

YOUR TURN

Hampshire Woodturners Association newsletter

Summer issue, June 2011



Harry with
Derek Luke
at hands-on
day

Novice resurgence

Harry Woolhead with his
Member of the Year award



John Holden
Chairman



Bob Hope
Secretary



Alan Sturgess,
Treasurer

New Committee

Contact details page 2



Lynda Clark
Meet & Greet



Dave Gibbard
Editor



Geoff Spierling
Shop



Keith Barnes
Hints & Tips



Denis Hilditch
Membership



Phil Bristow
Webmaster

YOUR TURN

Summer 2011



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EDITORIAL

The editor has been on holiday and I’m pleased to say it hasn’t quite worn off yet.

Normal service will be resumed as soon as possible.



Dave Gibbard, Editor

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

7 March – Chris Pouncy, Sorby

Chris treated us to a demonstration of the capabilities of just some of the huge range of tools produced by Robert Sorby. Sorby claim to be the world's premier manufacturer of specialist wood working tools with a heritage dating back over two hundred years. Most of their tools are still made in Britain, how rare is that these days?

There are the traditional gouges, chisels and scrapers and I suppose most of us have got a few of them in our workshops. Then there are the more innovative ones and naturally it was these that Chris concentrated on.

Chris started with the "Spindle Master" which seems to be a cross between a skew chisel and a round nosed scraper. As its name implies, it is designed primarily for spindle work and is claimed to be easier to use than a skew and is capable of giving a fine finish. Certainly it seemed to work well in Chris's hands though I guess he can use a normal skew pretty well anyway!

He then moved on to hollowing. The sheer scraper system has removable, adjustable tips for scraping plus a hollowing tip. It is advisable to keep the tip in line with the tool bar as far as possible to minimise the risk of it twisting. However, the bar has a D shaped cross section and is used with the flat side on the rest when using the hollowing tip. For significant undercutting, a swan neck bar can be used. Of course these are scraping systems but Sorby now also make a shielded ring hollowing cutting tool called the "Ultimate". Clever.

This has a lot in common with the Monro tool but the gap between the shield and the cutting disc which determines the depth of cut is adjustable by means of a ring.

As a Monro user this seems like a good idea as it is one of the few things I find tricky to set up. –Ed.



Here's Chris getting to grips with the "Ultimate" hollowing tool.

It's no good having nice tools if they are poorly sharpened. Sorby make a belt sharpener called "ProEdge" which has various jigs for consistent shaping. The tool edges certainly looked good and the grind is flat not curved or hollow as you get from a wheel. This looked very nice but much dearer than a conventional grinder.

Sorby are well known for their texturing tools and Chris showed the old texturing tool as well as the newer spiralling tool. The latter in particular is capable of giving some very nice effects once it has been mastered.



The picture shows some of the tools demonstrated. From the left they are the "hardwood scraper", "spindle master", sheer scraper with hollowing tip, sheer scraper with scraper tip, the "Ultimate" hollowing tool

John Davis was in attendance with a vast array of Sorby tools for sale. Amongst other things, John is a Sorby stockist and If you haven't been to his shop/workshop near Stockbridge (or even if you have) I am sure he would be pleased to see you and show you the things Chris was demonstrating. Or you can visit his website www.johndaviswoodturning.co.uk

Chris closed with a brief look at the members gallery. All the pictures are on the website.

Though he thought the standard was good, he looked at the attendees and observed the gallery equated to only a small proportion of members' work.

Dave Gibbard

4 April – AGM and Hollowing hands-on

Before the AGM, Ron Foulkes from Countess Mountbatten Hospice gave a moving talk about the work of the hospice to relieve the suffering of patients and their families.

See separate item on page 7.

The AGM started with approval of the minutes of last year's meeting which had been published in the Spring issue of Your Turn. Jon Gibbs, the outgoing chairman read his report, which is printed separately in this issue as is a summary of the treasurer's report from Alan Sturgess.

Jon's penultimate task was to present the awards. Phil Bristow has made his mark with some skilful turning which belies his inexperience and was clear winner of the Les Revell trophy for novice of the year.



Phil Bristow receiving the Les Revell trophy

Harry Woollhead unfortunately could not be present to receive his trophy as member of the year. This award is always a difficult decision for the committee and this year was no exception. It went to Harry for his efforts in reviving the novice group with a welcoming low-key style and the Saturday hands-on days.

