

# Your Turn

The Newsletter of Hampshire Woodturners Association

Volume 14 Issue 6

November/December 2003



**Get the Idea?**  
Asks Martin Turner



**Follow the Thread**  
Dave Foote's home made chasers

**Relocation, relocation  
relocation.....**  
Goodbye to Kings Worthy school.



## Cover Story

Three stories in fact:

Martin Turner on “design and creativity” at the October meeting,  
Dave Foote’s home made thread chasers and  
Hampshire Woodturners are homeless at the end of the year see  
“accomodation crisis”.

More on all of these inside this issue of Your Turn.

Dave Gibbard, Editor

## Hampshire Woodturners Association

The Association meets at the Kings Worthy Primary School for the last time in December. *At the time of writing, we have no venue for 2004.*

We meet on the first Monday of every 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 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 £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](http://www.hants-woodturners-hwa.co.uk)

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# Your Turn

## HAMPSHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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### EDITORIAL – House Rules

Marion is very supportive of my activities in the workshop, particularly when they solve some of those tricky Christmas present problems. But she likes all the gory details to be kept on the far side – in the workshop and not in the house. So between the two is the decontamination area where I strip off my workshop clothes and don my house clothes. That's the theory anyway. In practice of course I sometimes get carried away. There I am standing in the kitchen proudly displaying the results of my labour and she's looking at my feet! My eyes follow hers downwards to the trail of shavings leading from the door. So out I go again and forget which way I'm supposed to be going and find myself in the workshop with my slippers on.

Then I need a pee.

When nature calls there's no time for all this changing of clothes. Well I have a confession to make. I have been known to creep outside and pee on the compost heap. Oh come on, everyone does that surely? I'd be interested to know how our lady members handle this situation.

Finally I finish for the evening and venture back through the decontamination area with my latest creation. Have you noticed that no matter how hard you examine your work in the workshop, you will see a flaw the instant you get inside? There's not a woodturner alive who can resist the urge to go back to the far side to do a bit more sanding and polishing. And are you going to get all kitted up again? What do you think? And yet you know what is to come.

"What's that on your shirt?"

Oh that's nothing, it'll come off easily enough. It didn't last time. You're always spoiling your clothes.

Can't I just keep wearing the spoiled ones then I wouldn't spoil new ones?

You just don't care what you look like do you? Not in the workshop I don't. Anyway who do you suppose is looking at me?"

Wherever this is leading, you don't really want to go.

Phew. I might just have got away with it this time. As I go upstairs I keep back-tracking to pick up the odd shaving. Where on earth do the things keep coming from?

Oh no, there are some in the bed. Only one thing to do – turn out the light and pretend to be asleep.

*Dave Gibbard – Editor*

### In this issue:-

#### REVIEW OF EVENTS

- International Oak Conference
- 6 October – Martin Turner – Design & Creativity
- 3 November – Chris West – Wooden Hats and the final round of the Competition
- Tools 2003 – the Axminster Show

#### HWA COMPETITION RESULTS

#### COMING EVENTS

- 15 November – Brookes Centre
- 1 December – Christmas social event
- 22-23 November – Hillier Arboretum Exhibition
- 6 January – Guy Ravine – Weird and Wonderful

