

Your Turn

The Newsletter of Hampshire Woodturners Association

Volume 13 Issue 6

November/December 2002



Christmas Issue
- Projects and Stories

**Great Programme
of Events for 2003**



"I'm sure they were all there when I started"

Cover Story

Paul Hayden talking about and demonstrating making chairs in the traditional manner at the October meeting.

Read all about it in the REVIEW OF EVENTS in this issue of Your Turn.

Dave Gibbard, Editor

Hampshire Woodturners Association

The Association meets at the Kings Worthy Primary School on the first Monday of every month (the second if the first is a bank holiday). Kings Worthy is two miles north of Winchester and the school is at the top of Church Lane, which is opposite St. Mary's church.

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 and intermediates 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 and prize draw round off the evening.

Membership is £15 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

Your Committee

Chairman.....**Dave Foote. 01794 523314**
Secretary.....**Bob Hope. 0118 9813552**
Treasurer.....**Alan Sturgess 023 80892622**
Novice Projects..... **Ian Woodford 01962 854528**
Membership Secretary..... **David Ackroyd 01489 784985**
Turn-ins Organiser/Newsletter Distribution
George Gale 023 80265195
Newsletter Editor..... **Dave Gibbard 023 80262660**

And the address for your Newsletter contributions:
7 Balmoral Close, Chandler's Ford SO53 1TG
Email d-m.gibbard@virgin.net

Your Turn

HAMPSHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER



Volume 13, Issue 6

November/December 2002

EDITORIAL - Reflections

As we approach the end of another year I can hardly believe how fast the time seems to have passed. Some say it does this when you're having fun but surely nobody can have that much fun. I certainly haven't over the past year, but that's another story. Others say it happens as you get older. I guess this could be nearer the mark.

Anyway, once again I am pleased to include our programme for the coming year and I must say our new secretary, Bob Hope has done a wonderful job in putting such a mouth watering prospect before us for 2003. Of course it was not a solo effort but Bob must take the credit for pulling it together.

Another major contribution during the year was from Chris West in creating the web site on Alan Sturgess' initiative. Time will tell of course, but I think this will become a vehicle for exchange of much news and information of interest to members.

And I must acknowledge the achievements of Derek Holdaway and Brian Mitchell for their gold and silver awards in the Axminster competition. More about this in the review of our November meeting. To do so well when the standards are so high reflects the dedication of the individuals and enhances the reputation of our Club as well.

Perhaps I should not pick out people like this when many members make regular and often unnoticed contributions, but personally I think these have been worthy of special mention.

On the broader front, the Chairman's desire to get more people involved in aspects of running the club seems to be bearing fruit. More helpers for the helpers means that that fewer of us will miss out on the entertainment of the evening meetings by working right through them.

I started reflecting on the reasons why I work for the Club. Heaven knows it is time consuming and there are times when I have to make a real effort to stir myself to meet yet another deadline. But then I think of how much I got out of the Club when I joined as a novice. In particular I remember how my turning improved under the uncompromising criticism of Syd Jenman and then the comments of Les Revell and Derek Carter until I felt sufficiently competent to give something back.

And what I have found is that the more I become involved, the more I get out of it. Dave Foote's message is that there are many ways of helping and even newcomers can make a contribution and enjoy the involvement.

True oh wise one!

Editor

In this festive issue:-

REVIEW OF EVENTS

- Paul Hayden on chair making, 7 October
- Les Thorne Solo, 4 November
- Brooks Centre, 9 November

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Christmas Social, 2 December
- Roy Wood, Competition Turning, 6 January
- **2003 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS**

A CHRISTMAS STORY by Ron Broadway

- Cinderella, the sequel.

WEB SITE NEWS from Chris West

LETTERS & E-MAILS

A CHRISTMAS PROJECT by Chuck Key

- A Midge Box

MONTHLY PROJECTS

by Ian Woodford

- 2003 Projects
- 6 January 2003 - Door stops.

