at either junction 17 or 18.

Admission: £8 adults, £7 concession. Details: Tony Pearce on 01454 261 808 or anthony-pearce427@btinternet.com.

Got a VB or Hegner?

Technology Supplies has acquired Hegner UK. The company now supplies Hegner, VB and Multistar equipment.

Contacts

Sales: 01630 637375

Technical: 01630 637376

Web: www.hegner.co.uk/system

Yew puzzler

by David Buskell



Thanks to all volunteers who manned the lathes and to the members who had a go at the May evening.

Over on the club's M950, we had a yew blank which was causing a lot of interest because of its colour. The piece had a lot of lovely purple streaks due to ironisation and looked dramatically different from normal yew.

A few members had a go and the collaborative effort was a small bowl. We had one small problem: small ridges near the edge of the bowl and for some reason they would not go away!

We didn't get a chance to ask Greg what to do so I brought the piece home. You'll be pleased to know that a freshly sharpened spindle gouge and a fast speed cured the problem! I'll bring it along to the next meeting for everyone to see.

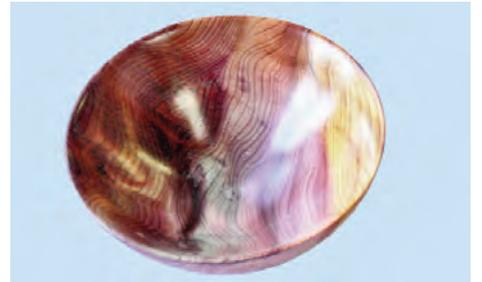
Perhaps we should encourage more collaborations among members — could this be the next topic for the annual

Frank Clarke competition?

If you have collaborated with another turner, let us know and bring in the work for display, we'd love to see it.

John, Sean and all the team from SL Hardwoods in Croydon were present at their open day on Saturday May 22. The small show had demonstrations from Chris Pouncey of Sorby, Mark Raby on finishing and some local woodcarvers.

SLH is the only local supplier of blanks, tools and findings in the near vicinity so we should do our best to support them. If you go along, please remember to let them know you are from Cheam Woodturners.



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

www.learntoturn.co.uk



2010 Programme

July 18	Belmont Festival	Family fun day out.
July 21	Allan Beecham	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	Simple hollow form.
November 17	Practical	Hollow turning: end/side grain; two bowls; Brian's method. Tools.
December 15	Christmas social	Social, events and Frank Clarke competition.

2011 Programme

January 19	AGM	Take part in running your club.
February 16	Stuart King	History and turning.
March 16	Practical	
April 20	Dennis Keeling	Segmented work.
May 18	Meantime Design	Using Meantime products

Club website: 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).**

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Next newsletter

September

Copy deadline

August 29

Ron Grace

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