

Your Turn

The Newsletter of Hampshire Woodturners Association

Volume 16 Issue 1

January/February 2005



Stuart Mortimer

Twisting the night away

Cover Story

Stuart Mortimer provided a highly entertaining departure from the usual HWA Christmas social format.
A record 120 people turned up to prove how unsociable they are.

Hampshire Woodturners Association

The Association meets at the Railway Institute, 2 Romsey Road Eastleigh (02380 612270) on the first Monday of each month (the second if the first is a bank holiday).

Meetings start at 7.30 and finish around 10.00. Most meetings feature a talk or demonstration about a turning or related subject by a club member or an invited guest. Several times a year we have "turn-ins" with a number of lathes being operated by members demonstrating various techniques. There is a club shop selling various turning sundries, and a library. The "trading post" enables members to advertise things for sale or wanted.

Every month members are invited to bring work for the gallery and there is usually a critique of selected items. There is also a monthly project for novices with the opportunity to discuss the problems encountered and overcome. Refreshments are served at a mid evening break when members can catch up with the latest gossip. A raffle rounds off the evening.

Membership is £17 per year with a joining fee of £5 for new members. Potential new members are welcome to come along and visit us without obligation or charge.

There's a Web Site too. Check it out at www.hants-woodturners-hwa.co.uk

The Committee

Chairman.....	Roy Nailor 023 80861893
Secretary.....	Bob Hope. 0118 9813552
Treasurer.....	Alan Sturgess 023 80892622
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Your Turn

HAMPSHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 1

January/February 2005



EDITORIAL

The new year has been overshadowed by the unbelievable enormity of the Asian Tsunami disaster. It is likely that some of our members have lost family or friends and our condolences go out to them. Perhaps some comfort may be drawn from the outpouring of sympathy and generosity from people all around the world.

I read an account where the reporter commented on the absence of animals among the bodies. The suggestion was that animals have a sixth sense about imminent danger and try to seek safety. This reminded me of my only experience a few years ago of an earthquake, or more strictly a mere tremor I suppose, but frightening nonetheless.

Marion and I had just arrived at the Hotel Lichnos Beach in the Greek town of Parga. The hotel had a large Alsatian dog also called Lichnos who, when we arrived, was lying in the middle of the road outside the hotel despite having a comfortable basket in the cool reception area.

"Crazy dog" said the receptionist, "He won't come in. You wanna try get him in?"

Having seen the size of the dog, I declined.

Returning to the hotel around midnight we noticed the dog still in the road. Nobody seemed bothered so we went to bed.

We woke simultaneously at about 3 a.m. to find the earth moving and the bed banging against the wall. We looked at each other and concluded with a mixture of alarm and disappointment that it was nothing we were doing! When things began to fall off the shelves we decided to get out. A small gathering was forming in the road outside, the Brits looking dishevelled wrapped in beach towels, the Germans fully dressed with their bags packed.

After about half an hour during which time there were a few after-shocks, the dog stood up, stretched, walked slowly back into the hotel and curled up in his basket.

The receptionist said "OK, its over now."

We all went back to our rooms and there were no more tremors.

Absolutely true, I promise you.

Dave Gibbard – Editor

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- Committee nomination form

REVIEW OF EVENTS

27/28 November – Hilliers

This was the third event at Hillier's arboretum in which the club participated this year. This time we were sharing the "stage" with others in what Hilliers intend will become a major seasonal event. Some felt this rather cramped our style and there was just about enough space and interest for the 3 participants, Ron Broadway, Alan Sturgess and Brian Mitchell. Thanks again to Ron for organising the event.



6 December – Stuart Mortimer

Well we thought we'd try a change from the usual social format for the Christmas meeting which has traditionally been poorly attended. For a record 120 or so who attended this time it seemed to work and we were entertained by the master of twists and spirals. Our ranks were swelled by guests from Dorset Woodturners and we were also pleased to see professionals, Stuart King, Gary Rance and Nick Agar in the audience too. Gary in particular bore the brunt of our demonstrator's humour. At least I think he was joking.

Stuart started with some basic skew cuts before going on to marking out twists. He demonstrated 3 methods of cutting them using a saw, a rasp and finally an Arbortech. He then made a hollow form and applied the spiral cutting techniques to that. The trick of cutting some of the spiral gaps deep enough initially to allow the shavings to exit the hollow form made the hollowing process far less tedious than it usually is.

He rounded off an absorbing evening with a goblet with a spiral stem. It was such a full demo that there was little time for anything else. I'm sure there will be few complaints about that though the members' gallery was impressive enough to have warranted a critique.

Pictures on the cover, more on the website.

17 January – Turn-in

The year got away to a delayed start since the hall was already booked on our usual first Monday. Apologies to those who turned up on the wrong day, but we did our best to publicise the change. I hope you enjoyed the disco.

