

Your Turn

The Newsletter of Hampshire Woodturners Association

Volume 16 Issue 6

November/December 2005



Cover Story

In this season of goodwill a reminder of the charitable efforts being made by our members to support Naomi House hospice by making and donating candlesticks or candle holders. They will be sold at churches and cathedrals throughout Hampshire under a campaign called "Light up a Life." The picture is of the editor's contribution under test.

Dave Gibbard, editor.

Hampshire Woodturners Association

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

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

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

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

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

The Committee

Chairman.....Roy Nailor 023 80861893
Secretary.....Bob Hope. 0118 9813552
Treasurer.....Alan Sturgess 023 80892622
Novice Projects..... Ian Woodford 01962 854528
Membership Secretary..... David Ackroyd 01489 784985
Turn-ins Organiser/Newsletter Distribution
George Gale 02380 265195
Newsletter Editor..... Dave Gibbard 02380 262660
Webmaster..... Chris West 01794512718

And the address for your Newsletter contributions:
7 Balmoral Close Chandlers Ford SO53 1TG
d-m.gibbard@virgin.net

Your Turn

HAMPSHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 6

November/December 2005



EDITORIAL -

Another year almost over and we look forward (?) to those long winter evenings, spent in the workshop no doubt. Hopefully HWA can expect some wonderful creations in the galleries as a result of your labours. And with all that practice it would be really encouraging to see some new volunteers for turn-ins. Just a quick call to George and you will be on the way to the satisfaction that comes from taking part.

Talking of which my pleas for help with Your Turn have been answered - by a relatively new member who already has a far busier life than most of you - Christine Hardie. A rare specimen indeed a woman woodturner and a volunteer.

So I thought I'd ask her for some words about how she got into woodturning and what made her step forward.

How old do you have to be?

Picture the scenario and see if you can guess where it's leading.

A young man of 11 who spends a lot of time in the back garden whittling, hammering and sawing goes on a family holiday to Cornwall where he sees a woodturning demonstration. 'I'd like a go at that' he says. The rest is history.

Calum and I joined Hampshire Wood turners in September 2004. I found the email address of Ian Woodford (responsible for the novice's project - we're certainly that) from the Newsletter on the web and asked the question how old do you have to be to join - any age was the reply.

From the first meeting we attended (a family outing with grandma, granddad, mum and Calum) we've always been made to feel very welcome and really enjoy our Monday evenings.

The Railway Institute is ideal for us (we only live a few miles away) but generally in terms of its location in Hampshire it's central and within a short distance of the motorway, has plenty of parking nearby and good facilities - the bar for one thing.

The club members have always offered Calum (and now Andrew) lots of encouragement, support and opportunities. Helping out with the newsletter is a way for me to give something back to the Club and the opportunity to continue to share the evening with the boys.

Chris Hardie

In this issue:-

REVIEW OF EVENTS

- 3 October Terry Smart, Chestnut Products
- 7 November Dave Foote, Chair making

COMING EVENTS

- 26, 27 November Hillier's Winter Wood & Plant Fair
- 5 December - Social & Naomi House
- 16 January - Turn-in
- 6 February - Peter Hemsley, ornamental turning

PROGRAMME FOR 2006 - Bob Hope

LETTERS & EMAILS

NOVICE PROJECTS - THE END? by Ian Woodford

TELL ME IF YOU'VE HEARD IT

CHANGES TO YOUR TURN

NEW MEMBERS

TRADING POST

SIGNING OFF

REVIEW OF EVENTS

3 October – Terry Smart, Chestnut Products

Another very satisfactory turn out of almost 90 members were greeted by a much improved quality of sound thanks to the efforts of our techno wizard Steve Page.

If Terry Smart needed an introduction to some members I doubt that his Chestnut products did. There was probably nobody present who has not used some of the excellent range of finishes. Terry demonstrated the use of a good selection of them on spindles he had turned earlier.

When deciding what finish to use it is important to take account of the item itself, what it will be used for and how big it is. Do you want it shiny or matt, does it have to be waterproof or food safe or guaranteed child safe? Is it going to be handled a lot or is it decorative? Some finishes are difficult to apply evenly over a large surface area....

Phew. Most of us have just got a tin of sanding sealer, a wax and an oil.

Whatever finish you are using, it is most important to prepare well first. The finish will usually enhance any defects you have left.