#### ACCOMODATION CRISIS

- New home needed for Hampshire Woodturners

#### THE RON BROADWAY COLUMN

- If cars were like computers

#### LETTERS & E-MAILS

#### PROGRAMME FOR 2004

- New meetings format
- 2004 programme– Bob Hope

#### FOLLOW THE THREAD

- Tap into the Chairman's bright idea

#### MONTHLY PROJECTS by Ian Woodford

- Projects for 2004, novice awards for 2003
- February Project -

#### BEHIND THE SCENES

#### TRADING POST

#### SIGNING OFF

## REVIEW OF EVENTS

### 13/14 September – International Oak Society Conference



*The HWA stand at the Oak Conference*

Following our exhibition at the Hillier Arboretum last year, HWA was invited to put on a display of items made from oak at the conference of the International Oak Society at King Alfred's College, Winchester. So, Derek Holdaway, Dave Foote, Ron Broadway, Alan Sturgess and I brought along a wide variety of turned work from acorns to boxes, bowls and vases. The Society had managed to acquire some wood from a "Nelson Oak" which was made available to us. Apparently during the Napoleonic war, so many ships were built that the Admiralty became alarmed at the dwindling supply. So, under Nelson's instigation, a large number of oaks were planted around the country for the navy of the future. Naturally these became known as Nelson Oaks. By the time they matured, warships were being made of iron. So much for planning! Anyway, the things made from Nelson oak were much in demand by the delegates.

It was an unusual sort of show, since most of the time they were in conference and there was absolutely nothing to do but during the breaks there was frantic activity. One American delegate said "You guys have really enhanced this meeting". See also the letters page. Nice to be appreciated. Don't hold your breath for the next conference, they are held every 3 years, the members come from dozens of countries and most of them take a turn at hosting the event.

### 6 October – Martin Turner



*Examples of Martin's work*

Due to a technical hitch there was no sound system. It hardly mattered since the audience listened with intense interest. You'd have to call Martin a creative person. Those who were there to see his slides and display will understand what I mean. Pity he did not bring any actual wood I thought, but since his work is often on an epic scale and has generally already been sold, I suppose that was understandable.

Anyway, the slide show was good. Martin carves and turns though he clearly believes that carving offers the means for a greater variety of expression and is less susceptible to plagiarism. He distinguishes between creativity and design, defining the former as having an idea and the latter to transforming it into something that can be made and works. Those who aspire to greatness in any field must strive to create new ideas.

Amongst turners he cited the work of Firmager, Marsh and Weissflog as examples of creativity. Even if you don't aspire to greatness, spending time thinking about what you are trying to make will pay dividends and give satisfaction. He advocated sketching shapes in a personal "ideas" book and taking inspiration from the work of artists in other fields, like ceramics. He rejected the idea that some people were incapable of creativity. So there you are, food for thought and you can all do it to some extent. Martin offered to run a special course about carving with turning lasting a few days at a special rate for HWA members.

*(I'd be happy to make a list if you would like to let me know if you are interested. - Editor)*

The questions kept coming and once again we ran out of time for a critique on the member's gallery. I hope you agree that it would have been a pity to cut short the discussion with our guest.

## REVIEW OF EVENTS – CONTINUED

### 3 November – Chris West

I hope Chris won't mind me saying that he has a penchant for off beat things with a touch of humour. His entry for the Axminster show is a good example – salt and pepper mills in the very realistic form of beer bottles. But here he was showing us how he makes wooden hats of all shapes and sizes. Last September he wrote an article for our Travellers' Tales series about his visit to the hat master, Johanne Michelsen to learn the technique. Tonight he shared his knowledge with us as he explained how to convert an enormous, heavy, wet piece of wood into a delicate hat. Keeping it wet until the last minute and turning it very thin is the key. Thickness is judged by light transmission and wetness is maintained by constant spraying. When turned, the hat is clamped on a jig to make it dry oval and stressed with rubber bands to curl the brim. If anyone fancies having a go, I'm sure Chris would be pleased to give some hints.



*"This is how you do it"*

*Some examples Of Chris's hats and jigs.*



The rest of the evening was devoted to the final round of the Competition. A separate report on the Competition follows.

### 6-8 November. Tools 2003



*The Woodturning competition display at "Tools 2003"*

Better known by all and sundry as the Axminster Show. This was the first time at the new venue at the Westpoint Exhibition Centre, Exeter. I took a break from the day job on the Friday and went along with George to take a look. It was a lovely day for a drive in bright sunshine and the Autumn colours, so good this year, were still in evidence though past their best. The show was busy with quite a few familiar faces demonstrating and some very nice entries in the Competitions. Very nice entries from Hampshire Woodturners members came from Derek Holdaway, Brian Mitchell, Chris West, Harry Butler and John Davis. No winners this year unfortunately, but I really don't know how you judge these things. (I'm sure Briam Hannam would agree!) So much comes down to personal opinion and there will always be those who will disagree.

