

# Your Turn

## HAMPSHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Issue 2

Summer 2006



### About us

Hampshire Woodturners' Association meets at the Railway Institute, 2 Romsey Road Eastleigh (02380 612270) on the first Monday of each month (the second or third 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 lathes being operated by members demonstrating various techniques. There is a club shop selling various turning sundries, and a library. Members can 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:-

[www.hants-woodturners-hwa.co.uk](http://www.hants-woodturners-hwa.co.uk)

### Contacts

**Chairman.....Roy Nailor 023 80861893**  
**Secretary.....Ian Woodford. 01962 854528**  
**Treasurer.....Alan Sturgess 023 80892622**  
**Membership... David Ackroyd 01489 784985**  
**Turn-ins ..... George Gale 02380 265195**  
**Newsletter..... Dave Gibbard 02380 262660**  
**Webmaster..... Jon Gibbs. 01962 774051**  
**Lottery.....Chris West 01794512718**

And the address for your Newsletter contributions:

d-m.gibbard@dsl.pipex.com

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## EDITORIAL

Can it really be 3 months since the last issue? They say time passes quicker either as a result of having too much fun or getting older. I'd like to say it was the former in my case, but....

The AGM has seen a few changes of position but only 1 change of face. Bob Hope sadly stood down as secretary for health reasons and is replaced by Ian Woodford. Chris West handed over the webmaster's job to Jon Gibbs whilst staying on the committee to carry on with the lottery grant application and anything else we can twist his arm to do.

The big news just received is that HWA has succeeded in the bid for a Lottery Grant. Well done those who were involved, in particular Chris West. Chris will be looking for members to help with all aspects of acquiring equipment, preparing presentations and talking and demonstrating to the wider community. It would be really encouraging if there were some new faces amongst the volunteers.

*Dave Gibbard, Editor*

## REVIEW OF EVENTS

### 6 March Julie Heryet

Roy opened the meeting with the usual announcements before introducing our guest for the evening – Julie Heryet.

Julie described the "6 Ds" which influence her approach:

**Development** - of self (training, practice etc), tools (adapt to suit personal approach) and projects.

**Department** – Get stance right and relax.

**Design** – no hard and fast rules but things should have a sense of proportion.

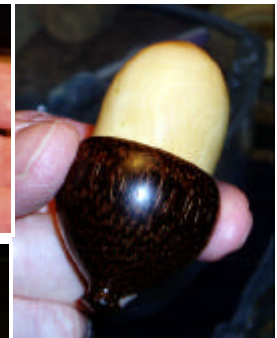
**Detail** – attention to the small features pays off

**Definition** – keep it sharp

**Disaster** – we all have them. Learn from them.

She then gave us a demo of thread cutting. We have had several presentations on this theme but I must say hers was very clear and well done. Wood should be dense like box or oily like rosewood or both like lignum vitae. Softer woods can be used but they may need to be soaked with superglue to harden them. Most threads for wood are between 16 to 20 tpi. Julie's preference is for 18. It is important to practice the sweeping motion to allow the chaser to enter its own thread and to listen to the sound of the cut. A little wax on the thread may help if there is a tendency to crumble. Cutting the mating inside thread requires a bit of practice to get the starting diameter right. Keep it tight as you can always skim and cut deeper. If you are trying to get a grain match, remember the lid is to be rotated as it tightens. Always have a facing shoulder for a positive stop and skim it to allow it to rotate to its optimum position.

Julie didn't need much persuading to talk about the members' gallery and she seemed to enjoy herself – you can usually tell. It was instructive to hear her application of 3 of her Ds – design, detail and definition in relation to the work on the table. A good gallery in terms of numbers and quality and a good critique too. The Novice table looked good too with a number of eggs and egg cups which were gathered up afterwards to be taken to Dorset Woodturners April meeting.



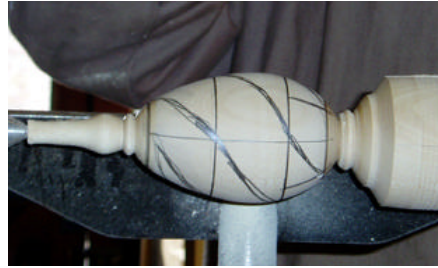
*Julie Heryot , top,  
cutting a thread.*

*Her acorn box,  
above, open and  
closed.*

*The gallery, left.*

*More pictures on the  
website.*

## 11 March Stuart Mortimer Workshop



Stages in making a spiral finial. Marking up (above), cutting with arbortek, (left and right and almost done, (below)



20 intrepid HWA travellers made it to Grateley for a Stuart Mortimer presentation on health and safety in the workshop.

Seriously though, Stuart's workshop organisation may be a little suspect but his work and his mastery of the techniques is faultless.

