

YOUR TURN

Hampshire Woodturners Association newsletter

Autumn issue, September 2010



Mike Haselden at Prince's Mead school

HWA and the Community - the Outreach "Season"

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A golden opportunity for HWA members

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Lynda Clark's gilding presentation at August meeting

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EDITORIAL

Remember those rhyming alphabets intended as aide-memoirs for children that rather went out of fashion along with times tables and learning dates by rote? Well there's a school of thought that the old ways might have had some benefit after all. So if you missed out first time around, I thought I'd try and make it meaningful for people like us. So here's my

Woodturner's alphabet

A for the 'andles that sometimes I make
B, I can't Bear it when I make a mistake
C for the Cursing that usually follows
D for the Dig-ins when turning those hollows
E for the Effort I hope is worthwhile
F for the Failures just once in a while
Gee for surprise when it comes out the right way
H for Health & Safety, which of course we obey
I for an eye that I have to keep in
J for the Judgement when turning so thin
K is the ~~kerash~~ when it's all over the place
L for leather I go as I try to replace.
M-phasise detail and, everyone knows,
Never cut corners, well, not where it shows!
Oh, when it goes wrong we all shout out "Oh"
P is the plaster for stemming the flow
Q is what happens at A & E
R the Result whatever it be
S is the Snatch when we just glance away
T is the break taken regularly all day
Under the bench where dropped tools always fall
V is the sign for that annoying phone call
W the Workshop called shed by the wife
X is the rating when bad language is rife
Y so many shavings to be cleared away?
Zzzz is the sound at the end of the day.

Enough of all this education, back to the plot.

Summer saw a flurry of outreach events as the fete season progressed, accompanied by good weather this time. This issue contains reports of 4 such and my printing deadline just prevented inclusion of a fifth, namely the Community Woodfair. Look forward to it next time.

Our charitable efforts have peaked early this year with an impressive donation of work to the prostate cancer support charity, PCaSO. It's not too late for more donations though. See the report inside, page 9.

And I hope you are looking forward to the new HWA woodturning "Challenge" round 1 in October. The announcement just scraped into the previous issue; you can read more about it here.

Dave Gibbard, Editor

REPORTS OF EVENTS

7 June, Paul Nesbitt



This was a welcome return for Paul whose main demo tonight was his self re-winding spinning top. Before starting, Paul explained that he is a great believer in safety in the workshop and usually uses dust extractors and hoods, safety glasses and steel cap shoes but some things have to go for a demo.

For the top, there are 3 parts to be turned, the spinning disc which is mounted on a shaft which passes through a ring. A length of cord is wrapped round the shaft and the ring is held in one hand when the cord is pulled by the other to spin the disc and shaft. Got it?

Firstly the ring was turned from a 2" cube after drilling a 9 mm hole about 5/8" from one end. Mounted in a chuck from the other end with the 9mm hole across the axis, the exposed length was turned to a cylinder and a 1 3/4" hole was drilled to a depth of 1 1/4". This was sanded and parted off to produce a ring with a 9 mm hole across it. To finish the parted off end, the ring was jammed on to a spigot cut on the scrap wood remaining in the chuck.

The shaft was turned to 8 mm diameter between centres with a knob at one end and not parted off. The knob can be any shape and Paul recommended making it oval or tear drop shape if you have trouble turning a ball.



The ring and shaft, not parted off

The disc was turned from a blank 5 1/4" square by 1 1/4". (top picture) This involved holding between centres to cut a temporary spigot on which the disc was mounted to turn the shallow conical bottom. The cone was decorated with rings and a disguised spigot for reversing. The centre of the cone was drilled to take a brass pin on which the top would spin. The disc was reversed and the top faced off and a centre hole drilled to take the shaft via a tight fit. The shaft end was glued and pressed in after first sliding it through the ring. The shaft was drilled where it sits in the middle of the ring to take the cord. The knob end was parted off and finished.

The action of the top was then demonstrated by first rotating the shaft to wind up the cord. This was then pulled firmly whilst holding the ring. When the cord is fully out, letting it go allows it to re-wind and the top can be dropped onto a flat surface to spin for up to 2 minutes.



