

Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 32

March 2008

Life at Bevel's Rub in the Kingdom of Kerry The Adventures and Angst of an Aspiring Artiste

by Lesley Clarke

My turning proficiency has taken a few leaps over the past year, possibly more forwards than backwards, but my output has not been vast. In the past my frugality with wood, not wanting to waste the tasty bits so lovingly preserved from Frank's stash, probably caused me more problems than I might otherwise have encountered, but now I actually dare to try my skills on some of the larger pieces of timber that he prized. Having said that, the items do not necessarily end up being bigger, but I do have a good pile



The original Frank Clarke Memorial Trophy and 1/3-size replica that the winner retains, awarded at the Kerry seminar

of shavings to keep the pot-belly stove going!

A feature of many of our monthly workshops is that of problem-solving — usually following the tea-break. I

have to admit that they are usually my problems, but it is most rewarding and entertaining to hear the variety of devices and techniques that members might use to solve them.

So far this year they have advised and shown me how to clean out the inside of a small, burry hollow vessel without the piece shattering (wrap it in duct tape and use a

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Rim winners

The Frank Clarke Awards
(a platter/bowl with decorated rim)

Presented by Colin Simpson



Advanced winner: Jennie Starbuck



Advanced runner-up: Richard Hoodless



Intermediate winner: Fred Cannings



Intermediate runner-up: John Davidson

Some other entries

Below and below left



Beginner winner: Ron Grace



Life at Bevel's Rub

Continued from page 1

suitable hooked hollowing tool); how to clean up the inside of a largish plant pot that had miraculously acquired nasty, shaky rings after a design modification had caused the walls to become rather thin (reduce the speed to a bare minimum and use a very sharp, large round-nose scraper); and explain why a beautiful piece of rock hard and very weighty satinwood would not run true after affixing the recessed foot on to the chuck and why it could not be successfully sanded (problem solved by using a Nova chuck instead of the deeper Vicmarc one and, back to basics, applying sanding sealer then working through the grades of grit.)

I made five nice pieces for golf club prizes, having been bullied to sponsor a competition by my friend who



Castleisland Golf Club Prizes (fruit bowl, burr clock, sweet dish, plant pot and tea-light holder)

was captain last year. It took me seven months to make eight pieces (she had to choose five). They looked great on the table with all the other offerings from several other competitions; but when



The Fallen Angel with repaired halo and wing!

unique pieces of art are laid side by side with golf balls, bags, tea cups, clocks and glassware you can't really go wrong can you?!

Unfortunately the picture isn't great as I only had time to grab the camera and take one shot. [Fear not, Lesley, I have, as they say, digitally enhanced your pic! — RG].

The tea-light holder was particularly successful once I had attacked it with the Dremel in order to hide the tool marks. They would not budge because I drilled the holes first and the spindle gouge kept jumping over the holes – probably because it wasn't sharp enough and/or the lathe speed was too slow. What do you think?

In July we had our third biannual Kerry seminar but few people had signed up! However, like at most Irish events, the crowds turned out unannounced and 70 delegates/ demonstrators sat down to eat. A good weekend — the best moment for me was when one of the Kerry turners, a professional carver by trade, produced a replica of his original trophy for the

2005 winner of the Frank Clarke Memorial Trophy to retain.

December's project was a Christmas decoration, for which I made a 5in angel (left). I turned an unidentifiable burr a bit too thin (a regular problem I have, wanting to make just one more cut) so had to give her an underskirt and was quite pleased with the outcome even though she was a bit chunky and had an ugly face. As luck would have it I dropped her as I got out of the car and she sustained a broken wing and halo, turning her literally into a fallen angel!

One of my real success stories was a 13in platter which I thought was a bit of dodgy beech, but as soon as the gouge ripped off the dirt



13in Cedar of Lebanon platter and debris attached, the smell told me it was Cedar of Lebanon and, as I progressed, it revealed the most fabulous grain, pattern and colouring. It's going nowhere and when I go into the workshop, I just have to touch, smell and wonder at the beauty of it. Forget the turning, which on this occasion just went really well, but it would give me the same thrill if it was simply in a large, untamed lump!