BEHIND THE SCENES

**NEW MEMBERS
TRADING POST
SIGNING OFF**

MEMBERSHIP LIST

REVIEW OF EVENTS

Chair Making, 7 October

Paul Hayden kept us all absorbed by his talk and demonstration. Traditionally chair spindles were made from green ash by bodgers working in the woods with pole lathes. Green timber cuts much more easily which is particularly important when the lathe is man-powered. It also avoids the need to dry the wood. The pole lathe has its origins in Babylon, 4000 years ago and Paul's has worn very well! An old time bodger would work an 18 hour day and make a gross of chair spindles in that time. The real skill however is in the assembly or framing when all the slightly different parts were matched up by eye. The somewhat prolonged tea interval caused by the urn blowing the fuses gave several members the chance to have a go at splitting logs and turning spindles on the pole lathe.



Paul Hayden at work at his pole lathe

Anyone wanting to know more can visit Paul's website www.paulhayden.co.uk. Paul also runs courses in the woods which look great fun. Paul gave a critique of some of the gallery items, commenting in jest (?) that the large elm bowl by Lionel Joliffe was a waste of 2 chair seats! The novice project was a lidded pot which attracted a good entry of some very nice items.

Dave Gibbard

Les Goes Solo, 4 November

At the meeting we welcomed our "very own" Les Thorne who gave a varied and interesting demonstration. Les started off with explaining the way he uses a skew chisel to achieve a very good surface finish on pine spindles. He showed the different cuts and profiles that are possible with the three cutting edges of a skew chisel, namely the long point, the short point and the edge. Having covered the basics, Les went on to apply the basic cuts in turning a tear drop shape with a small base. In the second section of his demonstration Les turned a small dish (or platter) with a textured and ebonised rim. The dish was turned from Beech and gave Les the opportunity to illustrate the different cuts that are possible with a long grind bowl gouge in shaping the back of the bowl. The rim texturing was done with a small "Arbortech" style cutting tool, and the ebonising done with black spray paint. The final part of the demonstration involved using a vacuum chuck to hold the dish while the final cuts were taken on the foot. All in all a very thorough and amusing demonstration.

The meeting was also graced by a superb Gallery which included a wide range of members work. Of special note were the Gold and Silver winning entries that Derek Holdaway and Brian Mitchell had submitted to the "Tools 2002" exhibition run by Axminster. Both of these were natural edged burrs, and both were mounted on discreet three legged stands. Congratulations to both of them for their superb work!

Well over 100 members attended the meeting.

Dave Foote

Brooks Centre 9 November

8 members of the HWA put on their annual display of work at the Brooks Centre, Winchester. The principle purpose of this regular event is to promote the club and to enlighten the public on the diverse range of products that can be produced on the lathe. The members were also not shy in selling the occasional piece of work!

A good number of visitors to Winchester as well as local people took the opportunity to admire the display and engage in some lively repartee. The club boasts some excellent turners including Derek Holdaway and Brian Mitchell. Both were the recent winners (gold and silver respectively) in the Axminster National competition. Chris Davey held the attention of many with his prowess on the treadle lathe and rumour has it that he is in training for the next London Marathon.

Overall the objectives of the club were achieved with quite a few enquiries about joining. Whilst none of the members will be taking holidays in the Seychelles on the proceedings, everyone enjoyed the day and with their humour at least got a smile from the customers.

Ian Woodford

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Christmas social, 2 December

The chairman asked for a show of hands at a recent meeting about the content of the December meeting. The vote was to continue with the social format, so that is what we will be doing. We hope to see more of you there this year and remember you can bring your wives, spouses, partners, lovers etc though I suggest you restrict yourselves to one each for the evening at least! Light refreshments with wine will be served and a modest charge of £3 per head will be made towards the cost but this will get you a free raffle ticket. No shop, library, project or gallery tonight as the helpers get a night off. Come along and join in the jollification.