The finished top, spinning



Paul's rocket to the right of its launch pad

Paul just had time to show us a novelty item of a rocket on a launch pad. The rocket was a simple small cylinder with a cone on one end. The launch pad was a cylindrical cup slightly deeper than the length of the rocket. The challenge was to launch the rocket without touching it or the cup.

Several members claimed to have seen the trick and declined to get up and try. Bob Hope bravely stepped forward but failed. If you don't know how it's done, see the answer in "Signing off" on the back page.



Paul finally gave a quick critique of the gallery items. (Pictured left, Paul admiring Mike Haselden's balls up.) All the gallery pictures can be seen on the website.

Thanks, Paul, for an entertaining evening. Perhaps we can look forward to some tops in the gallery in future and a spinning contest?

Finally, thanks to all those who donated these splendid turned items for PCaSO.



5 July, Bob Hope - an introduction to Woodcarving

Bob confessed to being a wood anorak – he is fascinated by anything to do with wood and that includes carving.

He started with a historical introduction to traditional carving illustrated by pictures of work from churches and museums. There are many types including relief panel carving (where the background is cut back to leave the subject proud), incised carving (the subject being cut into the panel; this method used for most lettering), and in the round (3 dimensional representations). Also many subjects both realistic and imaginary: human and animal figures, flowers and foliage, cloth with folds etc.

The example pictures are an 18th century German painted & gilded cherub in the V&A and a panel by the (immigrant) English master Grindling Gibbons.

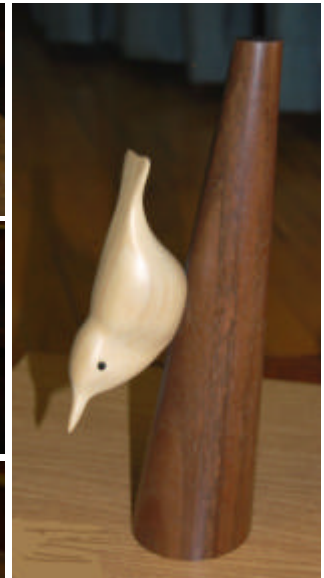


Bob went on to show some of his own work starting with his initial whittling of walking stick handles to fend off boredom sitting on a beach. From there he has tried many subjects. He showed how to make a bird starting with a solid rectangular blank from which the side profile is cut on a band saw, the waste side cheeks fixed back on to make the orthogonal profile cut. The squarish shape is then carved with the grain with a craft knife with a curved blade. (See series of pictures top of next column).

Bob also showed how to carve a plaited effect on the rim of a turned bowl, introducing the idea of a “stop cut” made with a chisel and mallet. This is made at right angles at the end of the features to be carved to prevent the carving tool over-running.

Bob stressed that woodcarvers had to be patient people prepared to put in a lot of time. Not for clock watchers.

For me this was a most interesting presentation by someone who obviously loves the subject.



Bob's bird emerging from the blank with finished carving above.

At the tea break there was a spinning top contest for the 5 who had taken up Paul Nesbitt's challenge from his demo last month and had made spinning tops.



This reduced to 4 as Bill Willits couldn't fit his string in time.



The longest spinner was by Bob McFarland, seen here receiving his reward of a bottle of wine for his efforts from the Chairman.



There was a fine entry for the Members' gallery (pictures on website) and another batch of donated items for PCaSO, (picture left) including a grand toy fort by the aforementioned Bob McFarland. There was some speculation about what exactly was turned!

Dave Gibbard

2 August – Denis Hilditch, segmented bottle stand & Lynda Clark, gilding.

The meeting started with an unscheduled visit from former member Richard Matts who had some spectacular elm burrs for sale. These were auctioned and went for bargain prices. A bit more notice would be useful next time, Richard.



Denis Hilditch's segmented wine bottle holders had been admired in the member's gallery earlier this year and tonight he described the painstaking process of making them.

I'll just give a flavour here but if anyone is interested, the presentation consists of 85 step by step pictures and I'm sure Denis won't mind you having it.

(Let me know and we'll find a way of reducing the file size if there's enough interest. – Ed)

The project started when Denis was looking for a way of using a large quantity of small bits of wood surplus from flooring. Denis cuts the pieces into strips and carefully cuts the ends at a precise angle on a bandsaw to fit together in "rings". The outer ends are notched so that the assembled ring can be held together by a length of string tensioned with an elastic band. No gluing at this stage. Denis explained that this was to ensure the segments would fit without gaps when put together. Glue would fix the segments and prevent them from coming together more closely "like the mortar between bricks".