Those attending were treated to demos from Harry Butler (alternative materials), Ian Woodford (a hanging pomander) and yours truly, Dave Gibbard (natural edges).

The sale of Alan Butler's tools was going well, see the announcement of his passing in "behind the scenes". Thanks to Bob Collings for stepping in to look after the sale.

The gallery display was disappointing (numerically) and Chris West who delivered a critique pleaded for a better response in future. Pictures on the website.



*Turn-in demonstrators
Ian Woodford, Harry
Butler above and Dave
Gibbard right.*



Milestones, 10 and 17 December

We were invited to participate in the 2 evening Christmas events at the Milestones living heritage museum in Basingstoke. Brian Hannam did the honours but reports disappointing sales. Although people seemed to enjoy the festive ambience, few were buying from the stallholders.

COMING EVENTS

7 February – Paul Nesbitt, Off-centre turning

We welcome Paul Nesbitt from Surrey Woodturners and look forward to his demonstration of the interesting effects achievable by turning off centre.

Tonight is also the final round of our competition. Items may be entered in novice or open categories. Entries must involve a combination of spindle and faceplate work. It was encouraging to see an increase in numbers entering last time and look forward to a good entry in the final round.

The novice project this month is Carrier Bag Handles.

7 March – W.L.West, Sawmillers & Timber Merchants

W.L.West are new visitors to the club. We hope to have a catalogue at the February meeting for pre-ordering for delivery at the March meeting. The novice project is Light Pulls.

13 March – Bert Marsh workshop

Many years ago, Bert was responsible for getting me interested in woodturning, via his fine work on show in a gallery in Cumbria. For sheer delicacy and simplicity of shapes he remains unsurpassed. The venue will be the community centre at Badger Farm, Winchester (next to Sainsbury's). The charge will be £18 for the day, to include lunch. There will be a booking list at the preceding club meetings or you can phone Alan Sturgess to book your place.

LETTERS AND EMAILS

This Email came from Derek Carter

Hi Dave
Just remembered there was something else I wanted to send you for the newsletter in time for Christmas. Whilst up in Skye - I came across a pack of playing cards featuring 54 different trees on the fronts of the cards. They are plastic backed and of good quality. As a bonus they are made from wood pulp from trees grown in managed European plantations. The company that produces them, as well as numerous other designs, are Heritage Games in Nottingham on 0115 930 7075. Cost per pack is £3.50 + £1.50 p&p. They have a web site at www.heritageplayingcards.co.uk. This is currently being upgraded to allow on-line orders but you can still view the products. Just right for those Christmas stocking fillers. Regards,
Derek

Sorry, missed the pre-Christmas issue. My fault. Still, now's a much better time to do your Christmas shopping for next year and beat the rush!

Editor

And I can usually rely on Ron Broadway:

The computer swallowed grandma.
Yes, honestly its true.
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
and disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the internet,
but nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Jeeves
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online'.

So, if inside your 'Inbox,'
My Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
and send her back to me!

Might I suggest "cut" rather than "copy". You can have too many grandmas you know. – Editor

NOVICE PROJECTS by Ian Woodford

2004 - A year of fun!

Another new year for the club, and a set of new projects for the novices, but let us first have a little look back on last year.

We settled into our new venue and immediately adopted the corner of the room for our discussions. It suited us because we could sit around the table and talk about our work, our problems (turning of course) and the monthly tasks in an informal way. We've been smaller in numbers but not lacking in enthusiasm and there have been some good laughs. I also hope that we have all learnt a little from the year; I certainly have. That's the way I would like it to continue for 2005 although a few new "members" in the group would be nice. If there is anything else that could be introduced into our format then please suggest it.

Before announcing the results of 2004 I must say a big thank-you to all of you for the commitment given over the year. It makes our novice section well worthwhile and a very important aspect of our club life. The standard of work this past year was a pleasure to see and made it hard for Brian Mitchell, Derek Holdaway and myself to judge.

Harry Woolhead just pipped Jon Gibbs to the post whilst Bill Willetts came a well- deserved third. Apart from being very consistent in the areas of turning ability, finishing and aesthetics, Harry entered all 12 projects. Jon had slightly better results in turning ability but Harry's finishing and aesthetics won him the day. I must say though that Bill showed excellent improvement over the year, especially towards the end. Keep it up Bill and well done to all three.

The presentation will take place during the AGM in April.

7 February - Carrier bag handles.

This months project is a natural extension to last months spindle turning exercise. The main difference is that a cheap small piece of wood is made into a useful product.

I must admit to never having turned one before and had never taken much notice of those seen at craft fairs so my first task was to obtain one, study and copy it. Roy Holder, who helps with the club shop, makes a lot of these and came up trumps with one. It wasn't until I had studied it that I realised certain considerations must be observed.