We were treated to a demonstration of the tricks of the trade using a bewildering array of tools as Stuart made a hollow spiral finial, a pigtail spiral and a thin hollow form all before lunch.

After lunch he finished the hollow form which had been left to dry out with a lamp shining through it and conducted tours of his own personal gallery to show some of his finished work including some new experimental hollow doughnut pieces.

With no time to catch breath, he finished with a rapid series of demonstrations of marking up and cutting some standard twists.

It doesn't matter how many times you see him doing this, it remains supreme entertainment from a master who obviously enjoys what he does and stunning the crowd.

*I've got a lot more pictures than space allows me to include here but I can let anyone interested have a set, preferably electronically to save my paper and ink.*

*Dave Gibbard*



*Something new off the drawing board.*

### 3 April AGM and the Hiltons

In Roy's absence the AGM was opened by Alan Sturgess. After the regular announcements, Alan read Roy's Chairman's report. This is printed in full in this issue.

"Thank you" gifts of bottles of wine were given to the helpers responsible for the raffle, shop, library, tea, gallery, novices, sound and vision, greeting and Hilliers. Without such volunteers the club would cease to function.

The Les Revell novice trophy was awarded to Jon Gibbs in his absence. Well done Jon, nice to see you moving straight on to do a turn in at the May meeting.

Bob Hope is standing down as Secretary for health reasons. Bob has made a great contribution to the club and this was recognised by the presentation of the Member of the Year trophy (picture right).



Our gratitude and very best wishes go to Bob. Alan then delivered the treasurer's report which presented the club in a healthy financial state having made a small profit over the year. His recommendation was to maintain subs at their current level of £17. In answer to questions, Alan said the club equipment was old and of little value and did not appear in the assets. Funds will be needed to buy some new equipment if the grant application fails. It is not policy to try to make a profit but the year end can fall slightly one side or the other. It is policy to maintain a positive balance representing about a year's operation to give us some security against the unexpected, as happened 2 years ago when we had to move temporarily into expensive accommodation at INTECH. The Treasurer's report and recommendations were accepted unanimously.

The Committee then stood down and Ron Broadway took the chair for the block vote for the new committee as there was just 1 nomination per position. Nobody dared demur at the risk of being volunteered themselves.

The new committee is

Chair	Roy Nailor
Secretary	Ian Woodford
Treasurer	Alan Sturgess
Members	Jon Gibbs (Webmaster), Dave Gibbard (Newsletter), Dave Ackroyd (new members), George Gale (Turn ins & newsletter distribution), Chris West (Lottery application)

Alan closed the AGM and retired to the corner with Ron to collect subs whilst Ian took over to introduce our visitors, Derrick & Ann Hilton from Dorset Woodturners.

### Derrick & Ann Hilton, Weaving on bowls

Derrick is proud to have been running DWA since its inception, for much of that time meeting in his workshop. He is now the secretary and DWA rent a hall for their meetings. The new plan for the Hilton workshop was for a 60:40 split in Derrick's favour but Ann is so active with her needlework, dressmaking, willow work, pyrography, gardening and garden designing that there are frequent border incursions. They combine their skills to make bowls with willow woven edges. Derrick turns bowls with thick edges ending vertically with flat rims which are drilled after marking up using the indexing device on his Myford to take the willow stakes. Ann then takes over to weave the willow around the rim to produce a pleasing result. Ann's write up is much clearer than I could manage so is reproduced later in this issue.



*Ann talking about weaving willow*

Derrick was invited to say a few words about the member's gallery. There were 9 members displaying 14 items. Derrick was impressed by the variety and standard of finish of the work. Pictures on the website. Developing a suggestion by Dave Foote (letters, Spring issue), to encourage more people to bring work to the gallery, each person doing so is now given a raffle ticket and a £10 prize is drawn on the night. (On Turn-in evenings members who are demonstrating will be included in the draw.)

Tonight's winner was Denis Woodham.

The novice table had a very nice display of apples and pears – keep it up.

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2005-6 - Roy Nailor

Reflecting upon our achievements in the second year of my chairmanship I believe that we've risen to meet some exciting new challenges, thereby maintaining our position as Hampshire's best woodturning club. This has been primarily due to the efforts of your committee and those of you who've helped to organise and run the various club activities during the year. They are too many to mention here, but I'm sure that you'll wish to join me in thanking all of them for their efforts.

Just think how much better our club could be if more members were prepared to come forward and volunteer to help run things and participate in the gallery, Turn Ins and Novice Task. It's your club and it's only as good as you help to make it.

