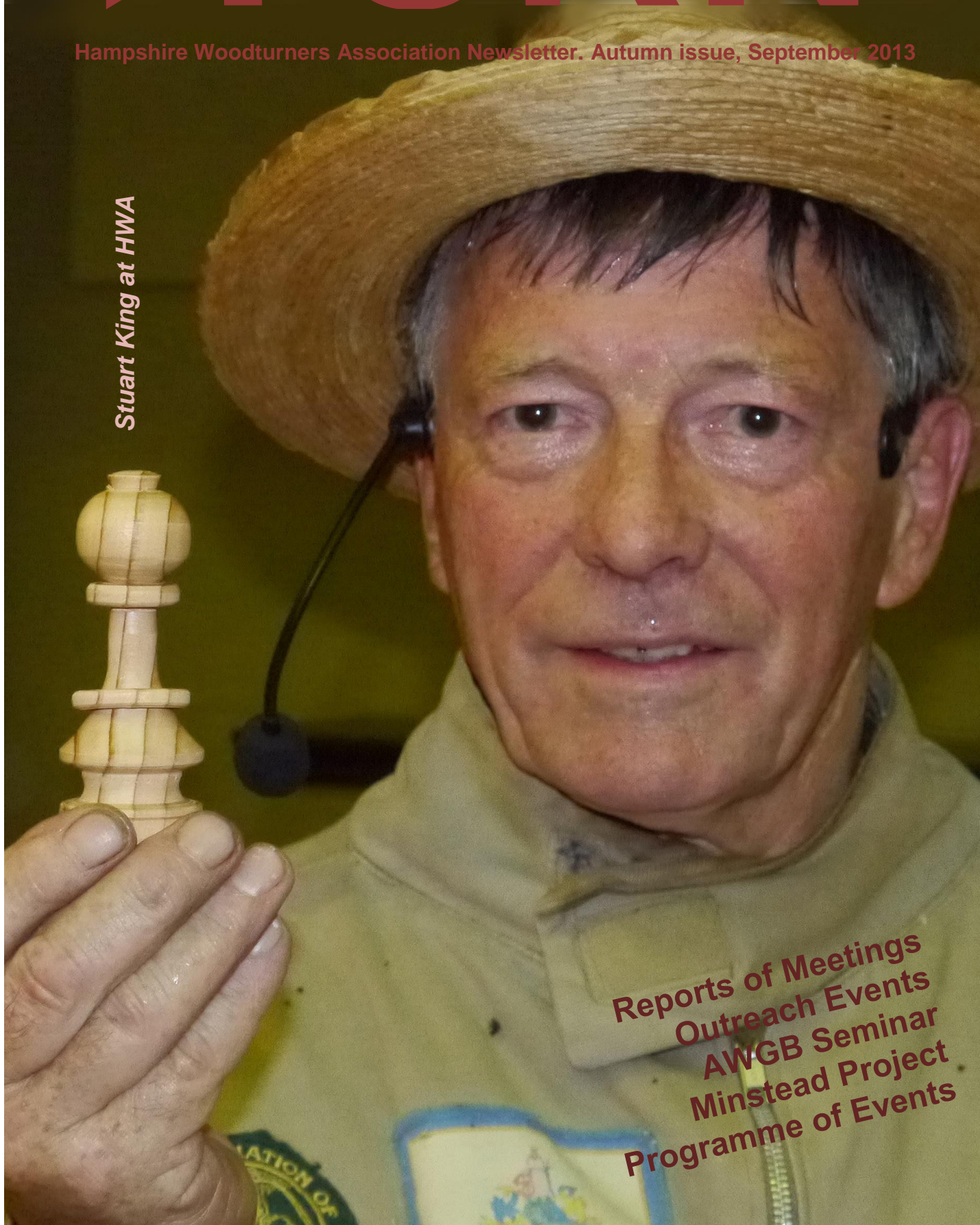


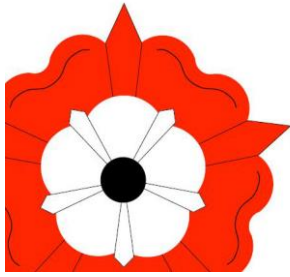
YOUR TURN

Hampshire Woodturners Association Newsletter. Autumn issue, September 2013

Stuart King at HWA



Reports of Meetings
Outreach Events
AWGB Seminar
Minstead Project
Programme of Events



