

Your Turn

The Newsletter of Hampshire Woodturners Association

Volume 16 Issue 4

July/August 2005



HWA Stars at
Broadlands Show



Cover Story

Brian Mitchell's "Octulip" was awarded third prize in the AWGB competition at the Festival of Wood, Broadlands. Brian was none too happy about the procedure – see "Letters"

Chris West's elegant wooden hat comfortably won the popular vote at the HWA gallery. Story in "Review of Events".

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

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Your Turn

HAMPSHIRE WOODTURNERS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 16, Issue 4

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EDITORIAL - The roll of life

Marion and I have just returned from our annual pilgrimage to a small Greek Island. Walking around the harbour we were greeted like old friends by Petros, the proprietor of a tiny but Tardis-like grocery store. We asked about his family.

"Very good. Son - captain of ship. Daughter - surgeon on Rhodes. Doing well."

And there too, beaming out between the olives and beans was a large picture of his grandson.

This is a proud man, content with his lot.

Then I broke the spell.

"And your wife, how is she?"

A frown displaced the look of proud contentment.

"She dead."

"Oh Petros! We are so sorry. When did this happen?"

He thought for a while.

"1994"

"But we saw you with her only last year, and before that..."

"Ah!" (frown replaced by mischievous twinkle) "Not wife. Friend."

Moving swiftly on we were accosted by Dimitri the baker. We feel we have arrived, having graduated over the years through the nod of polite recognition, through handshakes to hugs and kisses.

Of course it always works a treat and this time we bought some sausage rolls.

As we strolled on munching the rolls, I said to Marion:

"Isn't it disappointing when you get near the end and there's no more sausage left?"

"A bit like life really" she wistfully replied.

Everyone's a bloody philosopher out here!

Dave Gibbard – Editor

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REVIEW OF EVENTS

28-30 May – HWA Exhibition at the Hillier Gardens

On Saturday the 28th Harry Butler and I set up our tables and there were not very many people visiting. Visitors to the Centre tended to go straight to the ticket counter and did not appear to notice our exhibition. However those that did come over to see us seemed impressed by the quality of the work. Older people often said that they liked the work but at their age they were more at the time in their lives when they were disposing of things rather than buying! However, we both cleared our expenses and made a small profit.

I phoned Roy Holder both on Sunday evening and Tuesday. On Sunday they did not do at all well. He confirmed my view that we were stationed too far back with restaurant tables nearer the window which may have obscured us from view from the outside. He also confirmed that visitors went straight to the ticket desk. They did a little better on Monday especially after a member of Hilliers Staff posted a notice directing peoples' attention to the exhibition.

For the future, I will see Tim Brooks and give him a report on the meeting and suggest ways in which it could be improved. It is a very pleasant place to hold an exhibition, and Hilliers seem to be keen that we continue.

(Report from Ron Broadway)



Ron and Harry at Hilliers

6 June – John Barclay. Threads and Puzzles

John comes from Northampton and has been turning for about 11 years having previously specialized in metal antiques. He now concentrates on puzzles and threaded boxes.

John took us through the basic principles of making a threaded box in boxwood and made the thread chasing look so simple. He also used some techniques developed by himself to judge the correct fit for the male and female threads. This involved pressing the spigot of the male end against the already cut female thread thus burning a ring on the spigot to gauge the size. The male thread was then cut accordingly.

Several of his unconventional tools together with a few samples of his wooden puzzles were passed around for all to see.

There were a few minor mishaps that made us all feel human but John took them in his stride and gave us much food for thought with his demonstration.

Thanks John.

(Report from Ian Woodford)

18-19 June - Festival of Wood

After all the doubts and organisation problems, Hampshire Woodturners Association did actually participate in the Living Heritage show at Broadlands, Romsey on a magnificently sunny weekend 18/19 June. We had a dedicated marquee with 3, sometimes 4 lathes being operated by our members and a wonderful gallery of 68 items of members work. I overheard many people say it was the best display in the show. We invited members of the public to vote for which items they liked with first, second and third choice. 936 did so and many took great pains over their selection. The deserved winner by quite a margin was Chris West's wooden hat. In second place was Brian Mitchell's bowl of fruit. So realistic was it that he had to put a label on it explaining that the banana was made of wood! In third place was a hollow form by Les Thorne. One lady was salivating at the sensuality. (Of the hollow form that is. Sorry Les.)