The efforts of the helpers making up what is sometimes called the extended committee were acknowledged in the traditional manner by awards of bottles of wine. Without the contribution of these people the Club could hardly function at all.

Chris Davey temporarily took over the chair for the election of officers and committee. Jon's term of 3 years as Chairman is over and he's also moving away to Cumbria. He has promised to keep in touch and we really hope he does.

John Holden stood as the new Chairman and was unanimously elected. Also moving on is webmaster Dan Would whose valuable contribution was acknowledged by Jon. Phil Bristow stood for the committee to take over the role and was duly elected. Martin Stallard also stood down. The remaining officers and committee members stood again and were duly elected. The new committee is listed on page 2.

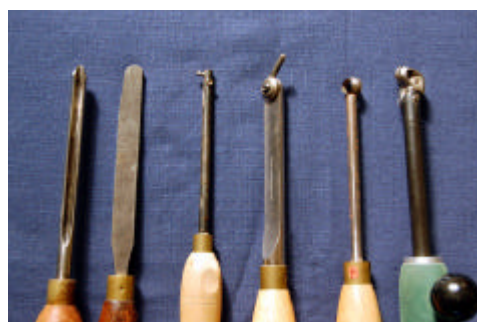
Before handing over, Jon expressed his anger at the news that some items were stolen from the shop and John Davis's Sorby sale at the March meeting. We take an atmosphere of trust in our members for granted and it is sad that this view is now challenged. Whoever was responsible is not welcome at the Club.

New chairman John Holden took over and thanked Jon for steering the Club through a difficult period. Membership has stabilised and even growing again and the atmosphere is more friendly. An unexpected gift of a bottle of wine was made with a request to do a critique on the members' gallery as a final task.

Before that, 2 lathes had been set up to allow members to try their hands with various hollowing tools that had been brought along by Alan Sturgess and Dave Gibbard. With practice surprising results can be obtained with traditional gouges and scrapers but for more extreme hollowing, special tools are required. Originally these were simply long rods with adjustable scraping tips and these are still available but the newer and inevitably expensive ones are cutters. These are like ring tools with the addition of an adjustable shield to define the depth of cut.



Steve Reed getting down to the job of hollowing.



Hollowing tools from left: Bowl gouge and scraper, Bob Chapman, Sorby, Ring Tool, Munro tool

The draw was made for song titles for the next round of the HWA Challenge. See the separate article in this issue.

Jon then took advantage of his pending exit to put the crit into critique as he reviewed the gallery items. Favourite targets were unfinished bases still showing chucking marks and curves which were not continuous. I agree entirely about the curves (though I was personally guilty of a hint of a bulge). But the real purpose of a chucking recess is lost on the buying public if finished neatly and may not look out of place.

I wish Jon and his family a great future in the delightful Lake District and look forward to some exquisite Cumbrian curves in his work.

Dave Gibbard.

16 May – Gary Rance

Gary gave us an interesting summary of his career which was all decided by the flip of a coin. He highlighted the pitfalls of woodturning having had issues with asthma and loss of smell. He gave us a quick run through of safety procedures, ensuring clothing, eye protection and breathing were covered.



Gary demonstrates his famous tool control

The description of how to approach the lathe and use the entire body to make the cuts was very informative. Gary demonstrated the basics of turning going through tools like the skew chisel and roughing gouge. Another good tip was to “float” the bevel and not “rub” the bevel, a common mistake is people pushing to hard. Along with that great tip closely followed by telling that the tool should move at the turners pace and not the pace the tool wants to run at – ie: out of control! We were given the pleasure of a funny (?) story where Gary was younger and made one of his first mistakes with a skew chisel. An unfortunate accident where the skew chisel caught in the wood and bounced out of his hands and hit him between the eyes – all could have been avoided if he was holding the tool from the top instead of underneath.

We were shown the basics of spindle turning - the V cut, beads, coves, etc.

Once we were shown the spindle basics, Gary moved onto the project for the evening – a salt bell.



Gary and his “salt bell”

The salt bell is one of many projects for which he sells the designs and features on his DVD which covers the basics of woodturning, tool sharpening and some projects to practice your skills on.