6 January 2003, Roy Wood

Roy will be giving a presentation on the subject of "Competition Turning". Roy will be bringing his collection of competition pieces that he has turned over the years, together with various jigs that he has used.

He will give a talk about competition turning and his experiences on the "circuit"

Those that have heard him speak before have found him very interesting and I am sure you will not be disappointed tonight.

The novice/intermediate project will be door stops. Ian's write up can be found in this issue.

2003 PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

After a great effort by our secretary, Bob Hope, the Committee is pleased to announce the following programme for next year. We have tried to take notice of your views and in particular there are more visiting turners and speakers. So far we have only arranged one full day workshop, but what a treat! Anyone who has not seen Bill Jones should make the effort to come on Sunday 2nd March. You won't be disappointed. The content of the full day workshop will be quite different and more extensive than time will allow on Bill's evening appearance the following Monday.

Monday Evening date	Main Events	Project
6 January	Roy Wood on "Competition Turning"	Door stops
3 February	Turn in	Bottle stopper
3 March	Bill Jones	Handbag mirror
7 April	AGM plus event to be announced	End grain vase
12 May	Turn in	Ball & cup
3 June	Stuart King on "Antique Turning"	Salt & pepper shakers.
7 July	Summer social	Napkin rings.
4 August	Turn in	Pot pourri bowl
1 September	Tobias Kaye	Table lamp
6 October	Martin Turner on "Design & Creativity in Wood Art"	Cheese board & knife
3 November	Members demonstration	Spinning top
1 December	To be arranged	No project

CINDERELLA - THE SEQUEL

A story with a seasonal flavour from Ron Broadway

Cinderella is now 75 years old. After a fulfilling life she happily sits on her front porch, turning lace bobbins on her treadle lathe, converted from a spinning wheel given to her by her once beautiful friend who was too sleepy to use it. Curled up on her lap is her cat named Joe whom she adopted for companionship after the Prince died.

One sunny afternoon, out of nowhere, appeared the Fairy Godmother. "What are you doing here after all these years?" Cinderella asked.

The Fairy godmother replied, "Cinderella, you have lived an exemplary life since I last saw you. Is there anything for which your heart still yearns?"

Cinderella was taken aback and overjoyed. After some thoughtful consideration, she uttered her first wish: "I wish I were wealthy beyond comprehension." Instantly, her rocking chair was turned into solid gold. Cinderella was stunned. Joe, her old faithful cat, jumped off her lap and scampered to the edge of the porch, quivering with fear.

Cinderella said, "Oh thank you, Fairy Godmother."

The Fairy Godmother replied, "It is the least I can do. What does your heart want for your second wish?"

"I wish I were young and full of the beauty of youth again."

At once, her wish became reality, and her beautiful youthful visage returned. Cinderella felt stirrings inside her that had been dormant for years. A long-forgotten vigour and vitality began to course through her. Then the Fairy Godmother again spoke,

"You have one more wish, what shall you have?" Cinderella looked over to the frightened cat in the corner and said,

"I wish for you to transform Joe, my old cat, into a kind and handsome young man."

Magically, Joe suddenly underwent so fundamental a change in his biological make-up, that when complete he stood before her, a man so beautiful the likes of which neither she nor the world had ever seen, so fair indeed that birds began to fall from the sky at his feet.

The Fairy Godmother again spoke, "Congratulations, Cinderella. Enjoy your new life."

And, with a blazing shock of bright blue electricity, she was gone.

For a few eerie moments, Joe and Cinderella looked into each others eyes. Cinderella sat, breathless, gazing at the most stunningly perfect man he had ever seen. Then Joe walked over to Cinderella, who sat transfixed in her rocking chair, and held her close in his young, muscular arms.

Joe leaned in close, blowing Cinderella's long, golden hair with his warm breath as he whispered.....

"Bet you're sorry you neutered me."