I'm sad to note that Bob Hope (Secretary) and Chris West (Webmaster) are standing down from the committee for next year. Ian Woodford (Novice Task) is also standing down, but is prepared to stand for election as Secretary to replace Bob Hope. All have done sterling work for your club and my special thanks go to them for all their time and efforts - a lot of which has been behind the scenes. I hope that finding their replacements won't be the usual onerous committee task of identifying "volunteers" and cajoling them into acceptance. Wouldn't it be nice to have some real volunteers, and even an election whereby we could choose between several candidates?

The slight setback in membership reported last year has been reversed, this being largely due to our website since it attracts about 30% of new members. I believe that the Railway Institute has proved to be a good venue for the club, and now that most of the audio / visual problems are overcome we can look forward to a clearer future.

Our 12 meetings have seen 5 guest presenters, 1 trade presentation, 3 Turn Ins, 2 social events and an AGM. The main theme this year has been thread chasing, and we've also had good talks on new subjects such as chair making, inverted and ornamental turning techniques.

We're at the final stage of applying for a National Lottery grant and, if successful, this will fund equipment to enable us to provide woodturning talks and demonstrations to selected local schools.

For me the main highlight of the year was arriving for our December social to discover how generous you'd been in making approximately 200 candlesticks for the Naomi House charity. Everyone involved, from the organisers to participating members, deserves a special pat on the back. I hope that you will support a similar charity event this year.

Another high was our entry for the Romsey Living Heritage show, and as you know we were given very little time to prepare. Nevertheless we received many comments from the public that ours was the best gallery of work and we had the most number of turners demonstrating. Once again the event was largely organised and run by the few active members of the club, and more support would be welcome for this year.

If this was a school report and I was the headmaster my final summing up for the year would be:  
*"HWA" have done well during the year but could do a lot better. They've shown that they have the ability to be the best in their class but lack some commitment and need to try harder.*

*Roy Nailor, Chairman HWA, April 2006*

### TREASURER'S SUMMARY at 2006 AGM

It has been a year of stabilisation following our move from Winchester to Eastleigh. Membership now runs around the 140 mark. The last year we had 17 new adult members and 2 new juniors. Subscriptions were up slightly on the previous year as were Raffle sales and Library income. Total income was £3,934.40 which was approximately £25 down on the previous period. Expenditure was also down on 2005 this mainly due to £150 reduction in shop stock purchases and £200 saved by the scrapping of the Gallery competition. All other expenditure is very similar year on year. Total expense for the period was £3,211.02. The membership fee is being held at £17. For those members not able to attend the AGM and wishing to see the complete balance sheet please send a stamped address envelope to the Treasurer, Alan Sturgess, Nymph, Stonehills, Fawley, Southampton SO45 1DU.

*Alan Sturgess*

## EVENTS REPORTS Continued

### 5 April Visit to Dorset Woodturners

Denis Hilditch and Bill Willits joined me on a visit to the April meeting of DWA.

Being Easter, the theme for the evening was eggs and we took along the eggs and egg cups recently entered for the HWA novice task as well as some non egg related items of our own.

It was interesting to compare our meetings with the more intimate atmosphere of theirs with about 35 out of their 45 members attending. The meeting was devoted to the gallery and an impressive proportion of people brought along an item or more. Everyone who put something on the table was invited to come up and talk about it which they all did, often prompting a lively discussion on a point of interest.



*The picture is of Stan Jones talking about his large hollow egg complete with chicken inside.*

We didn't escape and Denis, Bill and I were hopping up and down to have our say. I'd be interested to hear whether our members think such a format might work for us occasionally.

### 15 May Turn In

Roy opened with the news that we have been awarded a lottery grant – big hand for Chris West. The award will enable us to buy a lathe and audio-visual equipment for presentations to the community and for use at meetings. Chris had enlisted the help of Steve Page who gave a show indicating the scope to include 2 remote controlled cameras and stands, laptop, screen and projector. Storage and transport will need to be addressed. Chris is hoping to have specified a buying list in July. If you would like to help with the specifications or presentations, Chris would like to hear from you.

Roy then had the pleasant task of presenting the Les Revell cup for novice of the year to Jon Gibbs who was not present last month.

Jon then took the floor as 1 of the 3 turn-in demonstrators. What an example the man is! Maybe we should put a cloning machine on our lottery buying list.

Jon was demonstrating metal inlaid work and has offered an article for Your Turn.

Other demonstrators were Chris Davey, lace bobbins of course but with emphasis on the skew, and me, Dave Gibbard. I decided to do the next 3 novice tasks and managed to do a platter and a goblet before running out of time and energy.

Roy started a gallery critique and, taking a leaf from the Dorset book, invited some of those who put work on the table to come forward and talk about it. I thought it worked quite well. Gallery pictures on website.

*Dave Gibbard*

## COMING EVENTS

### 6 June meeting – Jennie Starbuck

Jennie Starbuck from the Surrey Association of Woodturners will be giving a very full demonstration of methods of decorating turned work.