A slight crack/split/chip in the Juniper bell/funnel and a flying piece making a jump for freedom caused a “treasure hunt” for the missing piece.

Once the Juniper bell had been finished, Gary moved onto the handle, which for this demonstration was ebony. Once the basic shape was turned Gary showed us the threading tools and the techniques involved in using them. This created a threaded handle to screw into the juniper bell. Once the handle was sanded and sand sealer/friction polish applied and parted off, it was screwed into the juniper bell – one salt shaker bell.

Gary finished off showing us his way of sharpening his tools.

Phil Bristow

COMING EVENTS

6 June – HWA Challenge round 3 and “What’s in my shed”

Round 3 challenges members to show their interpretation of song titles. Details on page 7. Also Keith Barnes presents “what’s in my shed” featuring the workshops of Mike Haselden, Harry Woolhead and Phil Bristow plus John Holden’s and Ralph Stone’s if time allows.

4 July – The Les Thorne show

Look forward to an evening of banter and good natured abuse. There will probably be some skilful woodturning laced with helpful tips too. Don’t miss it.

1 August – Club Members’ Evening

A hands-on evening for the whole club with 3 or 4 lathes. If you have any requests for topics, please let Bob Hope know and we’ll try to be prepared. There will also be a sharpening clinic so you can bring your problem tools.

REPORTS OF OTHER EVENTS

27 - 28 March - Forest of Bere Woodturners Open Weekend

The Forest of Bere Woodturners open weekend was well attended by their members, and the public who came to see what turners do, but sadly lacking in other clubs making the effort.

The weather for the weekend was perfect with the sun shining throughout. The hosts laid on food and drink at a very reasonable price. The food was fresh and the cake was lovely. We had a cup of tea every 30 mins and were awash when we walked to the car.

The hall was well laid out with four lathes working at all times with a medley of turners from the Club, including Bill Thorne, who demonstrated how to turn apples and how to use the Henry Taylor ELF with spectacular results. Derek Blake demonstrated pen turning and had a hands-on period, when he assisted novice turners to turn their first pen. The other lathes were manned by club members who showed how to turn winged bowls, goblets, segmented hollow vessels, boxes and apples and pears.

Also on show was a carver showing how to create pierced pieces with power tools and showed some stunning work. Alongside him sat a chap demonstrating pyrography, and his pieces are works of art.

The Lady Mayor came with her husband and showed an interest of all the turning and asked some searching questions.

We came a creditable third place in the club invitation behind the FoB (2nd) and Test Valley (picture, right) taking the honours of first place.



John Davis had a table selling from his stock, with everything but the right thing, (sod's law). A chap set up a stall to sell clocks and other associated parts for assembling your own clocks. John has obtained some of this stock and has it on display at his shop in Stockbridge.

In closing I must say what a friendly and well-organised club, they almost all had club shirts with the club badge and the name of the wearer. They all pitched in to help unload and set up the tables and at the end to load up the car.

Geoff Spierling

(Thanks to Geoff, Derek Luke and Phil Bristow for helping with the HWA contribution)

9 April – Hands-on Day, Old Alresford

The day dawned bright and early for those who believed Bob's Email and turned up at 9.00 for the hands-on day. The smarter set arrived for the usual 10.00. In fact the turn out was a very disappointing 7 including the 3 senior turners there for help and advice. The benefit for those who did come was almost a lathe each and one to one help!



Chosen topics included the dreaded skew, beads, goblets and hollowing plus the inevitable tool sharpening.

Gerald Nicholson pleased with his goblet, left

Bob and Jack look into some fine spindle work, below.



Harry Woolthead had arrived breathless after a late night journey back from a week on the Isle of Wight having missed Monday's club meeting.

Bob Hope took the opportunity to present him with his deserved award as Club member of the year for his efforts with the novices. It came as a complete surprise and Harry was delighted by the acknowledgement.

We'll take a summer break from hands-on events and hope for the more usual take up when we start up again in the Autumn.

Dave Gibbard

OUTREACH PROGRAMME

As you probably know, the Lottery grant was awarded to HWA partly because of the aim of presenting our craft to the general public. Chris West who was responsible for the lottery application has remained the focus for this "outreach programme".

Members are often invited to demonstrate or sell at fetes etc and that's to be encouraged. But it's worth doing it under the HWA banner. As an HWA event, Chris can log it towards the lottery justification and the member can enjoy the benefit of HWA support, equipment and insurance.