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COMMITTEE

John Holden, Chairman - 023 8073 3627
john.hwa@handjholden.plus.com
Bob Hope, Secretary - 011 8981 3552
hopebob1@aol.com
Alan Sturgess, Treasurer - 023 8089 2622
aesturg@sky.com
Denis Hilditch, Membership - 023 8042 0901
denishilditch@aol.com
Dave Gibbard, Editor - 023 8026 2660
d-m.gibbard@dsl.pipex.com
Phil Bristow, Webmaster - 023 8065 3376
philip_bristow@hotmail.com
Geoff Spierling, Shop - 023 8027 4462
2geoff2@talktalk.net
Lynda Barkaway - 017 9452 2788
Lynda@thethatch.org
Keith Barnes, hints & tips - 023 8055 0971
keith.hwa@mypostoffice.co.uk
Pierre Baumann, Outreach - 01794 515479
Pierre2548@talktalk.net

EDITORIAL: A Topping idea

Len and I had a fine time at Minstead getting the students to make spinning tops recently. The added challenge was to spin them with a deft flick. This called for dexterity which the students had to learn. The test of whose top spun longest gave a competitive edge to the afternoon.

I remembered seeing somewhere a top which would invert itself and I thought this would cause further amusement. As I hadn't made one before I was careful enough to discretely have a go during the lunch break but I couldn't get it to work. Afterwards I Googled it and found masses of references including a learned paper on gyroscope theory. The idea is to make a shape which is rounded at the bottom on which it won't spin stably and will gradually go over onto its pointed top. Mine was certainly unstable on the rounded end and spun well on its pointed end but it wouldn't flip without a little encouragement. I carefully copied the shapes that appeared on the screen but still no luck.

So would one of you clever chaps like to have a go? Send me a dimensioned diagram of a shape that works and bring your successful effort to the gallery table?



*Here's a picture
of my self-
inverting top
which almost
works.*

You see what fun we have? I was most disappointed that Len's eloquent plea for another 1 or 2 volunteers in the last issue met with no response. Maybe you'd like to think again whether you could spare a day a month to help with this cause? And while you're about it, if you have a serviceable lathe you don't use, have you considered donating it to MTP to replace the awful kit we are using?

Dave Gibbard, Editor

REPORTS OF HWA MEETINGS

3 June, Jean Turner

Jean started by telling us about one of her pet hates. (There were several others to follow.) It is demonstrators who spend the first 10 minutes giving their life stories. So it was straight in to the first topic. She teased us by not telling us what she was making, though she did ask whether we wanted to know in advance. Hampshire woodturners clearly enjoy being teased so we all went along with the game and failed miserably.

She had prepared a cylinder on which she shaped the top like a dome with a spigot on for chucking. Parting the top off at about 2/3 of the height with a thin parting tool and a saw left the base in the chuck to be slightly scooped out and a recess cut for the top.

The top was then mounted via its spigot and hollowed out before reversing onto some nice home-made wooden jaws to have the spigot removed leaving a little pointed top. Still no correct guesses so Jean showed a finished version – a Zulu hut. The finished version had the dome decorated by pyrography to represent thatch.



Zulu hut box with pyrography decoration representing thatch.

Pyrography was to be her next topic, but first a clever device combining off centre mounting and indexing, with due acknowledgement to Keith Holt. This was a plywood split ring with the centre offset. The outer diameter had been chosen to suit the wooden jaws in which it is mounted. A work item with diameter just less than the offset centre hole of the ring can be inserted and gripped as the gap closes when the jaws are tightened. Indexing marks on the ring can be lined up with a mark on the workpiece to allow it to be presented off centre in various orientations for interesting details to be cut. Anyone doing off centre faceplate work could well find it worthwhile to make such a jig. (picture right). Phil was twisting Jean's arm to write it up for the website.

Then on to pyrography....

There are various pyrography tools available commercially, notably from Peter Child, though they are generally quite expensive and have limitations of power (hence the need to keep stopping to allow temperature to recover) or width of line that can be burned. Many people have made their own. One Graham Priddle made a monster from a welding machine and a toaster. Jean went on to describe what *she* had made but stressed that she accepted no liability if you decide to have a go. A light dimmer connected to the mains supply feeds a transformer from a low voltage light set. The dimmer should be the type that uses a thyristor rather than a rheostat. The output from the transformer is connected via wires stripped from a kettle cable (this has with heat resistant insulation) to 2 brass rods which pass through a plastic tube, spaced apart by drilled bungs in each end. The connections are made using the metal pieces out of an electric connector block. The heating element is a piece of nichrome wire up to 2 mm diameter which you can be bought e.g. from the Scientific Wire Company or stripped out of an electric heater.