"Oh bugger" said Cinders. "I should have asked for a new lathe instead"

WEB SITE NEWS

www.hants-woodturners-hwa.co.uk

The Web Site has now been up for three months and as of 11th November we have had 278 visitors to our site. I am very happy to report that we have had a number of favourable responses from not only Club members but from turners in the USA.

I have been in contact with key sites around the world, which have 100s of links to National Woodturning organizations, national clubs and individuals.

In exchange for including their site URL on our Contact page they put ours on theirs. *Please can I ask you to make a note of any site you come across which you feel is worth looking at and send me the details.*

A plea: Is there a member out there who is a keen photographer, has a digital camera and is willing to take shots on meeting nights? I am not a photographer! If so please contact me.

An offer I would like to make: If a member has had a photograph taken of their turned item and would like a copy emailed to them, just ask and I will be happy to oblige.

For the future I am happy to receive suggestions from you. Remember It's your Web Site.

Chris West

LETTERS & E-MAILS

I must say that an unexpected benefit of the website and the inclusion of E-Mails on this page is the growth in material available. I'll have to start doing my job and actually edit if this continues!

Editor.

This Email came from John Dixon.

I am interested in using alternative ivory. There was an article on this in Woodturning magazine issue 42 describing the material manufactured by GPS Agencies Ltd. I should be grateful if anyone who still has the magazine would be kind enough to let me have a copy of this article.

John Dixon.

Apparently John has already tried to get a back copy from GMC publications but they don't have any. If you can help, you can contact him on restorart@beeb.net or East Lodge, Houghton Down, Stockbridge SO20 6JR.

Another E-Mail, this one from "ajj-ajj"!

Dave,

Imagine my surprise when another member of HWA found Ian Cunningham's workshop and gallery at Erwood just outside Builth. Being a foreigner to England, my roots are located just 30 minutes away from Alan's workshop and it was him who taught me the principles of Woodturning. As Steve Beale says in his letter to the newsletter, I was told the very same thing that it is often the chainsaw that makes the first creative decision.

He also taught me sharp tools and believe in your abilities. I never got the hang of turning those beads though! I think those three days of tuition which I had was the best money I ever spent!

Anyway, further to a previous demo by guest turner (can't remember his name) I tried making a vinegar dye as he suggested. Yes it works well giving a really good effect on both oak and beech. Beech gave a really good marbling effect by the way it took to end grain. The colour from my batch gives a sooty grey appearance. Wax or Danish oil over the top seems fine.

Finally, did you hear about the man who made a wooden car with wooden wheels, wooden doors, wooden body and wooden engine....it wooden go!

Regards,

Taff (as if you couldn't guess - my wife knows me as Andrew)

A J Jones.

Yet another Email. Clive Ashby this time:

Hi Dave,

Many thanks for the September issue of 'Your Turn' including interesting articles as usual.

In particular the HWA web site, I thought it was great, and in colour !! I am very willing for the HWA not to send me any further 'paper issues' of Your Turn as I can see it all on the Web now. That should help out with the costs.

Please pass on my congratulations to Chris West and others who helped out in creating the Web Page. No doubt yet again, it is the dedicated few who do all the work, (just like our bowls club down here).

All the best.

Clive Ashby

Thanks for the kind words Clive. We will continue mailing the newsletters to everyone until we have a sufficient number of members electing to use the website. Don't worry if you don't have the means of downloading electronically, Your Turn will continue to be sent by post to all those who wish to receive it that way.

Editor.

Ian Woodford's article on Celtic Birth Woods created a lot of interest and this follow up:-

A couple of issues ago I reported on how the Celtic birth wood calendar came to my attention. Since then I have been asked by a few of you about so-called Whitten wood representing the period in October and November.

Well after much painstaking research (actually 5 minutes in the reference library) I have come up with the definitive answer from the Concise Oxford English Dictionary.