The novice task is a pair of night light holders.

### 3 July - Alan Mechen, Carving Figureheads

This should be a fascinating diversion from turning. Alan will be talking about and demonstrating the art of carving ships' figureheads, illustrated with examples of his work.

The novice task is a small platter.

### 7 August – Turn in

No confirmed names yet so I'm sure George Gale would be delighted to hear from volunteers. (02380 265195)

The novice task is a small goblet.

### 17 June BIBIC open day

You may remember my letter about the British institute for Brain Injured Children.....

Thanks to those who have donated old mobile phones and printer cartridges, to Adrian Smith who contributed wooden balls for a skittle stall at the open day and George Gale who has offered to help. This will be a HWA contribution to the **BIBIC** event.

Anyone in the Bridgewater area might like to call in at Knowle Hall, TA7 8JP (01278 684060, [www.bibic.org.uk](http://www.bibic.org.uk))

### 7 & 8 July, Summer Show

John Davis will again be sponsoring **the Weyhill Wood Fair**, this time at his new premises:

The Old Stables, Chilbolton Down Farm, Stockbridge SO20 6BU. (On the A30 near the Leckford Hut)

Demos by Jimmy Clewes, Julie Heryot & Les Thorne and trade stands. More info on

[www.johndaviswoodturning.co.uk](http://www.johndaviswoodturning.co.uk), 01264 773050

### 13-16 July Art in Action

This event is not cheap (£13.50 adult entry) but comes highly recommended for those interested in high quality arts and crafts. Venue is **Waterperry House**, Wheatley nr Oxford (OX33 1JZ). More info on [www.artinaction.org.uk](http://www.artinaction.org.uk), 020 7381 3192.

## LOTTERY GRANT ANNOUNCEMENT

This month Hampshire Woodturners Association has heard that our application for an "Awards for All" lottery grant has been successful.

This will enable us to purchase the necessary equipment to give high class presentations to schools, outside groups and at our own club evenings. Chris West has been asked to coordinate the purchase of this equipment and to look after the Club's involvement in our community.

Over the coming months you will be receiving regular progress reports on these activities at meetings, on the website and in Your Turn with invitations to join in and contribute at the appropriate time. But don't feel you have to wait to be asked. Chris would be interested to hear about how you might be able to contribute. Call [01794512718](tel:01794512718) or Email [Chris@westwoodturnery.co.uk](mailto:Chris@westwoodturnery.co.uk)



## LETTERS & EMAILS

*Another cautionary tale about the environment we work in. This letter comes from Lionel Jolliffe:*

Dear Dave,

### **A Woodworking Hazard?**

This letter I hope will not strike any wood turner as gruesome or frightening but I thought I might pass on a recent personal experience. That is spending 24 hrs in an overnight stay in hospital.

For some time I was experiencing difficulty in breathing together with a loss of sense of smell. Nothing to do with my lungs. Eventually I experienced a complete nasal blockage which was difficult to clear. One of our local team of GPs said it was a bad case of hay fever, possibly due to wood dust, before prescribing suitable medication. The situation however recurred twice more over some months and I saw my regular GP who after listening to my tale of woe said 'a classic case of nasal polyps'.

I elected to see a private Consultant Surgeon to avoid NHS delays and I list the time scale as follows:

Consultation - one week

Quotation for total costs - received two days later

I telephoned to confirm operation - offered two days hence!!!

The operation, a Polypectomy, was completed satisfactorily, with growths removed from the back airways on both sides. The consultant said one was huge. The care package in the '25 star' Hotel Bupa was well worth going private. The BUPA and Consultant care and concern for my well being was excellent. The post operation consultation was my opportunity to discuss the problem experienced, its possible cause and any future care I should take.

The cause of the problem was not clear and could for example be related to my age or the polluted environment in which we live. However the Consultant said my woodworking activities could have a direct bearing on the condition developing. He drew particular attention to South American hardwoods as being well known for their ill effects on workers health. In fact he came back to that area several times. However wood dust effects cannot be proved. Clearly, dust extractors and filtered air face masks are essential to my mind.

As regards the future the Consultant said these things can regrow, albeit slowly. I estimate upon thinking of the past that this time around it has taken some 10 or 12 years to develop to the point of causing a blockage. This corresponds to the time where I have been very actively involved in wood working. One good piece of news was that all growths removed are routinely checked by a laboratory for anything nasty and I was given the all clear, which was as the Consultant expected.

Just for reference I have talked to one of the professional demonstrators who had a problem with his voice becoming husky. It turned out to be polyps on his vocal cords and was blamed on allergy to some wood dusts. I will not give his name as I have not asked his permission.