The heater wire is cut, bent to shape and connected to the other end of the tube. If the picture doesn't make this clear, I'm sure Jean will help you.



(I'd like to add my reservations. They make TV programmes from DIY disasters. If you think Watt is something you say when you don't hear properly; that an ohm is a garden ornament with a pointed hat and a volt is what athletes do with a pole, then buy something from Peter Child. – Editor.)



A brilliant evening from Jean rounded off by an object lesson in how to do a critique of members work on the gallery table.

Dave Gibbard

Jean's wooden chuck and offset ring.

1st July, Stuart King

Mid-summer always challenges the attendance figures but Stuart pulled in a good crowd for the time of year for another humorous self-deprecating presentation. It's a pity more didn't bring something for the gallery; just 6 items on the table even after a bit of arm twisting. Stuart was unusually polite in his critique. You can see the gallery items on the website.

Back to the main event, ably introduced by Lynda in John's absence. Stuart's theme was little boxes. He explained he only does small things these days, leaving the big stuff to a new generation of macho turners. Small maybe but with plenty of the inventive quirkiness that we have come to associate with his work. First demo was one of his acorn boxes, often used to keep small items of jewellery like rings in. He used some very old cherry for the acorn and pitch pine for the cup. I was impressed by his use of quite a large roughing gouge on such a small item, including the wings of the tool to face up the end. The less often you have to pick up another tool the quicker you'll be.



Stuart turning the acorn with roughing gouge

When hollowing the acorn he mentioned his trade mark pimple which he usually leaves in the middle. Oddly it seemed to be missing this time. Shame said Roy Nailor, if the pip was big enough it would keep the rings in place. Stuart made a mental note of the suggestion. The inside of the acorn was smeared with super glue as a stabiliser as well as a finish. He buys these 3 in a pack in the local 99p shop. They come with a long thin nozzle which is trimmed to unblock the tip next time.



Contrary to popular belief, Stuart does use sandpaper, always carefully progressing through the grits. His grits of choice are course, medium and fine.

Moving on to the cup, the square section pine was simply held in the chuck jaws without first turning a spigot.

Not for Stuart the refinement of a snug fitting lid. He advocates a loose fit, arguing with some justification that customers don't want to have to pop a lid off and scatter the contents on the floor.

After tea and gallery crit, he moved on to the topic of texturing. Of course he makes his own chatter tools from springy steel like old kitchen knives and junior hacksaw blades. Stuart uses texturing to decorate discs for box lids, pendants etc.

Decorated discs might make nice buttons provided you are happy for them not to match. In fact Stuart says he never makes 2 things the same anyway, even his chair legs! Chatter tools work best on end grain, but the effects are unpredictable. If you don't like what you see, just face it off and try again.

Dark wood works best and the textured surface can be treated with gold paste or interference paints before wiping off the surplus and picking out the boundaries again with a pointed tool.



Textured disc decorated with interference paint



With a glance at the clock, we're off on the next demo. Those clever little bird finials Stuart puts on his box lids.

Continued...

Stuart King, continued

A cone was turned on a small piece of wood (that's the neck). The jaws were loosened and the wood moved off centre for turning the lower body and spindle for the legs. Another piece of wood was mounted to turn the head, a blind hole (i.e. not right through) was drilled to take the neck before parting off. The head can be glued on at a variety of angles.

Not done yet, we saw a Japanese doll being made whose neck was terminated in a little ball and popped into an undercut hole in the top of the body to allow it to be moved about with a squeak.

And finally Stuart's signature item, a chess piece rapidly turned entirely with a skew chisel. A King of course. *(Cover picture)*

Dave Gibbard

5 August – Turn-in

There was a good turnout for the turn-in including a brand new member who said he had read all the back issues of Your Turn on the website. With so much time on his hands I look forward to seeing great progress with his turning!

There were 4 lathes operating:
Harry Woolhead: goblets with twisted stems,
Bob Hope: square rimmed bowls,
Roy Holder finial boxes and
Keith Barnes was overseeing the "have a go" lathe.

All were attracting plenty of attention. *Pictures on the right.*

We had a few more items on the gallery table this time; pictures can be seen on the website.

I had my arm twisted to perform the dangerous task of doing the critique.

I spoke about all the items but I'd just like to mention a few here. Firstly Robert Pearce's oak box. I don't think anyone would have guessed it was the first he had made and I look forward to seeing some more. John Holden explained how he made the twisted square section hollow form to the bafflement of most of us, but it's all in Dave Springett's book. And the carved grass-like texturing on Ian Woodford's salt & pepper mills I found really attractive.