It also enables the event to be listed in Your Turn and the website so that other members are aware and can come along and support the event.

Under the programme, Alan Sturgess did the **Beaulieu open day** again this year (in April) and on the right are listed some coming events together with a Club member contact:-

- 25 June - **Tools for Self Reliance**, Netley Road, Netley Marsh (Chris West)
- 25 June - **Old Alresford Village Fair**, Christy Memorial Hall (Harry Woollhead)
- 28 June - **Romsey Hearing Centre** (Not public) (Chris West)
- 9 July p.m. - **Party in the Park**, Kilham Lane, Winchester (Chris West)
- 16 July - **Sholing Valleys** Study Centre, Station Road, Sholing SO19 8FP (Mike Haselden)
- 3 September - **Community Woodfair**, Zionhill Copse, Chandlers Ford - (Dave Gibbard)

There is a form that organisations requesting a demo or talk by HWA can fill in. Phil has put this on the website but if you prefer you can contact Chris on 01794 512718 or Chris@westwoodturnery.co.uk

HWA CHALLENGE ROUND 3

At the AGM, the draw was made for the topics for the next round of the HWA challenge. Your interpretations are invited please, for any of the following song titles:-

- A - Ring of Fire**
- B - Little Green Apples**
- C - Lemon Tree**
- D - Ring a Ring o' Roses**

The event will be held at the meeting on **6 June**

Rules will be as before:-

- Entries should include woodturning but may feature other techniques too.
- Items will be displayed, identified only by a number.
- Members attending meeting will vote via ballot slips.
- Points will be awarded, 3 for each 1st choice, 2 for 2nd and 3 for 3rd.
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd will be awarded according to points totals.
- In the event of equal points, preference will be given to the greater number of higher choices.
- Prizes £30 for 1st choice, £20 for 2nd and £10 for 3rd.

HWA CHARITY 2011



The Hospice website is www.cmhcharity.org.uk

Our programme of charity support this year is being run by Denis Hilditch.

At the AGM Ron Foulkes from Countess Mountbatten Hospice gave a moving talk about the work of the hospice to relieve the suffering of patients, mostly with terminal cancer and their families.

Ron is grateful that the hospice has been chosen by HWA for our charitable donations this year.



Ron Foulkes



Some members had brought turned items for donation at this meeting to get the programme under way. There will be plenty more opportunities to do so at future meetings.

Obituary – Ken Linham 1922 - 2011



As you probably know, another long standing HWA member, Ken Linham, died recently.

Ken was a real local, moving to Bishopstoke at the age of 10 and finding himself next door to Joan, the girl he was destined to marry and stay together until parted by his death.

Ken became an electrician working for English Electric on the railway. When he married Joan they bought an old railway carriage which they restored and converted as their first home. Their first son was born whilst they were living there. In tough economic times they kept rabbits for showing and for the table and so started the aspiration to self sufficiency. They bought some land in Bishopstoke and built the bungalow which was to be their home until 4 years ago. During this time they reared chickens and marketed the eggs and grew enough produce to virtually achieve self sufficiency. Ken continued to work on the railway where he was exposed to the asbestos that eventually robbed him of his health.

With failing health he sold the Bishopstoke site to a developer and moved to a more manageable house in Fair Oak. Joan says she has no regrets about their life together except that they didn't move sooner.

A very practical man yet with an artistic streak, he created much intricate and often quirky turned wooden work. Pictured here are just a few examples.



There's a surprise inside the pear – a whole tray full of miniature fruit!



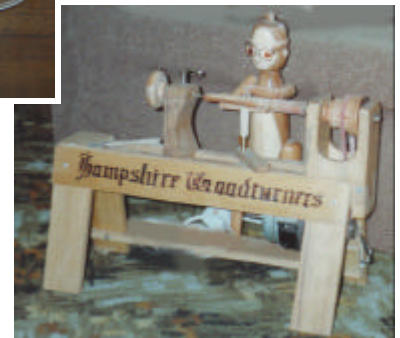
Ken is known for his wooden flowers, fruit, miniature and novelty items. Joan berated him for selling the best example of his floral displays and, typically, at too low a price to boot. He was particularly fond of making place settings of cutlery, cups, saucers and plates complete with food!