A set of rings, above, held together with strings and, right, assembled ready for turning.



The segments making up the ring all have one good side and the first ring is positioned and glued on a prepared sacrificial mdf disc with the good sides to the disc. The disc is held on the lathe and the rough outer side of the segments is turned flat. The next ring is then glued on, rotated by half a segment. The process is repeated until all the required rings are attached to form a knobby cylinder. At this stage a small drop of thin superglue is dropped on the inside of the cylinder at each segment butt joint and allowed to wick in.



Turning the cylinder made up of segmented rings

The cylinder is then turned inside and out, sanded and sealed before parting off. The cylinder is then reversed and the previously attached edge sanded and sealed. Denis uses a buffing wheel to apply a finish after turning.

The cylinder is enough to make 2 bottle holders. (Alan Sturgess suggested the free end was redundant and you might get 3 bottle holders from the cylinder. He's not in charge of the money for nothing!)

Anyway, Denis first bores 2 holes at opposite sides for the bottle necks and then cuts the cylinder in half and finishing the exposed edges by hand.

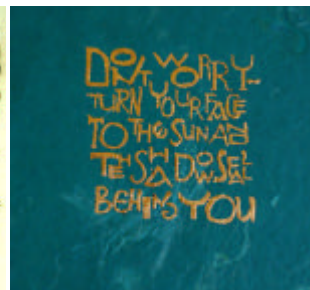


Phew, after all that you will probably feel like a bottle of wine.

Dave Gibbard

After a welcome tea break, we had **Lynda Clark on Gilding on Wood**

Gilding is the process of applying very thin gold leaf and burnishing it to give a long lasting decorative highlight to the whole or more usually part of a piece of work. The process is thousands of years old and was used by monks to embellish lettering in books which were, at that time, hand written. Lynda has a diploma in calligraphy and some examples of her work were on display including the Lord's Prayer which she did for her diploma.



Examples of Lynda's calligraphy work incorporating gilding. The picture left is the piece she did for her diploma.

Lynda Clark, Gilding, continued

She naturally moved to apply her gilding skill to decorate turned wooden items and tonight she kindly introduced us to the process with an opportunity to have a go ourselves.



Examples of Lynda's gilding on her turned items

The leaf comes in delicate sheets on a backing film and must be cut with very clean scissors. A dirty cutting edge will stick to the gold and tear it from the film.

The area to which the leaf is to be applied is first treated with a pva type glue. The alternative of an oil based glue is in some ways easier but the gold cannot then be burnished. The prepared surface is activated by water vapour in the breath by "huffing" on it before applying pressing the cut piece of leaf into place and peeling off the backing film. This is much easier said than done and our members found it is a skill that must be acquired through probably a lot of practice and huffing and puffing. Lynda also spoke about applying gilt via gesso. This is made into a thick paste and applied to the work surface to seal it and give an added dimension like embossed lettering. Lynda had use it to good effect on an oak burr to fill a small hole to apply gold leaf to the area. The process of making gesso is long and complicated but it can be bought already prepared. The gesso incorporates glue so once applied it is activated by the huffing method. The Club had provided starter kits for those trying their hand on the night and it will be interesting to see what results in future members galleries or even the new "Challenge" in October.



Some HWA members having a go at gilding under Lynda's instruction.

It was great to see so many people participating making for a nice social event.

Dave Gibbard

21 August – Hands on event

Harry Woolhead and I (Bob Hope) held our second Hands-on Day at Old Alresford Village Hall on 21st August.

Nine members came along to try their hands on one of the three lathes we set up for the purpose. Harry turned a lidded vase with the help of various members, a true joint effort. I concentrated on practice with the skew, helping members make a simple dibber and also a spinning top. Dave Gibbard came along and helped out on the other lathe where a couple of chaps were trying out different bowl gouges to turn a small bowl.



Harry and friends at the Vicmarc

It was a good opportunity to ask questions and solve problems in a friendly atmosphere. We even finished off with a pint at Harry's local! We will set a date for another session in the Autumn but as always we are available to help anyone with turning queries, if we don't know we probably know someone who does.