Finally I asked the Consultant if I should give up woodworking and he emphatically said no. The result of all this is that I will continue woodworking but not with some woods that I do know give me hay fever type symptoms very quickly. I will also maintain very strict controls on dust prevention and containment.

*Lionel Jolliffe*

This letter came from  
Surrey Association of  
Woodturners



Dear Fellow Woodturners!

Have you noticed how the enthusiasm for woodturning is less than it was 5 years ago? We have seen the decline in the number of shows and entries for competitions and worry that woodturning has lost some of the momentum it had. We want to try to remotivate our members and hope to involve other clubs in our next Open Day !

About six years ago the committee of SAW had to restrict club membership to 200. We had a waiting list for new members! We could guarantee to fill a coach to go to Yandles spring show and the Axminster show and usually had a waiting list for these as well. Competitions were well supported and lots of members regularly brought in pieces to be critiqued on practical evenings.

We still have a healthy membership but it is likely to be 160 to 170 this year rather than 200 - and we still get new members..... we are delighted that 6 junior members joined last year ..... BUT..... when we looked at the profile of our membership, the age range and the approximate number of pieces they turned in a year, we found that the majority of our members are no longer 'active' turners and many are well over 70.

A number of our members come along to club nights to be entertained but rarely go out to the workshop to try out anything they have seen. Some are indeed becoming too infirm to do much turning but enjoy the social aspect of being a member and keeping up with old friends.

This trend seems to be happening all over the country. Many woodturning shows no longer exist. We do not want to lose our own annual show, but last year, it cost us more than we can afford to lose to run as only our active members that participated and visitor numbers were down despite a huge amount of advertising. We hope to do something about it, with your help!

We will continue to provide a wide range of activities for our active members, but wondered whether we could 'borrow' from the 'Turn Essex' experience and include other clubs in our plans for our Open Day show on Sunday October 29<sup>th</sup> this year.

We will be having Open Day whether we get any response to this letter or not! We already have a number of well known trade stands who want space at the show. We will be running our annual competition and will be asking National judges to judge it for us.

This year however, we would like to invite members of your club to take part in an 'Invitational Competition' as part of the day. Depending on the response and space available it may also be possible for clubs to have a small stand, bring a lathe to demonstrate on and display a small exhibition of work.

Assuming there is some interest from other clubs, I anticipate two Open Invitational Competitions. The first would be for **individuals** to enter one piece (spindle or faceplate but not ornamental). There would be a charge of £1 per entry to cover the cost of trophies.

The second would be a '**Club Table**'. Each club could enter one table with no more than 10 items, all turned within one year of the date of the show and all by different club members. The entry fee for this would be £5 – again to cover the cost of a shield (to be returned after a year) and an individual trophy to be kept by the winning club.

The aim is to allow our members to experience a wider variety of turning, meet other local turners and also to motivate them by stimulating healthy competition.

We already run a cumulative competition through the year where members scoring 9.5 or 10 are invited to bring those pieces back to the Christmas practical evening so that members can vote for the 'Turner of the Year'. I anticipate the pieces scoring 10 being the ones we invite to be on our club's competition table.

What I am hoping, is that each club will be able to boost its own members' enthusiasm and commitment by taking part. Healthy, friendly competition would be the aim!

What do you think?

Would your club be interested in joining us on October 29<sup>th</sup>? A club stand would not be an obligation. It would be possible to just enter one or both of the competitions.

Let me know what you feel about the idea.

It would be a help to know whether your club is interested by April 27<sup>th</sup> (our next committee meeting).

You would not be committing your club to attending, but it would give me an idea about whether it is feasible. I would then send you more information and entry forms etc.

Even 2 or 3 clubs taking part would be a very worth while start! – and perhaps it could develop into something like 'Turn South East!' in future years.

It could be a really good experience! Please think about it and be positive if you can!

We are limited as to the space we can offer, so will have to restrict numbers of clubs initially to the first 5 who want to take part.

*Jennie Starbuck (Hon. Chair)*

*That strikes a few chords, doesn't it?*

*HWA committee has expressed an interest, particularly as there will be no Romsey show this year as a showcase for our Club.*

*HWA members may be invited to contribute to our Club Table if that is confirmed (to be announced later), and/or may enter the competition as individuals. For individual interest, contact Jennie on 01932 888144 or [js@starbuck.me.uk](mailto:js@starbuck.me.uk)*

## WEAVING WILLOW ON BOWLS – Ann Hilton

After the AGM Ann showed how to weave willow on the rims of bowls turned by Derrick.

A nice example of an oak bowl is shown in this picture.

Ann's description of the process follows:-



There are 3 types of willow that are sold in bolts which are bundles of rods all one length. These are brown, buff and white. Bundles are sold in different lengths from 3 foot long to 8 foot long. For the purpose of a rim around the top of a bowl, you will need 3 foot lengths.