It must be a certain diameter and length that sits comfortably in the crook of your fingers. Too thin and it could break, whilst too large and it becomes cumbersome. The recess where the carrier bag sits must be deep enough to stop it from slipping off and aesthetically the whole thing should be nicely balanced.

Ash is a good wood to use for this as it has a high tensile strength, is cheap and readily obtainable. A blank measuring 150mm by 25mm is mounted between centres and turned, sanded, sealed and polished to a finish before removing from the lathe. The ends can then be finished by hand. The recess for the carrier bag can be formed with a 3/8th parting tool if you have one, whilst the rest is done with a spindle gouge. Take your time with the measuring of all lengths and diameters and have fun.

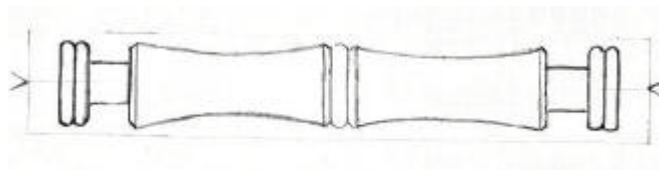


Diagram of carrier bag handle from a blank 150 mm long by 25 mm diameter.

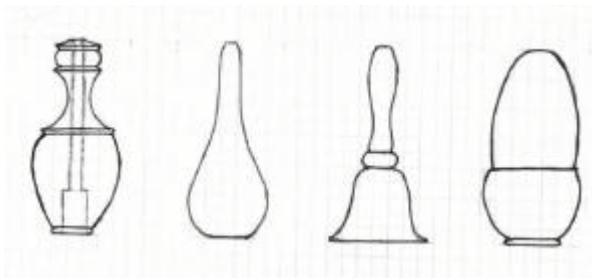
Continued.....

NOVICE PROJECTS continued....

7 March - Light pulls.

Light pulls are a nice little project and can be made quite quickly. If you make a lot the process is ideal for practising tool dexterity and control. Please don't design on the lathe. Have a firm idea of the shape, even draw it on paper first and then turn it. Fairly simple and recognisable shapes are more effective, e.g. tear drop, acorn, hand bell and urn. Some you see for sale are, in my opinion, too small but on the other hand don't go to the other extreme and make them as large as curtain pulls.

Cut a blank of decorative close-grained wood e.g. yew or laburnum, 60mm long by 35mm square. Drill a 4mm hole centrally through the length. Then with an 8mm bit open up one end of the hole to a depth of about 12mm. This provides the recess for the light pull drive and also hides the knot of the light pull cord. Mount on the drive centre and bring up the revolving tailstock for support. Rough to a cylinder and then with a spindle gouge turn to shape. A fingernail profile to the gouge is ideal for the detail work involved. Sand to 400 grit, seal and then polish. Light pulls are by nature handled a lot so the finish you use should be very durable. Friction polish is not the best choice. Melamine is good but I tend to buff mine on a buffing wheel using carnauba wax. An oil finish is very durable but if you make a lot, it is time consuming and not cost effective.



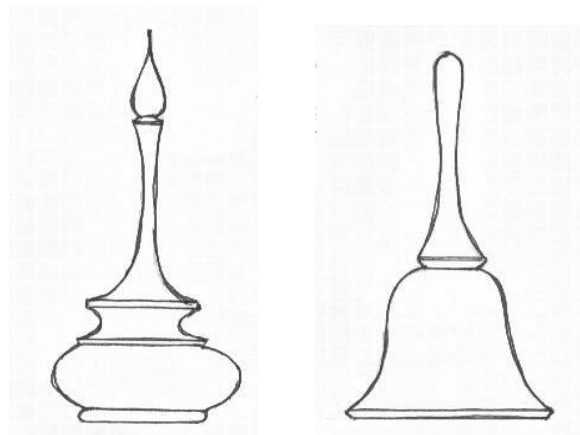
4 examples of light pull shapes

4 April – Ring stand

The objective here is to make an attractive stand on which to place finger rings. Visiting craft shows reveals many examples but, however, many are functional without aesthetic appeal. The user is likely to be a lady (maybe I'm showing my age here) so try to make them delicate and attractive. Simplistically they consist of a stem on a stable base and are easy to make but good design brings them alive. My suggestion before you even start to turn is to sit down and plan your design. Do this to scale on graph paper and the result will be far more successful than designing on the lathe. A couple of examples that I have found to be successful are shown.

Any close-grained decorative wood is best e.g. yew, rosewoods, laburnum. Cut your blank 115mm long by 50mm square and mount between centres. Rough to a cylinder and then form a spigot on one end to suite your chuck. Mount in the chuck and turn to your design. Sand through the grades to 400 grit, then seal and polish. Part off and finish the base by hand. If you are able, you can reverse chuck and finish the base on the lathe. This will make it look even better. A home made jam chuck is used for this.