So if we can put on such a display, why do we have so little enthusiasm for internal competitions? Maybe the answer is that this was for public appreciation and we just like to show off a bit. Anyway, it certainly provides the committee with some fresh ideas on the format of galleries and competitions in future.

Brian Mitchell had a good show, not only getting the public vote for second place in our gallery but also winning third prize in the AWGB competition with his "Octulip".

Continued.....

REVIEW OF EVENTS – CONTINUED

Festival of Wood - Continued

Tony Witham from AWGB was impressed by the HWA display. He asked why more of our items were not entered in the competition which had a very disappointing entry of 12 with 4 of those coming from 1 person! Perhaps Brian Mitchell's letter about his experience (published in this issue) might give a clue.

As for the rest of the show, there was a chain saw sculpture contest, other turners, furniture makers, carvers, potters, iron workers and many other craft stalls, plus a very nice food marquee and a very welcome beer stand.

In spite of the problems it was a great weekend much enjoyed by the public. The HWA helpers and demonstrators also seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to Alan Sturgess who bore the brunt of the organising and all the rest who helped make the HWA presentation such an impressive showcase.

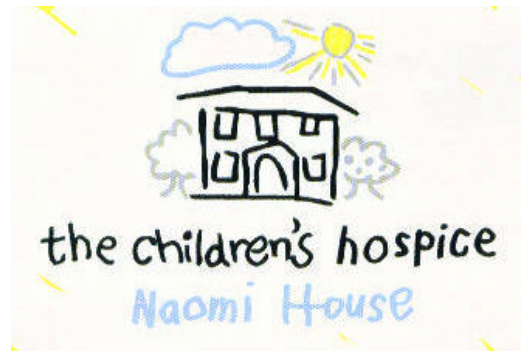


Chairman Roy Naylor turns on the style.

The very impressive HWA exhibition, below.



4 July - Summer social



Remember the idea that we should make candle holders for our Christmas meeting for Naomi House to sell?

Well, Jackie Contrell from Naomi House came along to our July meeting to give a slide show and talk about the Hospice. With running costs above £6000 a day and no Government support, fund raising is a major pre-occupation. The Hospice takes children from 7 counties in the South of England to give comfort to the children and respite to their carers in a family atmosphere.

The Hospice is named after the daughter of a Mrs Cornelius Reid. She provided the land on which it is built for a peppercorn consideration of a dozen roses on midsummer's day each year.

Jackie brought some leaflets and I have some spare which I'll bring along next time if anyone would like one. Otherwise you can visit www.naomihouse.org.uk

Let's make our Christmas donation really meaningful by making a candle stick or holder for this good cause and have some fun along the way.

There followed presentations on tool sharpening (Les Thorne), chucking (Roy Nailor & Ian Woodford), finishing (Brian Mitchell & Dereck Holdaway) and wood conversion (Dave Gibbard and Bob Hope). Bob gave a critique on the member's gallery which featured several items from Broadlands including those on the cover. As usual, more pictures on the website.

Only 5 rattles on the novice table but all very good.

Once again George Gale organised the food for the social. Thanks George.

REVIEW OF EVENTS – Continued

8-9 July – Weyhill Wood Fair



Another very successful local event was the Wood Fair at the Weyhill Fairground on 8 & 9 July.

John Davis promoted the event which featured many trade stands selling wood, tools, accessories and equipment .

The other residents of the fairground who remained open also benefited from the visitors to the wood fair.

Demonstrations by Stuart Mortimer, Gary Rance and Les Thorne drew an appreciative audience. The wood shavings were flying nearly as fast as the merry banter.

All for the princely sum of £1 to get in.

The big event of the Fair was that George Gale stopped talking about buying a new lathe and actually did it! I hope George and his very nice Wivamac will be very happy together. This means his trusty Coronet is for sale.