There were competitions in carving and furniture as well as turning. Personally, my favourite piece was in the furniture competition and it was not the overall winner.



*Entries from HWA turners. John Davis, Brian Mitchell, Derek Holdaway and below Harry Butler and Chris West*



## HWA COMPETITION RESULTS

The November meeting saw the third and final round of the Competition. This time the scope was items incorporating both faceplate and spindle turning. There were 5 entries in the novice section and 7 in the open. Brian Hannam, our judge, commented that all entries showed a good standard which made his task more difficult. However, having run his expert eye and his calipers over the entries he pronounced the open winner for this round to be Ian Woodford followed by Dave Gibbard and Adrian Smith. In the Novices, Dave Foote completed his hat trick with a third win, followed by Horace Baker and Martin Williams.



All the winners. Top row,  
Open category, 1 Ian  
Woodford, 2 Dave Gibbard,  
3 Adrian Smith.

Bottom row, novices  
1 Dave Foote, 2, Horace  
Baker, 3 Martin Williams



Overall Placings after 3 rounds:  
**Turner of the year**, open category  
Ian Woodford, by 1 point from Dave Gibbard  
with Brian Mitchell third.  
Runaway winner of the novice category was  
Dave Foote followed by Horace Baker and  
Martin Williams.  
Congratulations to you and thanks to all  
those who took part, to judge Brian Hannam  
and organiser John Davis.

*Ps in the next issue, Adrian Smith will be describing how he made that lovely "floral dish" in yew.*

## COMING EVENTS

### 15 November – Brookes Centre

Due to publication delays, by the time you read this the event will have happened. It was on then off but finally it is happening. Hampshire Woodturners are once again exhibiting at the Brookes Centre in Winchester. Representing the Club are Ian Woodford, Jon Harmer, John Davis, Brian Mitchell, Ron Broadway and Chris Davey.

### 22/23 November – Hillier Arboretum exhibition

Another event which has become a regular feature of the HWA calendar takes place this year at the new visitor centre. The Arboretum near Romsey, or Gardens as they now like to call it is well worth a visit anyway though perhaps not at its best at this time of the year. An advantage of the new venue is that visitors will not have to pay to get into the gardens to visit it, so there could be more people attending our exhibition. Many thanks to Ron Broadway who has organised the event again.

### 1 December – Christmas Social

This could be the last event of its kind but the hard core of devotees keep pleading to retain it so we are just trying it again with a small change. This year entrance is free, (but you will have to buy your raffle ticket). Raffle prizes will be rather more seasonal than before too. There will be free snacks and wine, a quiz (mostly not turning related) and a jolly participation event which does have a woodturning flavour. Come along and bring a guest. This could be the last meeting at King's Worthy Primary School.

### 5 January 2004 – Guy Ravine, Weird and Wonderful

We welcome Guy ravine to the first new style event. Guy is a regular demonstrator at national shows and contributor to woodturning magazines and is the Artist in Residence at Sulgrave Manor for 2003. In this demo he will touch on some of the more unusual materials, Banksia, Snakewood, Buckeye Burr, Tagua nut, Uxi nut, Aluminium, Brass, Bone, Acrylic, Horn, Alternative Ivory and a surprise or two.

**Watch your mail for the new venue.**

## ACCOMODATION CRISIS

The word has probably got round that we are losing our meeting venue at Kings Worthy Primary School at the end of this year. It seems the school have other plans for the hall.