Bob Hope

(I just called in to see what it was all about really. I must say I enjoyed it and it seemed very useful for the inexperienced turners who are keen to learn but perhaps don't know what to ask or don't have the opportunity to do so at club meetings. I'd be happy to come and help with future such events if needed

– Dave Gibbard)

OUTREACH PROGRAMME REPORTS

23 June -

Demonstration at Prince's Mead Infants School in Kingsworthy.

The school had a forest day in their own beech woods and we were invited to demonstrate simple wood turning to the young pupils.

Denis Hilditch and I went along and set the lathe up in the shady woods in front of fixed bench seats. The children arrived at about half hour intervals in groups of six or seven. They sat and watched us turn items of their choice. Carrots, flowers, apples and spinning tops were in demand. We did however fail to meet some of their more challenging requests such as bananas. At the end of the day we demonstrated bowl turning from a log. I pretended to find a suitable log amongst the forest floor (previously concealed under dead leaves). It was mounted on the lathe and a quick and simple natural edge green ash bowl was produced while the children watched and toasted marsh mallows at a near by the fire pit. Denis and I were well fed and watered through the day and we also received a gift bottle of wine each. I think the event was well received and rewarding for us as well as for the children and staff. I understand we may be invited again.

Mike Haselden



That's Mike in the picture demonstrating hopefully to some new recruits.

3 July

Sholing Valleys "Country Fayre in the City"

Sholing Valleys is a group dedicated to protect, and look after Miller's Pond plus the surrounding woods and meadows. The Association, a registered charity, manages a Study Centre, opened in the Autumn of 1988, near Miller's Pond Sholing. The Centre offers groups, schools, and individuals an opportunity to find out about the natural environment plus participate in conservation and nature study projects, playing an active part in caring for the Sholing Valleys.

HWA was pleased to be attending the Country Fayre once again as part of our Community Outreach programme. Doing the honours were Mike Haselden and Keith Barnes and I put in a brief appearance. The weather was splendid for the event with lots of visitors enjoying the entertainment.



Mike instructing a keen visitor whilst Keith talks to another in the background

Apart from HWA there were displays of falconry, ferret racing, family sports, a barbecue, cake stall and other refreshments, face painting, a bouncy castle, tombola etc etc.

Terry Rendle who was selling bird boxes had made a pole lathe based on some photographs but he had no tools and had never turned any wood. So Mike loaned him some tools and we all had a go on his lathe. We invited him to come and try our electric lathe.

He was obviously so impressed that he turned up at the July meeting to see what we are all about and joined HWA.

That's me on the right getting to grips with the pole lathe.



Anyone interested in reading more about Sholing Valleys can visit the website

www.sholingvalleys.hampshire.org

Dave Gibbard

OUTREACH REPORTS Continued

10 July – Party in the Park

Ron Broadway and I (Chris West) were lucky enough to have the opportunity to show our talents (mostly woodturning) to the Association of around 200 local residents of Kilham Lane, Winchester on Saturday 10th July.

This was the third year we have attended the Party in the Park at the request of HWA member Stephen Hewitt.

Stephen is recovering from a serious illness but this did not stop him making an appearance and amusing us with his witty and suggestive remarks about a young lady who was suitably dressed for the high temperatures whilst she was receiving some tuition. At the time yours truly who was behaving impeccably as usual and was concentrating on the woodturning tool she was holding as she proceeded to turn a near perfect sphere at her first attempt. (*Sounds like Stephen is recovering well! Ed.*)

The residents showed great interest in the woodturning demonstrations and it would be nice if we saw some of the young adults and children at HWA meetings in the future.



Stephen Hewitt's photo shows Chris giving some very attentive tuition



That's Ron talking to visitors.

Chris West

17-18 July - Beaulieu "Out of Town Centre" Harvest Home Weekend, and Vintage Tractor Rally

This was the second Harvest Home weekend at the Centre which is used for education of children between 12 & 16 in country ways and farming practice. It was a joint venture between Beaulieu Estates, Hampshire Education Trust and the National Vintage Tractor Club. There were approximately 100 tractors 4 steam powered engines plus vintage cars and motor cycles.