With all this inspiration I hope we will see many more interesting items on the gallery table in the future.

Dave Gibbard

Action at the Turn-in



Bob holds the audience as he hollows a square bowl, above and shows his home made sanding attachment, left.



Harry gets pshyched up for the twist, right

Roy turns the finial for his box, below.



Dave Barlow shows Chris and Keith how he turns beads.

REPORTS OF OTHER EVENTS

15 June- Old Alresford Village Fete

At this year's event H.W.A. was represented by Harry Woolhead and Keith Barnes.

The fete was due to start at 2.00 pm.

The first job was to set up the gazebo, but the wind had other ideas.

This was a fete of 2 halves as the saying goes.

Wind and rain for the first half, wind, rain and a bit of sun for the second.

Once the gazebo was up and anchored to Harry's van we were able to set up the equipment.

The gazebo did leave the ground a couple of times, but fixing it to Harry's van preventing it from taking off.

At first visitors were slow to view our stand as we were situated in the car park, away from the main event, this was necessary due to the proximity of the electrical power supply.

As the visitors left the other stalls to purchase tea and cake in the village hall they had to pass our stand so this saw a few more people stopping at our stand.

We offered to turn mushrooms and little people during the afternoon whilst the visitors / buyer watched on.

At the end of the afternoon the grand sum of £20.00 was raised by H.W.A. for the village funds.

Keith Barnes

13 July – Party in the Park, Kilham Lane

We arrived at site at 11am to find it completely ready and all we had to do was set our lathes up. Soon David Hoskins (chairman of the KLWD) came over and welcomed us to the Party. To my delight the tea tent was up and running and a cup of tea was in order. Once we had set up we had another cuppa then we started to demonstrate throughout the day.

We did not think that the event was as well attended this year, but that could have been because of the wonderful weather we had all that week, but still quite a few came through the gate including some HWA members.

Lunch was served by the Greatest Lady I have ever met, burgers, sausage in a roll, salad and cake for afters.

After lunch the word got out so Pierre and I ended up turning out tops as fast as we could. All in all the day went very well and we sold a few items.

The weather was very hot all day in the upper 20's or lower 30's but not uncomfortable due to the light wind.

Pierre and I both won something in the raffle and we were given a bottle of wine each.

We packed up at 16:30 and went off for a very welcome pint.

Geoff Spierling



*All the fun of the
Kilham Lane Party*



*Kilham Lane resident and former
HWA member Stephen Hewitt now a
sick man. Stephen started the link
between HWA and Kilham Lane.*

“A FEAST OF WOODTURNING”

The 14th International Woodturning Seminar, Loughborough

The weekend of 9-11th August saw the 14th International Woodturning Seminar held at Loughborough University.

I was not at all sure how I would like this AWGB Seminar as I felt I would know very few people. The programme had 10 main speaker/demonstrators, with 5 from the UK and 5 from abroad. The international turners were Jerome Blanc (Switzerland), Seamus Cassidy (Ireland), Pascal Oudet (France), John Jordan and Curt Theobald (USA). With 6 parallel sessions at a time it looked as though it might be difficult to make a good choice. However, each speaker did some repeat sessions so that helped resolve that problem.

On arrival at Loughborough on Friday morning the first challenge was to find the venue as signs were in very short supply, but having managed to register I then took half an hour to find my accommodation. The final indignity was that the door card did not work so I could not get in! Once that was sorted things could only get better. The accommodation was 'basic student' but the food was very good. In the past when I have attended big conferences I had always known a good number of people beforehand. This was a bit different, but I did quickly find about six people I knew well including a couple from my old club near Nottingham.

After a session to welcome everyone and a video presentation of the main demonstrators work the serious work began. After dinner the Instant Gallery was opened. Members were invited to bring up to 3 pieces of turning to display. This was one of the highlights of the weekend as the standard was very high, of excellent quality and people were very imaginative in their work. It has inspired me to raise my game! The evening concluded with an internet auction of donated work. The prices were high by our standards in the UK (USA prices are much higher) with the last piece going for £4,000 (it was a joint piece by Binh Pho and Joey Richardson). The total raised for the AWGB development fund was about £14,000.