It won't be the first change of venue of course. After a brief spell in the prison (really), the club set up home in the Winchester scout hut. We rather outgrew that venue and parking was really restricted so we moved to the Red Cross building. After a few years there the Red Cross had other plans and we were home hunting again. We settled on the present venue which has served us well for several years. Steve Page even managed to do something about the awful acoustics with our amplification system.

Following some hard searching, our short list of alternatives has become even shorter. Zero, in fact, and at the time of going to press we remain without a venue for 2004. I guess we can call that a crisis. If anyone can help, now would be a good time. We are looking for somewhere in the Winchester area capable of taking up to 100 people that we can hire one evening a month, preferably the first Monday, but at this stage we would consider changing even that.

Publication of this issue of "Your Turn" had been delayed in anticipation of being able to announce the new venue, but our last prospect fell through when the school in question realised we would bring machinery into the hall and make a mess.

An announcement will be made at the Christmas meeting, on the website and by post as soon as there is a venue for the January meeting.

### THE RON BROADWAY COLUMN

Bill Gates of MicroSoft compared the computers with cars, saying, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry, we would all be driving \$25 cars that did 1,000 miles to the gallon".

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics :

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the road for no reason. You would have to pull over to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre would cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.

6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light.

7. The airbag system would ask "Are you sure?" before deploying.

8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.

9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.

10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

*Hey, Ron, I've got another one.*

*You'd be trying to execute a really tricky manoeuvre when an animated steering wheel would pop up in front of you and say "It looks like you are trying to drive a car. Need any help?"*

*Editor*

## LETTERS AND EMAILS

*From the International Oak Society:*

On behalf of our Society I would like to thank you and your colleagues for an outstanding display of wood turning at our conference recently, it certainly caused much comment and admiration. It seemed your pricing was very acceptable which I hope ensured that you sold out.

The beautiful gavel which you so kindly donated to the Society was much admired and will no doubt become one of our heirlooms.

Your members put on a very attractive and artistic display which demonstrated so beautifully the many ways oak can be used and finished on the lathe.

*Dorothy Holley*

*(More on the exhibition in the "Events report")*

*Ken Churchill writes:*

I would like to thank all the members who purchased containers at the monthly meeting. A cheque for £31 has been sent to the **Naomi Children's Trust** which I am sure will be much appreciated.

*And on subject of burning wire wool:*

We know from our school days that wire wool burns, but I have found a new way of doing it. I keep the charger for my electric screwdriver permanently connected and only remove it for use. Normally the jack plug is just dropped on to the bench. On this occasion I did not notice I had dropped it onto a large ball of 0000 wire wool until I smelt the smoke and on turning round saw the flames. Hate to think what the outcome might have been if I had taken the screwdriver into the house to use!

*Ken Churchill*

*Chris Davey sent this letter received from Prostate Research Campaign UK*

Dear Mr Davey

Thank you so much for your kind letter telling us of the active interest which Dr. Dudley Backhurst took in woodcarving and how the woodturners and woodcarvers joined forces to clear the workshop following the death earlier this year of Dudley Backhurst. It was most kind of Mrs. Sylvia Backhurst to suggest that the money raised should be sent to Prostate Research Campaign UK and we are most grateful to you for the cheques you have sent us amounting to £235. We have also heard from Mr. Heathcote of the Hampshire Woodcarvers. Do please convey our thanks to the Hampshire Woodturners for their interest in this and as you can imagine we are most grateful to Mrs Backhurst for her suggestion. It is a very practical form of tribute to Dr. Backhurst.

*C.A.A.Kilminster*

*(I understand that a similar sum was sent by the woodcarvers too. – Editor)*

*Here's an Email from our Webmaster*

Dear Ed

Could you please spare some space in the next Your Turn to allow me to put a couple of questions to the members?

1. How do I finish a partially turned item which gives the non-turned part a grey weather-beaten look? I do not want to have to resort to pinching a farmers fence post.

2. Does any member have a nice piece of dry 4" square x 5" long piece of Cherry that they would be willing to sell me. This is to make a present for a special lady who I frequently upset when coming in from my workshop still covered in shavings!