Unless you are using oil, (or water based dye) most items will be sealed first. Cellulose is popular because it is so quick to dry; shellac is good for larger items where it is necessary to keep a wet edge and acrylics are water based, so they are less smelly and non flammable.

Contrary to a common practice Terry does not advocate thinning the sealer unless it has thickened with age. The reason is that it is designed to keep the filler particles on the surface so they can be sanded down. Thinning encourages penetration taking the filler too deep to be sanded.

Not sure Bert Marsh would agree. His multiple coats of thinned sealer, sanded between, give an excellent finish.

Woodwax 22 is a paste wax preferred by many for finishing the sealed surface. It has been tested and approved for toys as have all the sealers. Stick wax is also a mixture of carnuba and bees wax but in solid form for those who prefer that method of application.

Lacquers are increasingly popular for producing hard wearing surfaces, available as melamine and acrylic, also in aerosol form. These are applied in multiple coats without the work turning. A high gloss can be achieved and further enhanced by the use of burnishing cream.

Then there are oils which soak into the wood without a sealer. They can be built up to a shine but generally produce a less glossy result. They are water resistant and may be maintained by further applications during the life of the product.

Chestnut's Finishing Oil is approved for toy use.

Although generally thought of as suitable for items coming into contact with food, Terry pointed out it has not actually been tested and certified as food-safe.

There is also something for the devotees of friction polish. A shellac based polish applied on a sealed surface then burnished by friction generated with the lathe turning. Can give excellent results on spindles. Much trickier on bowls.

Terry obliged by giving a critique of the gallery and, not surprisingly, he directed most of his comments to the finishes. It was good to see such a large gallery and all those candlesticks and holders. I hope that means you are all preparing your contributions for Naomi House at the Christmas meeting. Ian Woodford had prepared a lot of oak blanks for free issue to members wishing to make something for the charity. Of course you can use your own wood if you prefer.

Some nice lidded pots on the novice table too.



Terry admiring a candle on the gallery table. It has to be a wax finish I suppose.

Editor

REVIEW OF EVENTS – Continued

7 November – Dave Foote, former chair on the subject of chairs

Dave's presentation gave an in-depth look at piece of furniture many of us take for granted, the status behind them, fashion and style through the centuries, the techniques used to make them and the timbers and tools used.

Dave made his first chair about 12 years ago he started because he's interested in the variety of aspects and challenges to making a chair, design, working the wood and putting it together.

The journey through chair making hasn't been without its highs and lows for Dave; with the first chair he made being burnt because it split. Trial and error, patience and a carefree attitude seem to be the recipe for success.

At the end of the presentation Dave went through the chairs he's made reviewing their design features, explaining what works and what doesn't and highlighting the satisfaction and benefits (a chair the right height for you, in the wood of your choice, a finish you like.....) of making your own.

Club members were impressed with the presentation and a lot of questions were asked.

Dave's message to us was simple have a go - try a three-legged stool to start with -who knows where the skills and expertise you develop may lead you.

Chris Hardie



*A rocking
good chair
by Dave
Foote*

COMING EVENTS

26, 27 November Hillier's Winter Wood & Plant Fair

A last minute reminder that HWA will be part of a new winter format at Hillier Gardens & Arboretum which will include other crafts, gifts and plants. There will be a charge for visitors of £1.75. Part of the proceeds will go to Help the Aged. Ron Broadway is once again organising our part in the event. Come along and give your support.

5 December – Christmas Social & Naomi House & Les Thorne's log demo

This will be our pre Christmas meeting with a social flavour. George Gale is once again arranging some light bites and the bar will be open as usual.

Following Ian Woodford's initiative, we will be offering our support to the Naomi House hospice by inviting members to donate candle sticks or candle holders. These will be sold in churches and cathedrals throughout Hampshire in a campaign called "Light up a Life". More on the website

www.naomihouse.org.uk

As an encouragement, anyone bringing a candlestick or holder will get in free, others will be "invited" to make a £3 donation. People from Naomi House will be present to gasp in awe and wonder at your splendid efforts and will take them away to sell, proceeds going to the charity.

Without wishing to turn this into a competition there will be a prize of a bottle of Scotch to the entry selected by the hospice as "Naomi's choice".

The gallery this month will be devoted entirely to our Naomi House donated items.