I buy my willow ready for use from the willow wetlands in Somerset at Stoke St Gregory. This is well worthwhile as you can walk through the willow beds, see the process of how they prepare the willow for sale and you can see people making baskets which they sell in their shop on site. Also the Cane Store in Lincolnshire will sell you small quantities of willow.

The brown willow has been cut and dried and the bark left on. This gives a natural and rustic look. Bowls made from oak, elm, walnut or some burrs look effective with a brown willow rim.

The buff willow has been cut and put into tanks and boiled in water for several hours. Tannin from the bark dyes the rods rust colour. The soggy bark is then easily peeled off before the rods are made into bolts for sale. Ash, sycamore, beech and yew bowls are suitable for use with this colour of willow.

The white willow has had the bark removed without boiling. Peeling is labour intensive and done by pulling each rod through two metal spring prongs. It is therefore the most expensive. Pale wood such as ash, sycamore and holly are suitable with this pale willow.

The bowls will need 24 holes around the top, you will need to take from your willow bundle about 26/27 rods, it is always best to have some spares in case one or two break while you are working. Select the rods that are roughly the same diameter at the base. Then cut them at the base (the thick end) with a sharp knife or secateurs straight across.

Prepare the willow by soaking by completely immersing in cold water. The buff and the white willow will take about an hour to soak and the brown will take 2 days. The bath is an ideal receptacle to use and I usually throw an old towel over the willow in the bath to make sure all the ends are well in the water.

After that you then need to mellow the rods which means wrapping them up in a damp cloth (again an old towel or dust sheet is useful). The buff and white willow will take four or five hours and the brown overnight at least. This mellowing ensures that the inner parts of the willow become fully pliable. The rods are subjected to a lot of bending in the weaving process and if they are not fully soaked and mellowed they will break and crack and not make a nice neat border. They will be nice and damp from the soaking and mellowing and ready to use and you will need to work fairly quickly as you don't want the rods drying out.

Estimate the diameter of the willow against a drill bit and then drill the holes in the bowl 10mm deep. Try each rod in the holes to make sure all the rods fit snugly. They should not be in any way loose but if they are too tight you can carefully shave a little off the side of the rod. Whilst you are drilling the bowl put the willow back in the damp towel give it a fine spray of water and wrap again tightly.

Once the drilling is done put a couple of drops of thin super glue in the holes and push the rods into the holes making sure that they bottom in the hole any surplus glue is cleaned straight away otherwise it will run down the side of the bowl and mark. There is a natural curve in willow as it grows and it is better that when you place them in the hole they curve inwards towards the centre of the bowl. I find that by the time I have glued all 24 rods in, the glue have gone off and am ready for weaving.



*Weaving the rim*

Working quickly you will need to pinch the rods radially about 1/8" up from the rim of the bowl before weaving commences. I use a pair of round nosed pliers and squeeze the rods carefully. Because the first move on weaving each rod is bending the rod at 90° this ensures that it will not break.

*Continued...*

### WEAVING ON BOWLS, continued...

The first four or five rods will need to be loosely woven as you will need to thread into these when you are completing the weaving. The weaving on the Ash bowl is what is called a 3 rod border and the brown ash bowl is a 4 rod border. The larger the bowl the larger the weave will need to be to keep it in proportion. If you have to stop weaving halfway through carefully spray the willow and wrap in a damp towel, obviously keeping clear as much as possible from your bowl.

The weaving is not difficult and a whole border will only take 10-20 minutes to complete. Finishing off the last two of three rods must be done carefully and in the right order to have a neat finish. Leave it to dry thoroughly, preferably overnight as in the drying process the rods shrink slightly and then cut off the excess willow close to the edge of the bowl with sharp sidecutters. Don't throw the cut ends away as you may well be able to use them on smaller bowls that require thinner rods. If your finished bowl has got marked with your damp hands and so long as you have left a recess in the base you can remount the bowl on your lathe and carefully polish it again making sure that your cloth does not get caught on the willow. As I said earlier the actual weaving technique is not difficult and quite easy to follow through the description in the books.

*Ann Hilton*



*Materials, tools and work in progress.*

### References:

Willow Work - Mary Butcher, Dryad Press  
Letts Contemporary Crafts Basket Making - Olivia Elton Barratt  
Guide to the Willow Industry - P H Coates  
English Willow Baskets, Stoke St Gregory  
[www.englishwillowbaskets.co.uk](http://www.englishwillowbaskets.co.uk) (01823 490245)  
Cane Store, Lincolnshire [www.canestore.co.uk](http://www.canestore.co.uk)  
(01400 282271)

## WEBSITE UPDATE – Jon Gibbs

Over the last few years Chris West has created a great asset for our club. As someone who discovered the club through the website, I probably have more to thank Chris for, than most members, but I'm not alone. Dave Ackroyd informs me that of last year's new members, at least a third came along to club meetings directly because of the website.