Saturday began with a few sore heads from the bar including one speaker who was the worse for wear and someone else had to step in. There were 4 groups of sessions of 1½ hours and for me by far the best was one by a Frenchman, Pascal Oudet. He took a section of wet oak about 3” thick and turned it down to disc of 2mm thickness. This rather wavy disc is then allowed to dry (say 2 days) and is then grit blasted. This leaves a mesh like structure which you can almost see through.



A fine example of Pascal Oudet's lacy turnings.

The day ended with a banquet and another auction of members work. Not on the scale of Friday but it still raised about £8,000.

Sunday was not quite as busy as there were only 3 sessions and a time allowed for a trader slot. This was an opportunity to purchase those goodies you always wanted. The seminar ended with the inevitable raffle and one of my tickets came up so I left happy.

In conclusion, I was feeling a bit critical that some of the demonstrations were what I called 'club standard' and did not have the 'wow factor' which I expected. It is a great occasion for meeting other woodturners and I am glad I made the effort to go to Loughborough and experience the Seminar. Would I go again? Yes and if you want to widen your woodturning horizons I would encourage you to leave the cosy South and visit the East Midlands in August in two years time.

John Holden

COMING EVENTS

2 September – Mark Baker

7 October – Adrian Smith

4 November – Les Thorne

2 December – Christmas Social

The top spinning was such a hit last year that we thought another project involving bringing something along and showing it off would be fun.

You are invited to make a 3 wheeled buggy entirely of wood no more than 6" wide which will be released down an 8 foot ramp. The buggy travelling furthest across the hall in a straight line will be the winner. There will also be a prize for the best looking buggy.

We will, of course also have a quiz.

There will be no gallery.

OTHER EVENTS:

7 September – Community Woodfair, Zionshill Copse, Chandlers Ford.

After a hiatus last year this great event is being held again at the same venue and HWA will be taking part. All sorts of wood related activities will be going on as well as some irresistible food stands.

And it's free entry for the public. Something for everyone including the kids. So bring the family along.

We're actually looking for a couple of volunteers to help on the day as 2 of our regulars can't be there. So please step up if you can help.

The venue is Zionshill Copse, Knightwood Road, Valley Park, Chandlers Ford SO53 4SJ

MINSTEAD TRAINING PROJECT UPDATE



The energy and optimism levels continue to fuel the progress. It is testimony to the HWA turners doing the teaching that the students continue to progress and look forward to their weekly session. We had a couple of students drop out in May but now have new ones taking up the challenge so there are now 14 students having tuition.

I think I speak for all eight HWA members teaching at Minstead that the satisfaction of getting these young people to complete an item on the lathe in around 45 minutes to an hour is very rewarding both to the students and us "teachers".

We continue to have problems with the lathes and are actively looking to replace both. It would be preferable to have two identically lathes and, if possible, with either mechanical or electronic variable speed. With two identical set ups the students would be more familiar with the equipment and could start to set up the blanks etc. But with the current difficulties and differences we really have to do the setting up. Nonetheless we are still making progress.

Minstead Training Project is having open days in September on Friday 27th 1pm to 4pm and on Saturday 28th September from 11:30 to 3pm. We will be there with the students demonstrating how far they have come.

All HWA members are welcome. Why not come along and see the operation at first hand, I think you will be surprised by their skills after seven months tuition?

The address is Minstead Lodge, Minstead, Nr Lyndhurst, SO43 7FT. If you need directions give me a ring. (see page 2).

Alan Sturgess

Don't forget, we are still looking for a couple more volunteers to help out with our Thursday training sessions. It works out at about 1 session per month though some flexibility to stand in for absence is helpful.

HINTS, TIPS & THINGS

Hi, All.

You may have read in the Summer issue of Y.T. that I try to attend demonstrations by professional turners. Well I was recently invited to attend a Master Class demo with Jason Breach.

You may remember Jason from the Club's recent trip to Axminster Tools.

Jason is a manager and demonstrator at Axminster and is rated as one of the country's top wood turners.

With "Master Classes" not only do you get to see the demonstrators performing their craft and creating their turning they also share with you the tips they use to achieve their finished work.

Jason was one of the first, if not the very first, wood turner to use negative rake scrapers on his work.

He explained to us the science behind these tools.

Removing the myth that is sometimes associated with them.

We were also told metal turners have been using this type of cutting edge for many years. So it is not new.

Not having seen one of these "scrapers" before, I, like most other hobby turners was very cynical about their performance.

Well I have been converted. In fact the only resemblance they have to a scraper is their shape.

Negative rake scrapers have a hollow grind to the top of the chisel, running along the cutting face.

This gives it a cutting edge not a scraping edge.