Stuart Mortimer gets stuck in whilst Gary Rance polishes off an apple



COMING EVENTS

1 August – Turn in

Les Thorne and Stuart Matthews will be joined by Derrick Hilton and his wife Ann from the visiting Dorset Woodturners delegation. Derrick and Ann will be combining turning with weaving. The novice project will be a sugar bowl.

5 September – John Johnson, Inverted Turning

John will be shedding some light on the complex art of inverted turning. The novice project is a candle holder. Possible inspiration here for the Naomi House Christmas fund raising event.

4 September – Jimmy Clewes workshop.

This will undoubtedly be a popular event and numbers will be limited as usual.

So see Alan Sturgess or another committee member to book your place on this Sunday workshop at Badger Farm community centre, Winchester.

The fee is a very reasonable £18 including lunch.

LETTERS & EMAILS

This letter from Brian Mitchell sadly accords with Alan Sturgess' experience with the organisation.

Broadlands, an experience

The information set out on pages 26 to 29 in the February issue of the Revolutions newsletter led me to decide that the Living Heritage Show at Broadlands would be the competition in which to enter my special project.

I sent off the registration form and a few days later received an acknowledgement. So far so good!! However, regrettably at this point all common sense and at times, sanity disappeared.

Several weeks before the entry deadline and my competition piece nearing completion, I decided to use a carrier for delivery, instead of the Post Office. The delivery address contained a P0 box number so I telephoned the number on the acknowledgement letter to request an alternative address and was greeted with the question "Why are you sending it to us?" There was no-one in authority to help so I was asked to phone back the next day. This I did, several times, but no-one answered the phone. Three days later I phoned again, and was asked to leave my number, but no-one called back. A few days later I phoned once more and it was suggested to me that I deliver my entry on the morning of the show. On my fifth attempt I was advised to use the address on the acknowledgement letter and not the one on the entry form.

My competition piece securely packed, I delivered the carton to an International Carrier ten days before the deadline date and was advised that delivery would be the following day. Three days later I phoned Living Heritage to check its safe arrival, only to be told that this could not be done despite my name being on the outside of the carton, on two sides.

Two days later I phoned once more and was informed that there was a pile of boxes but it was not possible to check. Again I was advised to leave my phone number but I did not receive the promised return call. The following day my call was answered by a gentleman who said "why did you send it to us" and then confirmed there was a box bearing my name.

I was not convinced that this person had really checked and in view of the treatment I had received from Living Heritage, I became genuinely concerned during the days leading up to the show. Consequently, on the morning of the show, day one, I arrived at 0730 hours, made my way to the competition venue, where to my delight I was able to see an unopened carton bearing my name. Things were going right at last — or were they?

Shortly after the opening of the show I returned to the competition venue where to my horror I saw that one half of my entry piece was missing, causing the half on display to lean to one side. I immediately registered my concern to the senior member of the AWGB, who appeared to be officiating, and together we found the missing piece still in the carton. The two parts fitted together drew the comment from the AWGB member "that looks better, I thought something was missing". I was then informed by this member that judging had already taken place and that my incomplete, and lopsided entry had been awarded a prize.

The prize-giving eventually took place in the absence of members of the public. Prizes were announced by the AWGB member to a total of five entrants. There were no certificates, no rosettes, just the promise of a cheque in the post, nor, as far as I am aware was there a publicised visitor's prize. To add to this sad affair there were no free entry tickets promised to competition entrants.

From a personal view, I am cross with the senior AWGB member who I am led to understand did the unpacking, the setting up of the competition display and the judging, who admitted that he thought there was something amiss with my entry, but did nothing about it. I will always wonder whether my entry, presented properly, would have merited a higher award, but that of course is sour grapes.

In conclusion, I wish to record that I have no desire to suffer a Living Heritage experience ever again and wish to be assured that the AWGB will distance itself from further such dilatory and incompetent practices. I will be more than just surprised to receive the award gained by my entry, which means so little to me now.

My competition entry piece has been set aside and awaits a proper competition.