As a publicity tool, it's obviously great; we regularly get international visitors from the USA, Europe and beyond. But it's more than that to those of us who enjoy looking at the gallery photos and consulting past copies of 'Your Turn', for that little bit of inspiration. For those remote, and/or overworked, members who only get along to a few meetings, it's a chance to keep in-touch with what's going on. The Links page is also worth a browse too, as a jumping-off point for a look at what other woodturning related websites are on offer in "cyberspace" - especially when you're away from home, and the workshop.

So, when I heard that Chris was looking to step down as official "webmaster", I volunteered to help out. It's a hard act to follow, but I'm keen that the website should continue to be a shop window for the club - I want it to continue to encourage more members to come along to our meetings and enjoy what we have to offer. But at the same time, I think the website needs to be a valuable resource for existing club members too.

Since I took over in February, one of the small things I've added is a club email reflector, primarily so that you can get to know when I make additions or modifications to the website. Over time, as this reflector attracts more members I hope that it'll also provide an opportunity for members to chat about woodturning questions, queries or issues. It's very easy to register; go to our website (<http://www.hants-woodturners-hwa.co.uk/index.htm>) and enter your email address, or send a blank email to: [hants\\_woodturners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:hants_woodturners-subscribe@yahoogroups.com). You will receive a confirmation message. Just reply to this message and your (free) subscription will be complete.

If you visit the website regularly and have ideas about how it could be improved, please come and talk to me on club nights or send me an email direct ([jon.gibbs@motorola.com](mailto:jon.gibbs@motorola.com)) or via the reflector once you've subscribed ([hants\\_woodturners@yahoogroups.com](mailto:hants_woodturners@yahoogroups.com)). I'm looking forward to hearing your suggestions.

## NOVICE TASKS 2006 - John R. Davis

At the start of this year, it was my intention to set all the tasks to a basic design, with fixed dimensions, but, when appraising, to allow a margin of leeway on the dimensions with room for some personal design interpretation. I hoped this would be a basis for learning some of the necessary turning skills whilst working to a definitive brief. However having proved fairly satisfactory, some of the entrants have not been strictly complying with the brief, and also it has been said the tasks were not allowing for freedom to be creative. Having considered this, the tasks for the next three months will allow the turner to be totally creative, but any size criteria should be complied with.

Typical sketches and or sample type turnings will be available at the meeting the month prior to the task.

### JUNE TASK

#### A pair of night light holders

A pair of night light holders suitable for a standard alloy cased night or tea lights, these must be a pair with identical dimensions and shape.

Maximum dimensions: - 4" dia. X 3.5" high

Minimum dimensions: - 3" dia. X 2" high

Suggested turning method is to mount the blank on a screw chuck, turn the underside profile with a base spigot and re-mount in your chuck. The top is then hollowed to accept the night-light; some tolerance is necessary to allow easy changing of the night-light. The top shape is then refined Finish as far as possible, remove from chuck then mount and turn a scrap piece slightly larger than the bore size and jam chuck to finish the bottom.

*(I'd like to underline John's comment about allowing plenty of tolerance on the diameter of the recess for the night light. I discovered the hard way that they may all look the same size but they are not. It can be very frustrating to have bought a bargain bag of night lights or tea lights to find that none of them fit the holder you have made using a sample of a different brand!*

- Editor)

### JULY TASK

#### A small platter with a flat rim

A small platter with a flat rim, this should preferably be decorative or textured.

Maximum dimensions: - 8" dia. X 2" depth

Mount the blank using a screw chuck, faceplate or your preferred method. Turn the underside to shape, with provision for mounting to your chuck. The shape should be evenly curved and where the side meets the rim there should be a distinct change of profile, the point of a skew could be used to form a small detail to emphasize the change of profile.

Remount the piece in your chuck and shape the top surface, leaving a prominent rim. Decorate or texture the rim then shape the bowl, slightly under cutting where it meets the rim to give a clean transition of shape. Wall thickness should be consistent and reasonably thin. Finish as necessary, then, if possible, reverse chuck and finish the base, a thin foot is a nice feature and gives a lift to any platter Remember this is a platter, not a bowl!

### AUGUST TASK

#### A small goblet

A small goblet with a plain thin stem. The cup can be plain or natural edge.

Maximum dimensions: - 7" high x 2" dia

This piece can be turned from square stock, or branch wood, the choice is yours!