The cutting edge reminded me of the beak of a bird of prey.

You can convert a basic scraper into a negative rake chisel quite easily.

You will need a small 40mm x 5mm (or smaller) grinding wheel fitted with a shaft to fit into a Jacob chuck.

Method

Place the chuck into your lathe head stock along with the small grinding wheel.

Set the lathe speed to approximately 500 rpm, with the scraper resting on the tool rest and under the grinding wheel.

Make sure you observe all H&S good practices.

Gently grind away the top edge to give a hollow grind to the top of the chisel; this will form a cutting edge / beak.

To re sharpen use a diamond file / card to the side edge of the chisel.

Jason's negative rake scrapers can be purchased from Axminster Tools via the club's shop, you will then get the clubs discount.

(Jason's scrapers were mentioned, including a picture, in the Summer issue of Your Turn. – Editor)

Sanding.

Jason uses sanding abrasives ranging from 180grit up to 400 on most of his work.

The difference is that he uses looped backed abrasives attached to a thin film of plastic.

He can then shape this plastic with his hand to form round his turning.

We were later told that the plastic was cut from a plastic milk bottle.

Making Duplicates

If you need to make a number of repetitive parts on a lathe, using a pattern or template is a good way to ensure all of the pieces turn out alike but it can take time to transfer the dimensions to each piece. A simple solution is to place a piece of masking tape on your tool-rest and mark the dimensions on the tape. With the dimensions on the tape you won't need to pull out your template as often.

Chattering Tool

Have you thought you might like to have a go at making a chattering tool to produce a pattern on the end grain of hard wood?

Well if you have before you start you might like to look up Brenden Stemp "Chattering Techniques" on You Tube. His videos are worth watching.

Update

It was good to hear recently that lots of you are taking on some of the tips we publish in Y.T. and there I was thinking after I write them they go into a black hole never to be seen again.

So, many thanks to the turners who find my column useful.

My wife and I are on the move in early September. That is if the sale of our present house goes through without too many problems. I now have the daunting task of boxing up all my tools etc.

I have decided to put castors on the base of my lathe and bandsaw so they can be easily transported to their new home.

In my new workshop I am hoping to install dado trunking for the power sockets and fit sleeves over lighting tubes as mentioned in the last issue of Y.T.

My present dust extractor is not that good so I'm looking to replace it with an up graded model to stop the build-up of dust, with more outlets in the suction line.

Finally I'm hoping to make use of remote switching of power sockets by using hand held control units.

I have a laugh when I see the advert of the little boy on television telling his dad his remote car is not working, but failing to notice the garage door is continually crashing down on the bonnet of his dad's highly polished car. So I don't think I will be installing a remote hand held to my garage door.

That's all for this issue.

Happy Turning
Keith Barnes

MEMBERSHIP

We have 2 new members; Ken Comley from Totton and Steve Lewington from Upham

Membership currently stands at 90. Just a few did not renew membership (far fewer than in previous years) and already new members have made up the numbers.

Recorded attendance at recent meetings was June 56, July 55 and August 50.

Please could I ask all members to sign in at meetings? I know it's easy to forget if you use the back door but it is a safety requirement to have a list of those attending and it helps us gauge the popularity of different events. If you know of a member who is unable to attend e.g. because of transport difficulties, please let us know as we may be able to help.

Finally, Remember to let me know about changes of postal and E-mail addresses and 'phone numbers.

Denis Hilditch. Membership Secretary.

Signing Off

Those of you who knew Ivor Miller would have known about his serious heart operation. I am pleased to be able to report that it went very well and we wish him a speedy recovery and return to HWA.

I am sorry about the omission of the Novice Corner this time. Keith has been struggling to get enough material for the column for some time as well as his hints and tips. It seems to me that there is a great deal of activity and, indeed, progress in the novice corner and there must be a lot of news to report. I am pleased to report that Alan Baker has agreed to take over the Novice column for future issues of Your Turn.

You may not be aware that Geoff Spierling, as well as running the Club shop, will pool together your Axminster orders to place consolidated orders over £100. This gives the benefit of a 10% discount and free delivery. Obviously if you want large items there is probably no benefit, but for all those bits and pieces there could be a worthwhile saving. Geoff reports that having set this up, nobody is using the facility. Geoff will take orders on Club nights or in between via telephone or Email. See P2 for his details.

Finally thanks to those who volunteered to help restore the boat at Furzey Gardens it has now been installed in the children's play area and looks splendid as can be seen in the pictures below.

Dave Gibbard, Editor