Following the outstanding success of last year's departure from the traditional social format when Stuart Mortimer entertained us so well, Les Thorne will be providing some entertainment this year. Les will be doing his famous log demo, showing the ways a log can be cut and the items that can be made from the different cuts.

Unmissable.

16 January – Turn-in

Note the date!! The New Year bounced the first Monday back a week and the hall was not available on the 9th. Never mind, it gives you more time to prepare and volunteer. Just call George Gale on 023 8026 5195.

6 February – Peter Hemsley, ornamental turning

Come along to see our first visitor of the year on the delicate art of ornamental turning.

PROGRAMME FOR 2006 - Bob Hope

Here's the programme for Monday evening meetings for next year.
Just a couple of events to be confirmed, so watch this space.

Meeting date	Main Topic	Presenter
16 th January	Turn-in	No names yet. Volunteers to George Gale
6 th February	Ornamental Turning	Peter Hemsley
6 th March	Guest turner	Julie Heryet
3 rd April	AGM + talk or demonstration	Demo guest to be confirmed
15 th May	Turn-in	
5 th June	Decoration of Turned wood	Jennie Starbuck
3 rd July	Social + talk/demo	Demo guest to be confirmed
7 th August	Turn-in	
4 th September	Guest turner	Gary Rance
2 nd October	Fluted Turning	Tony Bunce
6 th November	Member's demo	Demonstrator to be confirmed
4 th December	Guest turner	Stuart King

Note those dates in January and May!

Workshops

Following the disappointment of having to cancel the Jimmy Clewes workshop recently we are yet again reviewing what to do about weekend workshops in future. A lot of effort goes into organising them and we struggle to get sufficient support. We are looking into something just a bit different.

If any members have thoughts on the subject they would be very welcome. A call to a committee member or a letter or Email to Your Turn would do the trick. Why is there so little interest for whole day workshops. With a few notable exceptions of course, like the iconic Bert Marsh? Maybe there are some clewes here.

LETTERS & EMAILS

Several letters this time. Must be Christmas.
First from Edgar Harris:-

Chateau Marqueyssac in the Dordogne, France

During our French holiday last month, we came across a Woodturner-in-Residence and took the attached photograph. The guide leaflet reads: "At the entrance, the woodturner's workshop is open to the public during the summer season. Having a lemon-yellow colour and a fine grain, boxwood takes an excellent finish. It is used for engraving and sculpting and also for wood turning. Jean-Pierre works with boxwoods that were cut down in the park during the restoration work (*of the chateau gardens*). His creations are on display in the giftshop."



Jean-Pierre's workshop

Trevarno Gardens, Nr Helston, Cornwall

On our holiday in May, we discovered another woodturner-in-residence at Trevarno. He had only just been installed and was getting up to speed. Some of his work was for sale in the gift shop.

Both of the above gardens are worth a visit in their own right, the woodturners were an added bonus. Has any one else discovered woodturners-in-residence on their travels?

Edgar Harris

A "thank you" from Derrick Hilto of Dorset Woodturners addressed to our chairman:-

Dear Roy

1 showed my copy of your last issue of "Your Turn", volume 10 issue 2, to my daughter Lesley. We both thank you and your colleagues most sincerely for your very kind message.

Enclosed herewith is a short note written by Lesley who has asked me to pass it on to you. You will see that she is now making good progress and I am sure you will join me in wishing her continued good health. Just as soon as Ann and I feel more settled I will contact you again to arrange a date for Ann and myself to fulfill the obligation we owe you. Once again thank you for your kind consideration.

Very sincerely, Derrick

And from daughter Lesley:-

Dear Folks

I just wanted to write you a short note to say how much I appreciate your good wishes for my recovery. Derrick and Ann passed on your messages when they had to postpone their demonstration to you. (I am sure they will be happy to rearrange a date; my apologies for disrupting your programme). Derrick (dad) also read me your newsletter where again your messages were so kind. I am pleased to say that I am improving every day. A big thank you to all

Lesley Edwards

No apologies needed. Pleased to see you are on the mend. I'm sure we will take up the offer of a re-scheduled presentation though. – Editor

This Email, sadly, comes from Derek Carter

I have decided not to renew my HWA membership for a number of reasons :

- 1) I very rarely get to the meetings due to other commitments.
- 2) It's a long trek down to Eastleigh for an evening where the program is similar to what we have already had or have planned for the Test Valley Turners (TVT), the other club to which I belong.
- 3) TVT is a smaller club 20+ attending each month so you get to talk to all present .

continued....