Some of Ken's Trade mark work, Flowers, quirky Vikings and miniature vessels below. The tiny goblets even have captive rings!



The picture on the right shows an item made for display at Hampshire Woodturners public demos. It features a man turning a chair leg at a lathe driven by an electric motor.



The rotating lathe and the animated turner always attracted much attention and amusement. This item seems to have disappeared and Joan thinks he gave it to someone at HWA to look after and use at shows.

If anyone can shed any light on this, please let me know. Joan is happy for HWA to keep it rather than returning to join the hundreds of other pieces of Ken's work which, along with Joan's lace work, adorn their house, a testament to a hard working and creative couple.

Dave Gibbard

HINTS TIPS & THINGS

Burning Wires

In the Spring issue of Y.T. we gave a tip for the novices on how to make a simple Burning wire.

This has created a lot of interest with the type of wire you can use to get an improved burning mark.

Brian Hannam emailed me with his preferred method.

For the neatest burned back lines I use a steel guitar string. The top strings are nice and fine vigorous young guitarists are forever breaking them and will be amazed to learn that there is a use for the bits!!

I have seen turners at craft fairs use discarded ring pulls (from drink cans) to hold the ends of the wires ... perhaps they were hinting at poverty. I use a couple of duff cord pulls that I did not want to be seen selling... thread the wire through, then fix it on to a small washer that will fit in to the knot recess' of the cord pull. Not only is this method elegant, but it really gets the finger away from the hot wire!

Thanks Brian for your tip.

What methods do you other turners use?

Please let me know, as Brian did, by emailing me at keith.hwa@mypostoffice.co.uk

Super glue caps

Isn't it annoying the way that dried glue builds up around the nozzle and the plastic cap?

Removing it can be like a surgical operation. Here's a way of curing the problem. When you use the glue, tear off a small piece of cling film pop it over the cap. Next time you come to use it there will be no glue in the cap. Just pull off the cling film and use a new piece when replacing the cap.

Alan Sturgess (2002)

Making HSS cutters

A lot of discussions have taken place recently regarding making your own multi tip cutters for turning tools, using high speed steel (HSS). Many tool manufactures supply these types of tools with a wide selection of cutters, but wood turners are always looking for the satisfaction of making their own to suit their personal requirements. The handles and metal shanks, round or half round are not a problem to make for the turner the main problem has to be with the drilling of the fixing hole.

Jon Gibbs has emailed me with the way he drills HSS to make his own cutters.

How do you make your cutters?
Please let me know.

Drilling HSS

You can drill HSS with a normal spear – point tungsten carbide (WC) tile drill, keeping the rpm low.

Make a small reservoir ring of plasticine around the area you need to drill the hole, fill with cutting fluid- It's a good idea to grind a small depression first with a Dremel to start the hole and then take it slow to avoid generating too much heat.

Jon Gibbs

Tool Sharpening

Many turners use jigs to sharpen their turning tools. More experienced turners tend to go by eye and feel.

How do you sharpen your turning tools?

What make of sharpening system / jig do you use, if any?

Have you made your own jig?

Does it do the job as well as a manufactured one?

In the coming Winter issue of Y.T. I hope to write up the many ways that our members sharpen turning tools, So please share your ideas / comments with us by emailing me at. keith.hwa@mypostoffice.co.uk I look forward to receiving your replies.

NOVICE CORNER

At the March meeting we saw a record number of members around the Novice area. So many in fact it was a difficult to get a seat. This is good news for the club with this number of new members joining or is it old members looking for inspiration?

Gerald Nicholson showed us a bunch of onion shallots he had turned. I was very impressed with these.

Alan Baker asked about the application of cellulose based sanding sealer, when he applies it, it goes lumpy on the wood. Should it go on the wood straight from the container?

It was agreed that it was best applied with 50% sanding sealer 50% cellulose thinner. Mylands say it should be applied neat but we don't necessarily agree with this statement. Small tins of Cellulose thinner can be purchased from most car accessory shops.

A poor finish on your work will spoil the good turned work that has taken place. Try....

50/50 mixture of cellulose sanding sealer and cellulose thinners. Apply with a small brush and bring it to a shine with wood shavings. Then apply 4-5 coats of Danish oil / Lemon oil with a good quality paper tissue, rubbing the work down between coats with 400 grit abrasive paper. Finally polish with a good grade wax polish.