Mount between centres; turn to a cylinder (except top edge if you are making a natural edge) turn a spigot on bottom end to suit your chuck. Mount securely in chuck and bring up tailstock to centre, turn approximate shape of cup, Remove the tailstock and hollow the bowl, finish as necessary. Bring back the tailstock with some padding (folded tissue or similar) in the cup and apply very light pressure making sure the finished surface is not marked. Shape and finish the cup as thin as you are confident, then turn the stem working towards the foot, finish as far as possible the shape and finish the foot. Carefully part off with a thin parting tool to a concave profile, taking care to support the stem with one hand, a slow speed is advisable to avoid the goblet flying away on final cut, finish the foot by hand.

John R Davis

## BEHIND THE SCENES

Once a year one of the regular committee meetings is extended to let all those who help the club by running the various activities exchange views. Such a meeting was held in March.

Steve Page sent a report of progress on the **Audio-visual** systems. The sound is much improved now that it is linked to the railway institute's amplifier and speakers. The projection system is also useful in allowing a large audience a better view of demonstrations. However, the latter relies on equipment loaned to the club by members, notably Steve and Bob Hope. If the lottery application fails, the club will have to consider making an investment.

Ron Broadway reported communications difficulties with **Hilliars** because of staff changes. However, he expected we would be invited to a repeat of last year's successful autumn fair. Ron is also exploring the possibility of another in the summer.

Colin Cordery sent a report on **the library** saying the stock of 36 books is getting a bit stale and used only by new members. He will be making a proposal to buy some new material including DVDs. We should also invite guest presenters to supply a book, video or DVD if they have published.

The new **meeters/greeters** initiative is working well reported Denis Hilditch though some grumble about signing in. At least newcomers are identified and nobody can claim they are not spoken to. Some useful attendance statistics should emerge.

The **Novice project** is running again though nobody was at the meeting to speak for it. So far there has been a reasonable entry for each task. Please speak up if you have any comments on the content or organisation.

Ralph Stone reported that the **raffle** makes a regular contribution of about £60 a month. He is open to ideas about prizes and thread chasers and DVDs were suggested. Some members have generously donated prizes.

Len Osborne reported **shop** takings of about £1000 for the year and a current stock value of £983. Takings vary a lot depending on the content of recent demonstrations. The shop policy is to stock common consumables like sandpaper, discs and superglue. Even with a limited range it is necessary to buy quite large amounts and the stock value can be high. New stock items will be considered but only if a high sales volume could be expected.

Roy gave a report for the **tea club** in the absence of Phil Hill. A small annual profit of about £70 is made some of which has been spent on new trays, jugs and spoons. The aim is to provide a service rather than make a profit so 20p is considered good value and most can be trusted to pay without the overhead of a cashier.

Following the success of the **charity event** for Naomi house, a similar event is being considered for another charity.

Jon Gibbs has taken over the **website** from Chris West. The site has become a showcase for the club with most of the visits from non members from overseas. A third of our new members come via the website. A new development is the Yahoo group which site visitors can sign up to. Emails sent to the site will be forwarded to group members and it could become a useful means of exchanging information. If you can, visit the site and take a look.

The **newsletter**, is now in quarterly format and is always looking for contributions. The editor has been in the job for many years and gave notice of wishing to hand over to someone new next year.

The **lottery funding** application, being handled by Chris West, is for new turning, projection and audio equipment to enable us to make presentations to schools and others in the wider community. The application is being re-submitted because the referee has to be a member of an "approved" profession. Our new referee is a teacher from Mountbatten school. There was some discussion about the **suggestions made by Dave Foote** (letter published in the Spring issue.) The idea of participation incentives was approved and introduced as a raffle cash prize at the April meeting. Members' sub groups were considered something that like minded members could arrange for themselves rather than involving the already pressed committee. The suggestion of different levels of membership was rejected. Hands-on training at workshops is something worth considering though there are no more workshops on the programme at present.

## TRADING POST

I have a friend who had to close her shop and sell up. She has a nice glass display case for sale at £150. It is about 6' tall, 4' wide, 18" deep with glass shelves and lockable doors. It is held together with little chrome brackets so there is no frame to obscure the contents. Anyone interested let me know on 023 8026 2660. I have had reports of a tree surgeon Robert Dyer operating in Hordle from whom some members have bought wood. If anyone would like to investigate, Robert's number is 01590 681259.

## SIGNING OFF

As usual at this time of year a large number of you have not yet renewed your subscriptions. Alan has quite enough to do without chasing you up. So....

- if you come to the meetings bring some cash or cheque book
- Otherwise, send a cheque for £17 payable to Hampshire Woodturners Association to Alan Sturgess, Nymph, Stonehills, Fawley, Southampton SO45 1DU
- And if you are not going to re-join, please let us know

*Dave Gibbard, Editor*