Chris West [email:chris@westwoodturnery.co.uk Tel: 01794 512718]

*Chris, A grey weather beaten look is no problem. I've had one for years. My suggestion is bleach and a wire brush. Any others?*

*And I think Chris may have found his cherry.*

*Perhaps I should rephrase that.*

*Ed*

*Letter from America.*

I am aware of the Twining project between the Rhode Island Woodturners and your Club. I don't have a computer, 'darned things', and would like to write using a good old fashioned pen to one of your members. I understand that we start by writing something about ourselves. Here is mine.

My name is Ernie Grimes, I'm 83 years old. I'm retired from the floor covering business but now do volunteering work at a local soup kitchen.

I collect lathes and use most of them. There are 7 or 8 very old Craftsman lathes and some Delta lathes from the Mini to larger ones.

With regard to my level of expertise I would say I was above average but with some things still to learn. I enjoy turning almost anything. That is a topic for discussion!

When I'm not woodturning my interests are making furniture. I belong to a woodworking Guild in New Hampshire and to many woodturning clubs in New England. I am also the Editor of one of the larger club's newsletter.

My address is: Ernie Grimes,  
24 Phillips Lane, Swansea, MA 02727 USA  
Tel #: 508-672-3447

I really would like to have the chance to write to one or more of your members. I'm sure that we would have a lot of interesting topics to talk about.

*If any member decides to write to Ernie please could they let Chris West know. – Editor*

## PROGRAMME FOR 2004

### FORMAT OF MEETINGS

In the process of generating the programme for 2004, the committee has reviewed the successful and the unsatisfactory aspects of the current programme.

On the positive side, the increase in the use of visiting speakers which was prompted by popular demand has been successful, judging by comments received, attendance at meetings and reception given to our visitors. We intend to build on this success with more of the same.

However, we continue to struggle to find the right format for what could be called the “member participation activities” – turn-ins, novice project, gallery and competition.

The gallery was introduced as a showcase for members’ work without the competitive element which was blamed for the demise of the old style regular competitions. Whilst it has been good to see the work which members have brought along it tends to be a small number of the same members who do so. Perhaps the problem is that there is often no time for a public critique and this is taken as lack of interest in the work on show.

The novice project also has a similar problem of lack of time for public comment. We have tried moving it outside the hall but members are then faced with a choice of watching the main event or listening to the novice comments, plus there is no suitable space outside. The current format provides more individual critique but this deprives the majority of the experience. Another problem is that in an attempt to involve more people in the project, entries from more experienced turners have been welcomed. Although this has provided some nice examples, the “real” novices are put off by the high standard they cannot yet achieve.

The attempt to revive the competition this year has attracted only a small number of entries. Considering we have such a large and experienced membership one has to question the enthusiasm for participating in such an event. However, the audience did seem to enjoy the critique of the items that were entered.

What we propose is 2 different types of evening:

- “Visitor” evenings will largely be devoted to a presentation by a visitor or an experienced member. Though there will be a gallery and project, there will be no time for public critique of either.
- Participation evenings where the time (and possibly space in the new venue) will be divided between activities involving members e.g. turn-ins, short demonstrations or talks, gallery with a critique and novice project with a critique. The project will be just for the novices. Those who have advanced beyond novice standard will be encouraged to switch to bringing work to the gallery. On these evenings there will be a critique for the novices and the gallery. We are considering a “self critique” for the latter where the turner describes what he or she was attempting, how they went about it and what problems they encountered.

As for the competition, the committee is minded to repeat it with some changes. If we do, it will of course be held on the participation evenings. See “behind the scenes”.

As ever, your committee would value your views but please try to be constructive and direct. Anonymous grumbling is not much help.