It appears that the following 4 trees were known by that name.

Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*.

Wayfaring tree *Viburnum lantana*.

Mountain ash or Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*.

Water Elder (Latin name not known).

If anyone wants to pursue this further and turn gifts for this birth wood period I would be inclined to recommend using Rowan as the two viburnums are scrubby little shrubs and Water Elder I know nothing about.

Happy turning.

Ian Woodford.

PROJECTS

2003 Projects

The time has arrived when next years projects can be revealed. It can be quite a problem as I try to vary them each year in order to maintain interest as well as realising that new people are joining all the time and projects must be within certain capabilities (mine as well). Last year I placed emphasis more on spindle than faceplate work and the same will apply this year as I still feel that gaining confidence and ability in spindle work is of prime importance. There is also greater scope in spindle projects and hopefully the list will provide some challenges as well as a bit of fun. We will continue to give guidelines each newsletter on the forthcoming projects so have a go, but most of all enjoy your turning.

Next year two very good and experienced turners, Brian Mitchell and Derek Holdaway, are helping. You've no doubt seen examples of their work in the monthly galleries and realise the expertise they have. They will be happy to pass on any tips they can. The method of assessment will also change and this should help to speed up the critique. Although some of the projects may not appeal or be your "thing", please have a go and between Brian, Derek and myself we will make sure that examples of the projects will be brought along each meeting. Finally I would like to thank all that have entered into the spirit of the monthly tasks and if you have gained just one useful tip along the way, then it's been worthwhile. I've thoroughly enjoyed leading our group and it's certainly made me more critical of my own work. Looking at the work submitted each month has, in many respects, made me feel like a novice myself. Keep up the good work.

The list of projects is included in the 2003 programme of events on a previous page. -Ed

6 January, Door wedges.

A fairly straightforward project to start the year and the whole turning procedure can be completed with a spindle gouge, however careful preparation is required with the blank.

Suggested tools - spindle gouge.

Blank size - approx 230 mm long by 30 mm square.

Finish - no finish required except for sanding.

The blank is prepared and it is most important that it is nice and square. Mark the centres at each end and then mark a line round the square about 50mm in from each end. The only turning to be done is a simple decorative knob each end leaving the area between the two lines totally alone.

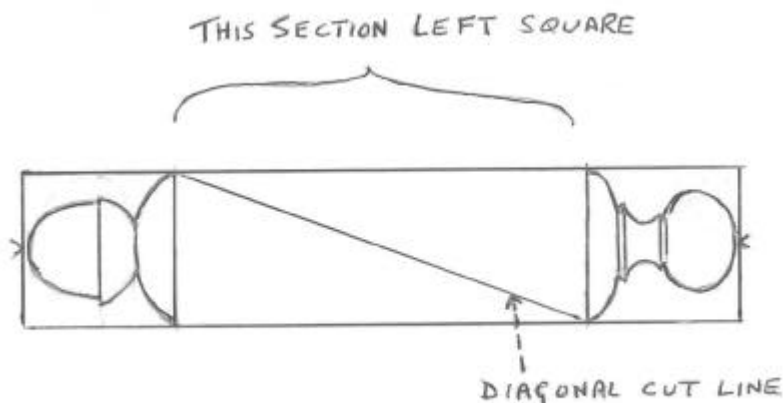
Mount between centres and the first cuts are from the drawn lines toward the ends. The aim is to form a shoulder leading into the rest of the decorative knob or finial. Start with the flute in a horizontal position and roll into the cut in one sweep with the gouge flute finishing almost vertical. Then turn the rest of the knob to a finish. Aim for a little waste bit at each end that can be pared away by hand when removed from the lathe. Sand the turning but a finish need not be applied.

When removed from the lathe you have a squared section of wood with a decorative turning each end. A line is drawn from the shoulder at one end to the shoulder diagonally opposite at the other. Cut along this line on the band saw or hand cut if preferred.