Enjoy the project, make at least a couple and whomever you give them to will also, I hope, enjoy using them.



Examples of Ring stands

Ian Woodford

BEHIND THE SCENES

Alan Butler

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Alan Butler, victim of a heart attack. The committee has expressed condolences on behalf of HWA to Alan's widow, Margaret.

I will miss Alan's amusing contributions to the columns of Your Turn. I hope it won't seem irreverent if I give you a small sample of his humour. I am sure he would have approved:

Following a night out with a few friends, a man brought them back to show off his new flat. After the grand tour, the visitors were rather perplexed by a large gong taking pride of place in the lounge. "What's that big brass gong for?" one of the guests asked.

"Why, that's my Speaking Clock" the man replied.

"How does it work?"

"I'll show you", the man said, giving the gong an ear-shattering blow with a hammer. Suddenly, a voice from the other side of the wall screamed,

*"For f*ck's sake, you w*nker, it's twenty to two in the f**king morning!!"*

Margaret has asked if we could help in finding good homes for Alan's tools and equipment. I have compiled an inventory which I brought to the January meeting along with some of the more portable things, gouges, chisels etc and books. See "Trading post" and contact me or George Gale please, we don't want people bothering Margaret unnecessarily.

Crosswords

Ian Woodford noticed a turning related crossword in the Woodbury turners magazine. We both thought this could be a good regular feature for us. So what we need is a keen crossword playing member to write it.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to

David Collier-Baker of Marchwood (023 80861582) and Paul Kinsman from Nursling (01794516443)

And new junior member Kirsty Campbell of Basingstoke (01256 414476).

If you are an existing member and live nearby, give them a call and see if they could use some help settling in.

TRADING POST

An inventory of Alan Butler's things (see the column left) was at the January club meeting with photographs of some items. Copies are available from the Editor,

The list includes a Draper WTL 100 lathe with Multistar and Master Chucks, a 5" bench grinder, Sealey 16" scroll saw, Progress pillar drill, Naerock Planer/jointer, and a Workmate.

There was also a good selection of smaller items - gouges and chisels, bowl blanks and books which I brought to the Club. Bob Collings helped out and these were all sold. Colin Cordery took the opportunity to add some new titles to the Club library for members to borrow.

Ray Biggs is selling a Myford ML8 lathe. The price of £100 also includes the bench and a chuck.

Ray is also selling a Stewart System for £60. Call Ray on 01344 883082.

SIGNING OFF

It may seem rather early to be thinking about the AGM, but the due process takes time. The announcement of the 2005 AGM in April follows, together with a nomination form for the committee.

The existing committee members are prepared to stand again but Chris West, having set up the website would like to hand over the updating of it to someone new. Chris will give full instruction to anyone who has a computer and is interested. The committee is of the view that this role should be done by a committee member, so if you would like to have a go, you will need to stand.

Perhaps now would be a good time to remind you that a year ago I said I would like someone to help with the newsletter. This would not only bring in some fresh ideas but would assist in gathering in material for deadlines when I am busy or away.

Any member can stand and the existing committee would welcome some fresh blood and ideas. If you have ever had reason to disagree with some aspect of running the club, even if you've just muttered under your breath rather than speaking out, now's the time to do something about it. Or if you just feel that you have benefited from membership of the club, how about giving something back via a little committee work?

The minutes from the 2004 AGM will appear in the March issue, in time for the AGM in April.

Dave Gibbard, Editor

HAMPSHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION

Your committee hereby give notice of the Association's `Annual General Meeting` which will be held at the Railway Institute, Eastleigh on **Monday 4th April 2005 starting at 7:30pm.**

Current Officers and Committee.

Chairman	Roy Nailor	Available for re-election
Treasurer	Alan Sturgess	Available for re-election
Secretary	Bob Hope	Available for re-election
Committee Member	Dave Gibbard	Available for re-election
Committee Member	Ian Woodford	Available for re-election
Committee Member	George Gale	Available for re-election
Committee Member	Dave Ackroyd	Available for re-election
Committee Member	Chris West	Available for re-election*

(* would like to hand over maintenance of website.)

Agenda for HWA AGM 4th April 2005

1: Apologies	2: Minutes of 2004 AGM	3: Chairman's Report
4: Treasurers Report	5: Election of Officers	
6: Election of Committee	7: Any Other Business	

Nominations for Officers and Committee must be registered with the Secretary on or before 15th March 2005. This must be in writing with the signatures of the Proposer, Secunder and Nominee and state clearly which position the nominee is being proposed for.

Send completed form to:-

Bob Hope, Thornton House, Brimpton Common, Reading, Berks, RG7 4RF

Position:-	Print Name	Signature	Date
Nominee			
Proposed By			
Seconded By			