## PROGRAMME FOR 2004

Month	Event	Novice task	Workshop
5 January	Guy Ravine – Weird and Wonderful	Bud vase	
2 February	Turn in	Apple	
1 March	Axminster Tools	Needle case	Gary Rance (7 <sup>th</sup> )
5 April	AGM and Mark Baker of Woodturning magazine	Scoop	
10 May	Turn in	Box	
7 June	Sorby Tools demonstration	Stemmed goblet	
5 July	Summer social	Platter	
2 August	Turn in	Pedestal fruit bowl	
6 September	Dave Reeks – Hollow forms	Candle snuffer	
4 October	Member Demonstration	Pepper mill	
1 November	Gregory Moreton – Natural edge wet bowl	Decorative bowl	
6 December	Stuart Mortimer	Wall clock	

## FOLLOW THE THREAD By Dave Foote

Like many of the club members I was both fascinated and amazed at the skill of Bill Jones when he came to do the workshop and club meeting a couple of months ago. He is certainly one of those craftsmen who seem able to make great things flow from their hands apparently without effort. Anyway, having spent a whole day seeing Bill chase threads I felt inspired to "have a go". Of course thread chasers are readily available from various suppliers but it was a weekend, and I'm a cheapskate, so I set about thinking how I could make some chasers for myself.

Early thoughts of filing teeth into a steel bar were dismissed as impractical. Bill had recommended starting with 20 tpi and I knew that my filing would never be that accurate, as well as the problems in hardening the steel after I'd made teeth. I then considered whether I could somehow use bits of a hacksaw blade which has good hard teeth already formed. This was the front runner for a while but was eventually dismissed due to the "set" on the teeth - I didn't think I could remove it and I had a feeling it would upset the cutting action of the teeth when used as thread chasers.

Finally I hit upon the idea of using a 20 tpi tap that I had. It was from a Whitworth or UNF set which is pretty much obsolete, so I cut it up to obtain some small sections of pre-cut, accurate, hardened 20 tpi teeth. The tap was of the kind that has four cutting "wings" so I cut it twice long ways to produce an "X" shaped cut into the cutting end of the tap. I then parted off two pieces with a small cross ways cut. All the cutting was done with the brown cutting disc that comes with a Dremel, and it was pretty straight forward with nothing getting hot enough to draw the temper of the steel. Finally I did a little tidying up on the grinder before moving on to stage two.

Thread chasers come in two forms, the female (side on) cutter and the male (end on) cutter. I decided to mount my bits of "tap" onto mild steel strip that I had salvaged from our old garden gate, with the idea that once they were attached I could grind the steel to form a tang and then fit a handle. The trickiest bit of the whole thing came next as I had to hold the small tap pieces onto the steel strip in order to braze them in place with a blowtorch. (The problem being that the blast of the blowtorch is easily enough to blow the small metal pieces onto the floor – disaster!) After a few trial runs I managed to use wire and sleight of hand to get the brazing done. I did also "tin" the steel strip with some braze before fixing the bits of tap so that in effect they simply settled into the softening braze as it came up to temperature. My main worry was not to overheat the small parts, and keep the alignment of the teeth about right.

So I now had two steel strips about 7 inches long one with teeth at the end and one with teeth at the left hand side of one end. Then the grinding work started to shape the chasers around and under the teeth so that proper access could be achieved. This was all simple trial and error. Finally I touched the top face of the teeth onto the grinder to smooth off the face so that I could use a diamond hone to sharpen them. And it works! I then got into thread chasing and never bothered putting the handles on.

### Thread Chasing

I have found that it isn't too hard to do though I have absolutely no confidence of getting any of it right first time. But the work is small and so even if you make lots of rubbish, the amount of waste is tiny. Male threads are much easier than female, mainly because you can see them forming. However if you don't "trail" the scraper enough it digs in hard and forms lovely little beads, and lots of cursing! Doing the female part first is what Bill did and I see why as it is much easier to trim the male thread than the female. Boxwood is of course the classic material to work with. I have also managed well with Olive heartwood, Blackwood, and Ebony. Both Holly and Hornbeam also work but the threads I've managed in these do have some torn areas. Finally I found that alternative Horn is really easy for thread chasing probably because it is hard and of even consistency.