Brian Mitchell



**Brian's
"Octulip"**

NOVICE PROJECTS by Ian Woodford

September - Candle Holder

As you know, this year we are supporting Naomi House as our charity and in December we are holding a candlestick event. The idea is for as many of our members as possible to turn a candlestick of some sort and bring it along. These will all be donated to Naomi House so they can raise as much money as possible from the sale. We have been involved in a similar project in the past, for the Jubilee Sailing Trust, and the club responded magnificently. Hopefully a few of us will bring along to the next couple of meetings some examples to fire your imagination. Lets do all we can for Naomi House this year.

I have changed the project from a candlestick to a candleholder so that we can broaden our imagination even more. I'm not giving any guidelines but think of the vast array of candles available and design around them. I would like to think, that those turned for this project, you will also donate at the December meeting.

Just one tip for you to ponder about. If you are turning a conventional candlestick always drill the recess for the candle or brass insert first. You can then centre on this hole for tailstock support to turn the rest of the stem. If you drill after the turning you run the risk of drilling off centre and spoiling your efforts.

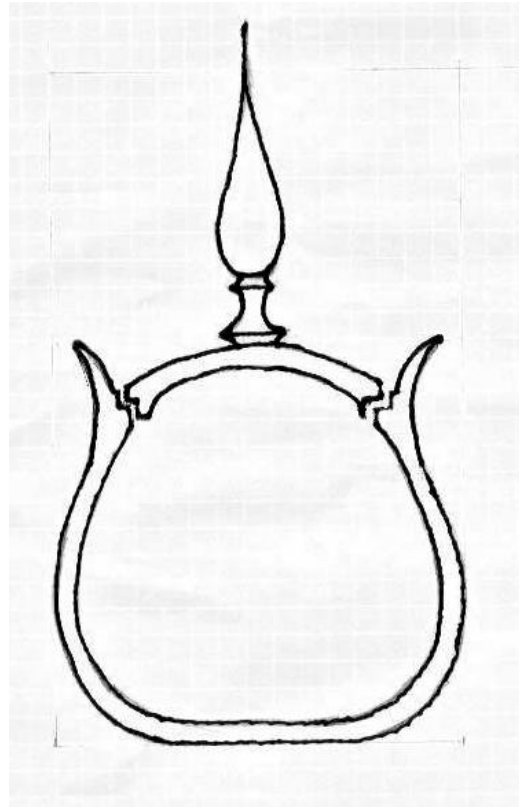
Happy turning and remember Naomi House.

October: - Lidded Pot.

Another project that allows the imagination to run free.

For the sake of this exercise my definition of a lidded pot is a small hollow vessel with a loose fitting lid. I don't mean a sloppy fit but one that allows the lid to be taken off whilst leaving the base on the table. Boxes, on the other hand, have a firmer fitting lid.

If the diameter is more than 3" then the grain is probably aligned across the diameter, whilst those less than 3" will best have the grain aligned vertically as there will far less chance of movement within the wood. However its still best to rough turn first and allow a few weeks of settling before finish turning.



Example of a lidded pot, drawn in cross section

Decorative woods like yew or laburnum are good for this project. Separate knobs or finials on the lid add more interest especially if turned from a contrasting wood. In the design of the lid, try to make its shape blend with and complement that of the base, thus avoiding a lid that looks just like a lump of wood that happens to sit in a recess within a pot.

The recess in the base, to take the lid, is best left until the hollowing is finished. This will reduce the possibility of any damage to this area whilst hollowing. I have learnt over the past few years that it's best to leave the final fitting of the lid for a day or two. When turning and sanding the lid the heat generated can make the wood expand by just enough to make the fit a bit sloppy when it's cooled. So turn the lid to a tight fit, leave to cool and settle and then remove just a whisper for that exact fit.

Sanding at a lower speed will reduce heat production, and sanding with a paste wax will also help to keep it cool. Sanding with wax also produces a lovely silky finish and the slurry produced can help to fill any minor imperfections.

The diagram will give an idea to spur your imagination. Have fun.

Ian Woodford

BEHIND THE SCENES

Mixed feelings about Broadlands.

