



Cheam Woodturners Association

Associated with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain

Twinned with Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association



by Trevor Etherington

February 2015

Keeping ahead of the game

Richard Hoodless kept a keen eye on discussions at the AGM and reports on how the club is progressing. He follows up with the evening's demonstration by Alex Bellringer

About 40 members attended the AGM on 21st January. The chairman thanked the committee and mentioned that the secretary had promoted the club in Oklahoma which led to the CWA being twinned with the Central Oklahoma Woodturners Association. He thanked John Fenn for keeping a tight rein on the finances.

In the treasurer's report, John pointed out that, although the income for 2014 was down in all categories, the club still had a healthy reserve of funds.

Jeff Cordery and David Buskell resigned from the committee and two new people, Derek Dowle and Chris Taylor, had been nominated to serve and the new committee was voted in en bloc.

A discussion followed on various topics and, after the tea break, Alex Bellringer gave a short demonstration (similar to that in December) on how to make a pen from short pieces of coloured pencils glued together.

For this Alex used a carbide ring tool for turning the blank to the rough shape, followed by sanding with 80grit abrasive to produce the final shape.

He then continued the sanding using abrasive from 120 to 400grit. Finally the pen was finished by applying a number of coats of super glue, wet sanding to 800grit and then using a polishing compound to produce a high gloss finish.

Your new committee members for 2015

Chairman, Derek Dowle (derek.j.dowle@btinternet.com)

Secretary, Trevor Etherington (tjetherington@googlemail.com)

Treasurer, John Fenn (johnfenn197@btinternet.com)

Membership, Chris Taylor (chris.r.taylor@hotmail.com)

Events, Bob Higgins (bobhiggins@virginmedia.com)

Communications, Ron Grace (ron_grace@btinternet.com)



Derek Dowle



Trevor Etherington



John Fenn



Chris Taylor



Bob Higgins



Ron Grace

If you have any comments, corrections, or items to add, please contact e-news editor: ron_grace@btinternet.com

We look forward to seeing you all on February 18

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On last month's show table

The January show table was minimalist but of high quality. Members are urged to bring more for February



David Buskell: Chilean laurel burr topped with Pomelle sapele on an ebonised Panga Panga base



Chris Taylor: beech and laburnum, Danish oil



Derek Dowle: cherry, finishing oil



Gordon Cookson: recycled plywood, glued at an angle then spiralled

John Plater missing! A diary mix-up means that John Plater will not be demonstrating in February

Plan B is in action after John made a diary error, so now the February club night will be a (still enjoyable) mixture.



Richard Hoodless will be chasing some threads with a small group of members in one corner of the clubroom, while it is hoped that members will bring along tools for sharpening lessons and practice in another.

Fear not, John's absence is temporary. He will be with us in March when his planned demonstration for February — natural edge forms — will be on the menu.

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Deadline!

March 1st is the LATEST date for submission of words, pictures, for sale, wanted items (and agony uncle requests!) for the March e-news.

Parking

Sainsbury's has lifted parking restrictions for the moment but please be watchful for any changes.

Also, do not forget that entry to the clubroom is not allowed before 7.30pm.

Who wants to swap a piece of work with me?

David Buskell gives the low-down on swaps and WoW

That's a leading question! In the UK woodturning fraternity, there is not generally a culture of swapping pieces of work among turners but this does exist elsewhere in the world.

Most swaps are organised by WoW — The World of Woodturners.

At every event in the world (except the UK — more on that later) where woodturners gather, there's usually a WoW Swap. A lot of turners are members of the WoW family and gather together at each event to swap work with one another.

What is the WoW family?

Wow is The World of Woodturners: The website tells us that "The World of Woodturners site (WoW) originated in November, 2001. At its start it was the only interactive site where woodturners could post photos and descriptions of their work and engage in discussion about their art. WoW members think of themselves as a family. They are artists who have become friends and who willingly share their talents and skills.

"This is a place where the novice freely mixes with the elite professional in an atmosphere of shared respect. Nobody is anonymous and everyone uses their own name. From this venue has arisen some incredible art, some of which can be seen in the public gallery."

Visit www.thewows.com for more information.

Joining the WoW family is by invitation from an existing member or by contacting admin on the website. I'm happy to provide invitations for those who are interested.

What is the WoW swap? The rules are, there are no rules! You get a piece of work from a turner you have never met before and possibly from another country and you don't know what the piece is going to be — that's the fun of the swap experience!

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How does the swap work?

You take a piece of your work to the event, place it on the main table and take a ticket.

When your number is called, so is another number — that of your swap partner.

You collect your pieces from the table, go to the photo area, exchange pieces and smile for the camera!

Afterwards, most people spend a few moments making friends with the owner of the piece they have just received and getting some information about the work or the turner. It could even be the start of a lifelong friendship — who knows?

When all pieces have been taken from the table, we gather together for a group photo.

The individual swap photos and the group photo are posted on the WoW site.

I mentioned the swaps do not happen in the UK. Well, that is not strictly true. The UK does have gatherings of woodturners but for some reason, a swap is not part of the event. The UK members of WoW have organised their own swap among themselves and this proved to be very successful. A couple of us got UK members who were resident overseas for some strange reason. For example I had to send my piece to Canada.

The WoW site provides an insight to the wider world of woodturning and turners and is not centred around one country, style or individual. All our galleries are open to each other and we can ask for critique if we wish.

The key accolade we all strive for is to be chosen as Cover Photo for the day. I was lucky enough to have a piece of mine chosen for the cover photo on October 28th 2013. The work was called *Time Set In Stone* and was a skeleton clock in an olive surround mounted on a specially made stand by our local blacksmith. The base was a large piece of granite.

Have a look at the site and experience the WoW factor for yourself!



Time Set in Stone