In conclusion I'd recommend you give it a go – the satisfaction of finally getting two parts to fit together is just great. If you'd like to see my impressive home made chasers just let me know.

Dave Foote



*The finished salt shaker from the underside and the DIY chasers, right*



## MONTHLY PROJECTS by Ian Woodford

Well we've come to the end of another year and I want to thank all those that took the time and trouble to complete the monthly projects. Some of them were probably not your choice of work but you had the patience to humour me and make a good job of the project. I hope you've enjoyed the challenge and learnt a little from it. I've had the invaluable help of Brian Mitchell and Derek Holdaway this year and we all owe them a big thank-you for their advice and tips given so willingly.

However we have one big conundrum in that the majority of you can't really call yourselves novices anymore so all you novice turners out there that have **not** entered before, come and have some fun and give it a go now otherwise we won't be able to continue our section. Once again, thanks to all those that have participated over the past year.

I hope that the **new projects** (listed in the 2004 programme) is varied enough. It will certainly give you several different methods of work holding, even in the same project. As with last year there is more emphasis on spindle than faceplate work because I will always feel that confidence with work between centres, as well as the various holding methods, gives a much better start to our chosen hobby. On some projects you will need to start 2 or 3 months before the due date. They are those that need rough turning first to ensure a better result, and enough notice will be given about this.

### Results of the novice projects 2003.

With our new method of assessment and the fact that there are at least two people combining to give the critique we feel that the results are very fair and just. Quite a few entered every month and their work ethic is a credit to them. Nevertheless it was not a difficult job to pick the top three and the clubs' congratulations go to them.

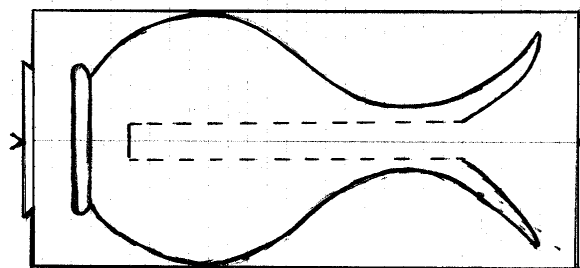
1<sup>st</sup> **Horace Baker.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> **Harry Woolhead.**  
3<sup>rd</sup> **Brian Matcham.**

Apart from saying "well done" we have just one further comment to make:- "don't dare enter the novice section again, except to run it".

### January Project. Bud Vase.

This is a firm favourite whenever we include it and is a nice little one to kick-start the year. As well as turning ability, emphasis should also be placed on design, otherwise you will end up with dead looking lump of wood with a hole in it. We are not looking for extensive hollowing, just a hole drilled down the middle in which to place dried grasses and then a little bit of end grain hollowing to shape the internal curve of the neck. A project like this always looks good turned out of branch wood like yew or laburnum. Spalted beech is also very suitable. Examples will be brought along to the January meeting. You will need a piece of timber about 165mm long by 90mm in diameter. Select your wood and mount between centres. Turn to cylinder and at one end form a spigot to suit your chuck. Mount in the chuck and true up the end grain. Now drill a 10mm hole to within 20mm or so of the proposed base. The internal hollowing of the neck can be done with a spindle gouge by the standard end grain hollowing technique. Start from the hole cutting out toward the edge of the vase. The flute should be angled toward you at about 45 degrees and then the tool is pulled toward you with the bevel rubbing. This produces a downhill cutting action without causing torn end grain. Start a little deeper with each cut but aim for the same finishing position. The result is a nicely flowing and gentle curve. The tailstock can now be brought up for support whilst the outside profile is turned. Stability is important so leave most of the bulk toward the base of the vase. Sand and seal in the usual way before parting off. Try not to leave any sanding or polishing rings. The final sanding can be done with the lathe switched off and in the direction of the grain to give a better result. Part off and hand finish the base. A vase like this looks great when displaying dried grasses and seed heads. Try making 2 or 3 with a variation in profile. Perhaps leave the bark on in places for additional effect. Enjoy the project.