You now have two door wedges. Sand the flat sawn surfaces and they are finished. There is nothing to stop you from turning each end to a different profile making the wedges distinctly different.

A fairly quick and simple project for the start of 2003.

Ian Woodford



BEHIND THE SCENES

We had another meeting between the committee and the "helpers" in October. This will probably become an annual event as it gives everyone involved a chance to have their say in a relaxed atmosphere away from the pressures of the club meetings.

The "**tea boys**" are happy with the new urn though they blew a fuse at the last meeting when both urns were switched on together,

There is some irritation about the number of members who don't pay for their tea.

Come on chaps it's only 20p and that includes biscuits! We'll issue a few gentle reminders. Consider this one of them.

The **raffle** is a popular feature of our meetings. Mike Hutchinson and Bob Collings who have run the raffle for some time have announced they would like to step down next year, so we will be looking for some more helpers. Volunteers please see Mike or Bob or a committee member. The suggestion is that we look for 3 people to provide cover for absence and to allow the organisers more time at meetings.

Many thanks for your efforts, Mike and Bob, on behalf of the committee.

The **shop** takes about £70 to £100 per night selling a useful range of consumables. Len Osborne usually has 1 or 2 helpers which gives him the chance to leave the table for a while. There was some discussion about stock items but the consensus was that it's about right. We don't want too much slow moving stock or stuff that is bulky and heavy to carry to and from meetings. What is stocked is of general interest to most members and is manageable.

There was a long discussion about the **Project**, even though Ian Woodford was away on the Sail Training Association's "Tenacious".

(He's promised us an article. Look forward to it!)

Derek Holdaway (one of the new Projects helpers) stood in. Obviously this is a very useful feature of our evenings and popular beyond those who enter work judging by the crowd the critique attracts. We thought of experimenting with the evening format to allow sufficient time but without delaying resumption of the evening's main events. We are pleased that those who have progressed beyond the "novice" description still put work in. This was the intention of naming it "novice and intermediate project". But that is such a mouthful it will just be called the monthly Project from now.

Steve Page spoke about **sound and vision**. The former has been a great success provided people use the mike. The vision side of it less so. The camera is of superb quality but is big and heavy and has no local display so it is very difficult to set up and move about. We decided we would invest in a small cheap monitor to use local to the camera. The other problem is with the screen. 100 people trying to look at one screen presents some problems! Trying to set up multiple screens even if we had them would be a logistical nightmare, but perhaps a second screen would be possible. This is another area where a second helper would be useful. Any volunteers? Dudley Backhurst couldn't make it so there was little discussion about the **library**. Another time.

Just a brief "mid-term" **financial statement** from Alan Sturgess. The balance on 21 October stood at £2236. This is close to the high point of the year since the subs have been received. This is slightly down on the same time last year (£2634) but we have more shop stock than we did then. Under Alan's prudent chancellorship, things are going to plan.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome four new members at the time of writing:

John Gibbs of 14 Atherley Court, Shirley, SO15 7NG, 023 8078 9707

Beth Woodgate of 7 Darren Close, Stubbington PO14 2LU. 01329 668089

Alan Johnston, 69 Belle Vue Road, Old Basing RG24 7JN, 01256 472179

Colin Cordery, Fox's Way, Park Lane, Ropley SO24 0BE. 07889170334.

Welcome all of you. Particularly nice to see another lady member.

TRADING POST

Brian Taylor is moving and will have no room for: Poolewood 28-40 variable speed lathe.

Husqvarna 40 chainsaw (18" bar) (unused)
Plus wood and various other items.

No prices given but it certainly sounds worth a look. Contact Brian after 16 November on 01256 781811

SIGNING OFF.....

Well that's all from "Your Turn" for 2002. I hope to see a good number of you at the December social evening. Remember you are welcome to bring a guest for an evening of merriment.

A merry Christmas to all our readers.

Dave Gibbard, Editor