More next issue

Chairman's chin-wag

A heavily edited (!) version of the Chairman's report at the AGM



2007 was a good year, with an interesting, varied programme. The committee has worked hard to deliver this and to keep the club running smoothly.

Hands-on mornings were lacking but I would like to run some more. Colin Ford has kindly offered up the use of his mega-workshop.

Woodworking shows are becoming few and far between, and distant from Cheam. The next is at Stiles and Bates near Dover and one of our members, Tom Seakins, has provisionally arranged a 16-seat minibus so all you have to do is sit back and relax. The cost per head is £10 and it's first come, first served.

The club was invited to exhibit and demonstrate at the woodworking show at Alexandra Palace for the second successive year. This

is testimony to the fact that CWA has become recognised and established in the woodturning arena.

The Surrey Association of Woodturners put on a splendid show in 2007, which Cheam supported, and this alliance is something we should maintain.

There is another club I believe we could have more engagement with and that is Sutton Woodworking Club. The two clubs can offer diversity for those who are interested, with our club remaining focussed on woodturning and Sutton on the broader aspects of woodworking.

The Frank Clarke Competition continues to attract a high standard of turning in all three categories. If you've not yet entered one of these competitions, have a go, it's

fun. While the committee sets the theme, I welcome your thoughts for future themes. I do need someone to look after this competition so I'd appreciate a volunteer. It's not a great deal of work and only twice a year.

I am breaking with tradition this year and asking Colin Simpson to present the awards tonight. Colin is moving to Devon. He's done much to support the club from its inception and while he'll be missed for his professional input and his sense of humour at club nights (usually at my expense) I sincerely hope he will come back to visit.

It remains for me to thank my colleagues on the committee as well as the unsung heroes for all the hard work they've put in – it's made my job much easier!

Andrew Griffiths

Secretary's synopsis

A similarly edited version of the Hon Secretary's report



During the year, the committee has discussed topics as wide-ranging as changes to the club constitution through to the testing of the club's electrical equipment.

Events saw us represented at the Surrey Environmental Fair, the Ashted show and, in February, the International Woodworking Exhibition at Alexandra Palace. We will continue to take part in these events and I'm sure that every member could

contribute to these occasions to take some of the load off the core of active members who generally help out and attend.

Demonstrators are becoming more expensive and we have been mindful of these increased costs. However, we had superb demonstrations last year which included delicate decoration with airbrush and indelicate (although very effective) decoration with a wire brush.

Hands-on mornings took a

break last year and we hope to have one or two in the forthcoming season. Nearer the time, notice will be given, so give some thought to coming along — it's always fun!

I would like to stress to everyone that it is your club — the committee is there to put in place your ideas. Help us to help you. Tell us what you want from the club and we'll think of a way to make it work.

Martin Dudley

Wizardry in wood

by Alec Gibson



In advance of the **Worshipful Company of Turners'** exhibition in June, there has been a special Wizards in Wood exhibition (Albemarle Street, London W1) which highlighted work by Stuart Mortimer and Joey Richardson.

I missed Joey Richardson's demonstration in 2007, so we went to London on 13th February and spent a very interesting morning watching Joey and Stuart carry out demonstrations to an ever-increasing number of people.

Each of Joey's pieces tells a story which incorporates airbrushing, colour, piercing and texturing into a work of art.

Stuart specialises more in delicate, twisted forms with trademark finials using burning, carving, ebonising and piercing.

I recommend members to go to the Wizardry in Wood show from 4th to 6th June in Carpenters Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2JJ.

Editor's notes

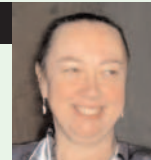
Budget constraints mean that Lesley's story has to be continued in the next issue.

I also regret that John Stinson's (very detailed) story on restoring an antique chair has been sidelined!

Please, when submitting stories and pics, do NOT put photos into a Word document. Separate words and pics makes my work less difficult and tedious — and the end result is better.