Derek Carter's Email continued....

4) HWA have only one workshop a year - whereas at Test Valley we have 3 a year.

5) For the number of members the amount of work on display is POOR. At TVT I judge 20 or so pieces every month from an attendance that is only a quarter of those who attend the HWA meetings.

6) Always the same members on the lathes when there is a turn-in - however this is also THE major problem at TVT - a club which constitutionally is intended to be a PRACTICAL club. Both HWA and TVT have a LARGE percentage of members who produce high class work but it seems for one reason or another are not prepared to show other club members how its done ! A suggestion - how about giving all those who demonstrate a reduced or free membership fee for the year?? That might encourage some variety.

At both clubs the vast majority it seems just come along to be entertained and sit poised waiting for the inevitable mistake so they can pounce. They always remember the mistakes and NOT some of the highly skilled turning that is demonstrated.

I have fond memories of the Log Cabin 15 years ago and its bouncy floor - a real challenge for Matt Calder! - the Richard Raffan demo where with one of his "aggressive" cuts he managed to stop a Graduate !!! - of Syd Jenmans novices and being so pleased to be elevated away from his clutches! - the cut thout competition and skullduggery each month in the senior class to win points towards the senior competition - of judging some stunning work with Les Revell. Finally but most important -helping to shape the club by serving on the committee for many years, hopefully putting back into the club as much as I got out of it.

I shall keep an eye on you via the web site to see what is happening !

Derek Carter

Derek's work provided inspiration for me when I joined HWA at the Scout Hut. Sorry to see him bow out. Derek's words strike a chord with the frustrations felt by many of us running the club. Small is beautiful they say but does it have to be that way? The experience of Chris Hardie and her boys perhaps suggests otherwise.

Editor

NOVICE PROJECTS by Ian Woodford

NOVICE SECTION – THE END?

During the infancy of the HWA an accomplished turner, Sid Jenman, used to set tasks for members new to turning. They were set month by month and with very little guidance. We all used to bring our efforts along and Sid would give his thoughts on our project. He had his own unique way of doing this and would declare to the whole meeting when he thought that a member had passed the novice stage. This could happen at any period during the year. He pulled no punches but it was a lively section of the club and many of the present members, myself included, cut their turning teeth through Sid.

Sadly he lost his wife and then became ill himself. I took over and it was a case of a novice leading the novices. The club grew and so did the novice section. We all had a lot of fun doing it and in the process we all learnt a lot from each other. Some evenings there were as many as twenty entries for the task and that from a smaller membership than we have now. Over the intervening years, Ron Broadway, Dave Gibbard and myself have overseen the novice section, but, as the club has grown bigger still, the novice section has declined. Ways to regenerate it have been discussed many times at committee meetings, but to no avail. A lot of work goes into setting the tasks – 'Your Turn' write-ups – diagrams – and hopefully a constructive critique from Brian Mitchell, Derek Holdaway and myself.

There are prizes to aim for, but more important is the **participation** and hopefully for all of us to swap ideas and to improve our competence at this wonderful craft and hobby of ours.

However, it would now appear that there is no longer the enthusiasm or desire to participate and so I have therefore decided that, after many years, my involvement should come to an end. From the end of 2005 the Novice Section will cease unless another club member would like to take over and revive it. If anyone fancies the challenge to oversee what the committee regard as an important part of club activity, then please approach anyone on the committee to discuss his or her ideas.

Ian Woodford

Thanks Ian.

I'm one of those who learned a lot through participation in Sid's torture sessions. But it was OK once you got through the pain barrier and I wouldn't have missed it. It will be a great sadness to many of us if the novice task ceases. It has been a cornerstone of the club since it was founded and many of us are better turners because of it.

If it comes to the end of the line, a suggestion has been made that we have a novice section of the monthly gallery with some experienced members on hand to help with problems or direct novices to others who might be able to help.

Editor

Tell me if you've heard it....

Thanks to Ian Woodford, and Ron Broadway for sending me some things that made me smile. Here are just a few that I thought were fairly safe to print.

An elderly Irishman lay dying on his bed. While suffering the agonies of impending death, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favourite cheese scones wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort, gripping the railing with both hands, he crawled downstairs. With laboured breath, he leaned against the door frame, gazing into the kitchen.