In the section of rural crafts representing the HWA was Steve Reed on his Pole Lathe and me (Alan Sturgess) on the Vicmarc. Steve was getting the exercise and I was making dust.

Once again the event was blessed with a dry and sunny weekend, although there was a very strong wind on Saturday. My gazebo tried to take off more than once. I had to remove the side sheets and add some stout Ash pegs made by Steve to tether it. There were over a 1000 paying visitors plus all the exhibitors and their families - a good family occasion. Again the birds of prey were a good attraction just across from us at the entrance to the arena.

We had a lot of interest in the different styles of turning created by the old and new approach. We both ended up giving newcomers a chance to try their hand. I had a lady make herself a dibber which was swapped for a large slice of her home made bread pudding and a cup of tea.

On the Saturday night there was a live band and food for the exhibitors and their families. It was a good opportunity to have a chat and get to know each other. There were a number of other wood related stands including a Woodmiser turning tree trunks into planks, lots of logging equipment attached to the tractors and a couple of guys making large garden seats from oak. I spoke to one person with a stationary engine and we may get together next year and run a vintage wood lathe from his vintage engine. Anyone out there with a vintage lathe?

Perhaps I'll convince Steve to find away to power his pole lathe. Here's to next year.

Alan Sturgess

COMING EVENTS

4 September – Community Woodfair, Zionshill copse, Sky's Wood Road, Chandler's Ford. HWA have been invited to participate in this year's event for what promises to be a fascinating day. Come along if you are free. See www.testvalley.gov.uk for more information.

6 September meeting– Stuart King
History of the Windsor chair.

4 October meeting – HWA challenge round 1 (See page 9) and **Mike Haselden** on a new method of making light pulls.

1 November meeting – Les Thorne

13 November – Stuart Mortimer Workshop
Another whole day master class at Stuart's workshop in Grateley. Numbers limited so see Bob Hope with your booking. A bargain at £20.

HWA 2010 CHARITY UPDATE - PCaSO

As you know, the charity to which we at HWA are contributing this year is the prostate cancer support organisation PCaSO.

Our members have donated 30 or so items which we have made in our workshops.

So far PCaSO has raised £300 by selling some of these items. The highest price was £70 for the toy fort made by Bob McFarland. Much appreciated, Bob.

The majority of the donated items remain for sale and this will be done at events over the rest of the year.



Items donated to PCaSO by HWA members

David Smith, PCaSO treasurer wrote to say thank you. The money will be used to reprint leaflets. As screening is not encouraged under the NHS, awareness and early detection is the best hope of getting treatment.

Dave Gibbard



HWA CHALLENGE

- The challenge is open to all members with no sub-categories for senior/novice etc.
- The intention is to hold rounds quarterly, **first round at the 4th October meeting**. The second will probably be in February.
- Participants are invited to make something representing their own interpretation of a given phrase. Members may enter more than 1 item.
- Choose from 4 phrases. Here are October's:-
 - A- Boxing Clever**
 - B- The Big Apple**
 - C- Bowled over**
 - D- One night stand**
- Entries should mainly feature wood turning but other treatments and materials may be included.
- Entries will be displayed at the meeting, identified only by a number and the phrase it is intended to represent, i.e. without the turner's name.
So please don't sign your entry.
- Members at the meeting will be asked to view the entries and vote for 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice via ballot slips. Criteria for the choice are up to you.
- 3 points will be awarded for each 1st choice, 2 for 2nd and 1 for 3rd. In the event of a tie, the decision will go to the item with the higher number of 1st choices etc.

- Overall members' choice of 1st, 2nd, 3rd (regardless of chosen phrase) to be announced on the night. There will be no panel of judges and no critique though the prize presenter may offer some observations.
- Prizes to be awarded for top 3 choices per round; £30 for 1st, £20 for 2nd and £10 for 3rd.
- Multiple entrants only qualify for 1 prize.

If you think you don't stand a chance against experienced turners, do you remember the Naomi House "light up a life" fund raising promotion? We donated a large number of items and Hazel Whitehead from Naomi House was invited to choose her favourite. She chose this elegant, simple trio of candlesticks by Colin Cordery, a novice at the time.



Note: 1) No gallery on challenge nights
2) We need some volunteers as scorers who are not entering the challenge.