Future events

by Jennie Starbuck



Yandles Show, 11th and 12th April, Martock, Somerset

A long drive but worth while if a few members get together and share a car. I am willing to try to match people up. Give me a ring if you want to go and are prepared to offer a space in your car to a fellow member — or if you want to go if someone can give you a lift. Tel: 01932 888144

As well as satisfying most woodturning needs, Yandles has an excellent shop selling craft materials and a beautiful gallery. Food available on site is usually very good value — but there is a good pub selling food just along the road.

Stiles and Bates, 25th and 26th April, Upper Farm, Church Hill, Sutton, Dover, Kent CT15 5DF. Tel and fax 01304 366 360

A minibus could be hired for the day if we have enough people wanting to go. We need names by the end of March. Give me a ring if you haven't managed to sign up at club night. Cost £10. If we don't have enough names, I will try to match people on the list for car sharing.

West's Wood Show, 2nd and 3rd May, Selham, Petworth, West Sussex GU28 0PJ

This little show is well worth the trip. It is gradually growing as more trade stands want to take part. There are some refreshments available and throughout the day groups are taken on trips around the site to see the machinery in the woodmill and some of the timber processing areas.

Rural Life Centre : Working with Wood Weekend, 24th and 25th May, Old Kiln Museum, Reeds Road, Tilford, Farnham, Surrey GU10 2DL Tel: 01252 795571. Sunday 25th is also their Countryside and Wildlife day

This is an excellent way to spend some time on a bank holiday weekend. Many enthusiasts will be demonstrating and the normal exhibits will be open. The café is excellent — I think you need to book early for Sunday lunch!

e-mail: info@rural-life.org.uk.

Website: www.rurallife.plus.com/rlc/.

Personalities in focus

John Stinson

by Phoenix

Many members will know John as the chap enthusiastically erecting his home-made traditional woodworking equipment during social evenings such as Christmas and on competition nights — and then going on to demonstrate their use in a most skilful manner.

And if that is not enough, he offers members the opportunity to have a go themselves, backed with his expert advice.

Born some 40 years ago in Luton he spent his school years in Manchester. He lives in Morden and is married with two lively boys of seven and nine years of age.

His work, in the heart of London, is in the IT area and he has worked in oil exploration, the defence industry and more recently in finance.

John first became interested



in woodturning when he bought his father a lathe as a gift in 1999 and was soon hooked, becoming a member of CWA in 2002. He remembers the late Frank Clarke's farewell speech before he moved across to Ireland.

So far John has not held any club position as he is a busy husband and father, together with holding down his job in the city. However, he does have some other interests outside of woodturning, he has currently taken up rock-



climbing and so far he is on a par with his two sons.

John's greatest joy is woodturning and his involvement in traditional woodturning techniques.

He demonstrates pole-lathe turning once a month near Banstead Woods and hopes to start running small courses in the forthcoming year.

He generally finds you can lose yourself turning, especially when you have wet shavings flying off the wood, and is another of our turners who dislike the dust that comes from dry timber.

Let's hope we see more of John on club open nights demonstrating his skills.



John shows how easy it is to use a shaving horse!



Setting up the pole lathe for members to try

Take your turn



Highlight of the Christmas social evening was certainly the demonstrations of turning a decorative hanging — carried out by both professional and amateur members of the club.

But the other attractions contributed to a highly successful event, with stalls set up for the sale of timber, finishes and accessories, a

testing competition, an opportunity for members to give a turned item for the benefit of the St Raphael's Hospice.

To keep the inner turner happy, there was a table groaning under the weight of seasonal mince pies, sausage rolls and various other tit-bits.

And one must not forget the ladies looking after both the food and drinks.

by Ron Grace

To name names would inevitably cause frowns for having missed some worthy out, so just the turners are mentioned in the picture captions.

And so occupied was I that the first of these, Martin Dudley, escaped my camera lens — apologies.