Were it not for death's agony, he would have thought himself already in heaven, for here, spread out upon waxed paper on the kitchen table were dozens of his favourite scones. Was it heaven? Or was it one final act of heroic love from his devoted Irish wife of sixty years, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

Mustering one great effort, he threw himself towards the table, landing on his knees in a rumpled posture.

His parched lips parted, he could almost taste the cheese scone before it was in his mouth, seemingly bringing him back to life.

The aged and withered hand trembled on its way to the nearest scone at the edge of the table, when his hand was suddenly smacked with a spatula by his wife.....

"F****off!! she said,
"they're for the funeral!!"

Donald Rumsfeld was giving the president his daily briefing.

He concluded by saying: "Yesterday, 3 Brazilian soldiers were killed."

"OH NO!" the President jumped up and exclaimed. "That's really terrible!" His staff, stunned at this display of emotion, nervously watched as the President sat down, head in hands.

Finally, the President looked up and asked, "How many is a brazillion?"

A lady was having a bad day at the roulette tables in Las Vegas. Down to her last \$60, she exclaimed "Oh no! What in the world should I do now?"

A man standing next to her, trying to calm her down, suggested, "I know... Why don't you play your age?"

He walked away. Moments later, his attention was grabbed by a great commotion at the roulette table. Maybe, she won! He rushed back to the table and pushed his way through the crowd. The lady was lying limp on the floor crying, with the croupier kneeling over her. The man was stunned. He asked, "What happened? Is she all right?"

The croupier replied, "I don't know. She put all her money on 39. When 56 came up, she just lost it!"

CHANGES TO YOUR TURN

Whilst the majority of comments received about the present newsletter style and content are favourable, we have had some difficulties both with content and distribution which have prompted a fresh look at it.

I have always been concerned about the need for the format not to get too stale and boring. Often I have struggled for contributions and have ended up writing too much myself. So I am very pleased that Christine Hardie, known to many of you as Calum's Mum, has volunteered to lend a hand. Shame on the rest of you for not volunteering despite frequent pleas, but welcome aboard Chris. I am sure Chris will be twisting a few arms for more contributions and I look forward to some fresh touches to the presentation.

The Website has been a wonderful showcase for the club and an excellent way of seeing Your Turn in its original high quality colour format. However, there have been problems with informing all those who can (or think they can) download Your Turn when there's a new one posted on the website. We know that quite a few people have had their own computer communication problems or just haven't visited the website to look at what is on offer. The result has been that many members have not seen their newsletters. A great shame for them and frustrating for me.

TRADING POST

Mike Wing has a log of Rowan Ash he would like to go to a good home. It is about 4 foot long and 9 inches diameter. It has lost about 1/3 of its weight since it was sealed in August 2004, so it is well on the way to drying out. Call Mike if you want it on 023 8055 0460.

Winding down in the bar after the November meeting George and I had an interesting chat with Railway Institute member Dick Moon. Dick is a lapsed glass turner and is planning on getting back into it so he has a woodturning lathe to sell. It is a Graduate Major short bed bowl lathe. Also 3 faceplates and an Axminster chuck and various tools. Dick has no idea how much to ask so if you think you might be interested go and see it. Dick lives in Chandlers Ford and may be contacted on 023 8026 2178.

Now this glass turning sounded really interesting and a possible subject for a talk or demo....

So next year everyone will get a posted copy of "Your Turn" which will appear quarterly. Each of the 4 issues will be larger than the present 6 and we would like YOU to contribute letters, comments, articles, anecdotes, visit reports, equipment reviews, hints and tips, project write-ups, humorous stories.....

And you will still be able to read Your Turn on the website and print it if you want to. You will not receive notification but it will be there as follows:

Spring issue	4 February
Summer issue	26 May
Autumn issue	25 August
Winter issue	24 November

Chris and I hope you will enjoy your new look newsletter and look forward to receiving all your contributions.

Dave Gibbard, Editor

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to
Mike Conduit of Bittern, Southampton, 023 8047 6071 and
Roy Fry of Thornhill, Southampton, 023 8049 0389
Gerry Dixon of Chandler's Ford, 023 8026 3949
Neil Bartlett of Merryoak, Southampton, 023 8049 0015
Mick Giles of Farlington, Portsmouth, 023 9238 9005

SIGNING OFF

That's it for another year. Now how about those resolutions?

Dave Gibbard, Editor