See Dave Gibbard or Ian Woodford who are running the challenge.

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome 2 new members:

Joe Diggins from Eastleigh and
Terry Rendel from Weston, Southampton.

Membership is now pretty stable and now stands at 87. 86% of members have Email addresses and receive "Your Turn" electronically. This is a significant saving for Club funds.

SIGNING OFF

The Committee discovered well after the event that another of our members, Geoff Hurst had passed away. Our condolences go to his family and regrets for not being aware sooner.

This demonstrates that in a club of this size, the committee really do not know everyone very well. May we ask that if you know of a member who is seriously ill or has died, please let our membership secretary, Denis Hilditch, or another committee member know?

Geoff Spierling has some new ideas for the shop. Following the enthusiasm shown for Lynda's gilding, Geoff is looking into offering the gold film (about £1 for a 4" square) and pink glue (about £3.20). He will borrow a small stock from Lynda initially to judge interest.

He has been talking to John Davis about selling things from John Davis Woodturning via the HWA club shop. This would be in the form of pre-orders to be delivered via the club shop on meeting nights. Prices would be the same as John's but delivery via our shop would help those who might have a problem getting to John's place. You can check John's stock at johndaviswoodturning.co.uk

After an enthusiastic response to the re-start of Your Turn, the contributions have slowed right down apart from some reports on HWA events and the odd joke. Grateful though I am for these, I need some more stuff! Where are all those travellers' tales where you visit shows, stumble across shops and galleries with interesting wood work? And what about some more how-to-make-it projects? Members are interested in the stories behind some of the items in the member's gallery. For example, Maurice Attwood's football. How about it Maurice?

Ideally you can send me contributions electronically on d-m.gibbard@dsl.pipex.com but if you don't have the technology I'd be happy to receive paper copy, sketches and photo prints sent to my address: 7 Balmoral Close, Chandler's Ford, SO53 1TG

Congratulations to Mike Haselden for his article published in September's Woodturning. If any other members have publications you might like to let me know so that I can mention them in Your Turn.

Dave Gibbard

How to launch Paul Nesbitt's rocket. (see page 3)
Stand it on the table with the rocket in the launcher and blow straight down at it. We've had huffing from Lynda, now you need to do some puffing.

INSTALLING A HUSBAND

I leave you with this cautionary letter to a computer tech support department. It is dedicated to our webmaster Dan Would who got married in August. Congratulations Dan.

Dear Tech Support,

Recently I upgraded from Boyfriend 5.0 to Husband 1.0 and noticed a distinct slow down in overall system performance, particularly in the flower and jewellery applications, which operated flawlessly under Boyfriend 5.0.

In addition, Husband 1.0 uninstalled many other valuable programs, such as Romance 9.5 and Personal Attention 6.5, and then installed undesirable programs such as Cricket 5.0, AFL 3.0 and Golf Clubs 4.1.

Conversation 8.0 no longer runs, and Housecleaning 2.6 simply crashes the system. Please note that I have tried running Nagging 5.3 to fix these problems, but to no avail. What can I do?

Signed,
Desperate.

Dear Desperate,

First, keep in mind, Boyfriend 5.0 is an entertainment Package, while Husband 1.0 is an operating system. Please enter command: `ithoughtyoulovedme.html` and try to download Tears 6.2 and do not forget to install the Guilt 3.0 update. If that application works as designed, Husband 1.0 should then automatically run the applications Jewellery 2.0 and Flowers 3.5.

However, remember, overuse of the above application can cause Husband 1.0 to default to Grumpy Silence 2.5, Happy Hour 7.0 or Beer 6.1.

Please note that Beer 6.1 is a very bad program that will download the Snoring Loudly Beta.

Whatever you do, DO NOT under any circumstances install Mother-In-Law 1.0 (it runs a virus in the background that will eventually seize control of all your system resources.)

In addition, please do not attempt to reinstall the Boyfriend 5.0 program. These are unsupported applications and will crash Husband 1.0.

In summary, Husband 1.0 is a great program, but it does have limited memory and cannot learn new applications quickly. You might consider buying additional software to improve memory and performance. We recommend Cooking 3.0 and Hot Lingerie 7.7.

Good Luck!
Tech Support