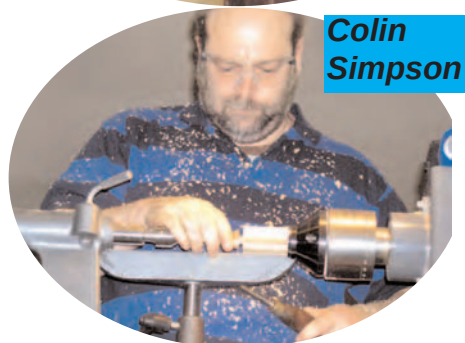
Richard Hoodless



Andrew Griffiths



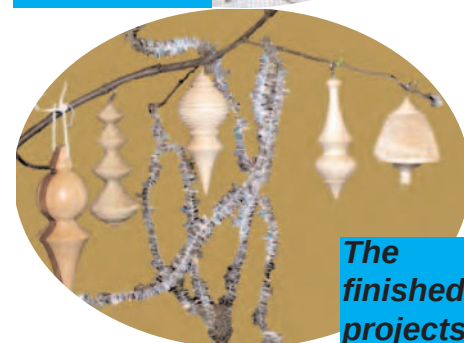
Peter Westermann



Colin Simpson



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The finished projects



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Colin makes art from the collapse of hotel elm tree

by Emily Bridges

AN OLD fallen elm tree, which used to house a homeless man, will be turned into a chair.

The huge landmark tree crashed to the ground outside Chequers Hotel, in Brighton Road, Horley, last week and joiner Colin Ford has taken it away to be turned into a masterpiece.

Mr Ford, of Little Common Lane, Bletchingly, noticed the hollow tree had fallen and asked the hotel if he could have it.

He said: "I have never worked on anything quite as big as this. I'd guess it's about 6ft across and 8ft high.

"After it's finished it would be great if the hotel were to buy it back, then the tree is returning to where it came from. It would have a new life.

There is a lot of history to the tree. It is very well-known locally. Back in the 60s an old

homeless man used to live inside. He was a real character.



Earlier: a smaller version that CWA member Colin made

Mr Ford, who has a workshop at Fontigarry Farm Business Park, in Reigate Road, Hookwood, turns

hollow trees into chairs as a hobby.

He uses a chainsaw to reduce the tree down and then uses smaller tools and sanders to create the finished product.

He said: "Until I get the tree back and have a look at it, I will not completely know what the chair will look like.

"I do not have to wait for it to dry out.

"Normally this would take many months.

"Hopefully I will be able to finish the chair in two to three weeks, fitting it in around my joinery business.

"I aim to make a settle style chair of around 6ft by 6ft. It will be more like a bench you would find in a church made from one piece of timber."

After making the chairs, Mr Ford tries to sell them. The last chair he sold went for £2,000 and he hopes this one will sell for more.

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Cheam and SAW at Alexandra Palace

by Jennie Starbuck

My thanks to everyone who helped out at the Woodworking Exhibition at Alexandra Palace on February 7th to 10th. It is a lot of effort to get equipment (and people) to the site, but there are very positive benefits for the club and for the members who take part.

This year Magicalia gave Cheam and SAW a 12m long stand and together we were able to set up and run four lathes and have a joint



display of work with posters and pictures about the club behind the exhibition.

The show was never crowded, but we were able to talk to a lot of visitors. Several people who live reasonably close to Cheam showed an interest and left their contact details with us. We hope to welcome them to

the club in the next few months.

Taking part in a show like this also raises the status of the club with a wider circle of turners, which makes it easier to get demonstrators.

If the show runs again next year and we are invited to attend, I hope that a few more of you will decide to support the club by volunteering to steward or demonstrate. It is an excellent way to develop confidence in doing demos.

Visitors don't expect perfection — and do appreciate being able to talk to ordinary turners as well as the professionals.

2008 Programme

April 16	Paul Nesbitt	Multi-centre turning without expensive chucks
May 21	Club turners	Using a £1 pack of wood
June 18	John Berkeley	Screw threads and puzzles
July 16	Mark Hancock	Masterclass — thin, artistic forms
August 20	Practical evening and Frank Clarke competition	
September 17	Dave Springett	Masterclass — woodturning wizardry
October 15	Colin Simpson	Masterclass
November 19	Reg Slack	Masterclass – back to basics
December 17	Christmas social	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

Copy deadline

June 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.