Alan Sturgess had such difficulty communicating with the organisers before the event we nearly gave up. Then the day dawned brightly and the crowds flocked in. Actually rather earlier than advertised and we were still setting up. Ours was the first marquee inside the gate so nearly everyone came straight in. I am sure they were not disappointed.

I know we have struggled to get enough volunteers to help with events in the past but this time we were well staffed by knowledgeable helpers who all seemed to enjoy the experience.

I believe we have been invited back next year. I look forward to it in spite of the difficulties this year.

Something else I'm looking forward to is our Christmas event supporting Naomi House. These initiatives allow our members to help deserving charities in a unique way by using our hobby. The making of candlesticks for Naomi House compares with the Club's previous efforts in support of the Jubilee Sailing Trust project to build the Tenacious wooden tall ship. In that case items were turned from offcuts of laminated timber from which the ship was built and sold in their shop. Profitable for the charity, (raising over £4000), fun for our members and a chance to build good relations with the community.

NEW MEMBERS

I think there may be more joining after Broadlands, but at the time of "going to press" there were 3 new members. Please welcome:

Simon Ockeford from Fawley, 023 9285 3033 and Max and Matthew Stafford from Holbury, 023 8024 3479.

TRADING POST

Poolwood 28/40 lathe for sale. In good working order, complete with long and short toolrests, faceplate, backplate for Axminster chuck, spare drive belt and a substantial bench. This is the original manual variable speed lathe (circa 350 - 2500 rpm). It is very solid (heavy!) with all major components in cast iron. With a 1hp motor it has the capacity to do pretty much anything.

Ideal "upgrade" lathe for someone looking to turn larger work. **£350**

Call Dave Foote on 07789-571618

Coronet No 2 upgraded with 5 speeds and phosphor bronze bearings. Complete with bench and Axminster Carlton chuck.

Excellent package in good working order for **£150**.

Contact George Gale on 023 8026 5195.

SIGNING OFF

I had just left my mum in hospital and was approaching the Dartford crossing, when the car lurched sideways. Over my left shoulder I saw a huge wheel scrubbing away at my back door and I was spun round. It all seemed to be happening so slowly that I had time to wonder whether I would be "signing off" for the last time as I hit the central barrier.

Then it all went quiet except for Peggy Lee singing and a rapping on the window. Now this is not something you expect in the outside lane of the M25. I was reminded of Tony Hancock's famous "test pilot" radio sketch.

The door was creaking as it was being prised open. The man outside handed me his card. It said "National Car Cleaning Company".

I thought that if this is heaven it is a very silly place and expected Monty Python to stop the sketch at any moment. As I was helped out I said I thought the car needed rather more than cleaning.

"Seems you're OK then?"

We were joined by a large lorry driver who had witnessed it all.

"Bloody foreign lorry, look, he's pulled up over there. Hang on, he's moving off. I'm not having that."

And he ran off to his lorry to take up the chase.

It seems that xenophobia thrives in this part of Essex and I am ashamed to say that I was quite pleased about it at that moment.

Next on the scene was the paramedic. He took a look at me and the car and asked

"Do you want to go to Hospital?"

"Not really, I've just come from there" I said.

Now you might regard it as excessive, but I felt rather safer for the presence of the 4 fire engines that arrived. A fireman approached with a tool box.

"You're not going to try to mend it are you?" I said.

"Oh, you're OK then? Hey, is that Peggy Lee in the car?"

Then the police arrived and started making notes, breathalysing people, measuring up, sweeping the road and preceding all remarks with "allegedly".

They towed the car along to a place where wide loads have to pull in where a sequel to the drama had been taking place.

It seems that Essex lorry man had managed to get his nose in front of the Spaniard and forced him into the pull-in. Upon realising it was a trap, he tried to reverse back onto the motorway.

The lady in the Highways Agency kiosk hit the panic button and her chums went screaming out in their 4x4s to cut off his retreat.

There then followed the Spanish inquisition before the whole Monty Python team left me alone with my crumpled Mondeo to wait for the recovery truck.

And to think people worry about getting bored in retirement!

Dave Gibbard, Editor