*Ian Woodford*



*Plan of bud vase within blank*

## BEHIND THE SCENES

The meeting of the committee with all the helpers has become a regular event and provides a useful forum for discussion, often leading to adjustments of policy or direction. Once again we met at IBM. Thanks to Steve Page for arranging the venue. The experience of running the evening meetings was discussed and the new format proposed by the committee. The wider selection of views contributed to some adjustments to the proposals which are described in the item on the 2004 programme. The point was made that a new venue may allow adjustments to the running of the meetings which could address some of the problems of squeezing everything in. In particular we may be able to divide the hall to allow events to proceed in parallel without interfering with each other.

At the date of the meeting we thought a new venue had been found and there was some discussion about the advantages and disadvantages compared with Kings Worthy, but since this has fallen through, there seems little point reporting it.

Going round the table, Steve Page hoped the new venue would offer better acoustics.

Chris West is proposing further development of the website, having had very little feedback from members. *(I know how you feel Chris. Same with the newsletter. However, I know the website is much admired even though not many people might tell you!).* Chris suggested another drive to get more than the present 43 members downloading the newsletter.

Colin Cordery reported that the library is ticking along but he had some ideas for developing it.

Pictures of gallery items on display perhaps or via a pc featuring the website. This could have the additional benefit of persuading a few more people to sign up to downloading when they see the quality compared with the mailed photocopies.

Ron Broadway reported on the continuing involvement with Hilliers Arboretum (see "Coming Events") This is considered a very worthwhile association for the club. The proposal by Hilliers to charge for wood is not likely to be widely taken up by our members.

Chris Davey commented that whilst the tea and coffee service is self funding, it seems some members still haven't got the idea that you put money in when collecting your tea. Unbelievable!

John Davis expressed disappointment at the numbers entering the competition. The general consensus, however was that it is worth repeating but with tighter definition of the scope of each round to make comparison easier. Also, since appraisal contains a large element of opinion, there should be 3 judges perhaps one without turning experience.. Ian Woodford has had some interest from Devon Woodturners in an inter-club competition. Yandles is a possible location for the display at their annual show. If entrants are willing there could be an auction of the items for charity.

## TRADING POST

### Lady seeks leg man

In your dreams!

Seriously, I have an enquiry from a lady who makes stools, or rather upholsters them, who is looking for a turner to make some legs. The legs are of fairly traditional shape, 10" long with a few beads and coves (I'm referring to the stool of course), made from 3" x 3" hardwood (she does not specify the wood). She wants about 5 sets, i.e. 20 legs. Anyone interested please contact me, Dave Gibbard in the first place at 02380262660 or [d-m.gibbard@virgin.net](mailto:d-m.gibbard@virgin.net).

### Martin Turner offer

Martin has offered to run a special course of carving with turning for a small number of HWA members at a special rate. The course would last several days. Anyone who is interested should contact the editor in the first place and when he has some idea of the interest and numbers, Martin will work out some details and a price.

**WJT Crafts** will be closing down next March when Bill and Sheila retire. They would like to point out that they are still trading and accepting orders in the meantime. The closure will be a sad loss to us woodturners. On behalf of the Club I would like to wish Bill and Sheila a long and happy retirement. I bet we've not seen the back of Bill though!

## SIGNING OFF.....

Of course it was Ken Lynham who made the miniature tea tray for the gallery featured in the last issue. Just to prove it was no fluke, he did another one at the following meeting. Nice work Ken. You don't need much wood either do you?

That's it for 2003. I wish all our readers a Merry Christmas but I hope to see you all at the Christmas social before then. Don't forget you may bring your other halves if you have them. They must be itching to know what you get up to on Monday nights.