At the April meeting Harry Woollhead had a prior engagement which he was unable to cancel; rumour has it Harry was taking his wife out for a Christmas Dinner (in April). As most members will know Harry is a builder of high repute and as we all know with builders they are not good with times and dates. (Only joking Harry.)

Congratulations to Harry on his award at the AGM for his continuing contribution to the Club's Novice section; it was well deserved.

At the May meeting Jack Mansfield showed us his turned urn. We all agreed this was a difficult subject for someone who has only been turning for a short time. It was pointed out that the bowl of the urn could have been deeper and the sides a little thinner. The top was a good fit on the main body.

It was also pointed out it is best to get as good a finish as possible straight from the tool before sanding as this will minimise the sanding required. Too much sanding takes away the sharp crisp effect of the turning.

Novices are telling us on club nights that sanding takes up most of their time when finishing a turned item. Power sanding can help with this in the form of a foam backed Velcro disc pad mounted in an electric drill with the lathe rotating slowly in different direction. This cuts down friction heat to a minimum making it nearly impossible to inflict scratches on your work. When power sanding the main draw back is dust, which is far greater due to the two rotating surfaces. Please remember to have a good extraction system working.

Velcro backed foam pads and the Velcro backed sanding discs ranging from 60 to 600 grit can be purchased from the club shop on club nights.

Smooth Finish

After roughing out, to save time in changing tools tilt the roughing out gouge sideways and use the side bevel as a skew chisel. You will finish with a nice smooth finish.

Gary Rance

Finishing

Learn to turn cleanly with your sharp tools, do not rely on abrasives to bludgeon a finish or shape.

Ray Key

Sanding

Stop the lathe to sand with the grain of the wood as scratches only show up when they are across the grain.

Y.T. 2002

Keith Barnes & Harry Woollhead

MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome the following new members:

Alan Truslove from Eastleigh.
Mark Lewis from Hythe
Lyne Early from Blackfield.
Derek Barkaway from Romsey
And the welcome return of Pierre Baumann from Romsey

Would members please note that subscriptions are now due, so if you have not yet renewed your membership please put a cheque payable to Hampshire Woodturners Association for £20-00 in an envelope (no need for anything else if it has your name on it) and post it to:
Denis C Hilditch 6 Oregon Close, Southampton, SO19 2PS.

Sorry I will not be at the June meeting to collect your subscriptions.

Regards to all, Denis.

LIBRARY RE-LAUNCH

Hello, I'm Bill Edmunds, your new librarian.

After several years without a library, I am re-launching it.

Some of our stock of Woodturning and Woodworking Books are offered for sale from £1 each. The old videos are being converted to DVDs, thanks to Keith Barnes and Phil Bristow. These and other DVDs and books are offered for loan at £1 per month, Please come along and browse.

We are also inviting donations of Books etc, which might be gathering dust on your shelves and could be useful to other members. These would be gratefully received and added to the stock or offered for sale to raise funds to buy new ones. So have a rummage on your bookshelves.

Feel free to contact me by e-mail william.edmunds@btinternet.com or phone 023 8060 2359.

When everything has settled down, I'll make a stock list and publish it in Your Turn and on the website.

Thank you for your support for the last couple of months. So far you have raised £19 for club funds.

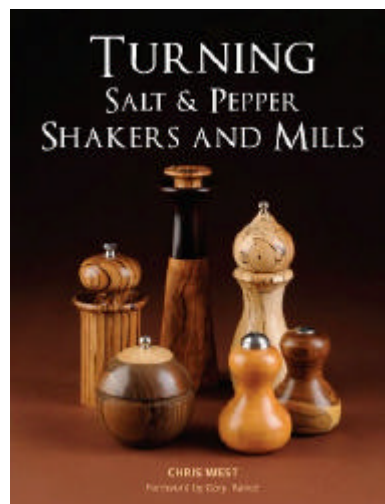
Bill Edmunds

SIGNING OFF

Many of you will know that Chris West has been writing a book and teasing us with receding forecasts of publication date.

It has at last been published in UK by GMC publications (ISBN 978-1-86108-825-3), and by Taunton Press in USA.

Claimed to be the first book dedicated to salt and pepper shakers and mills, it covers all aspects of turning them with detailed projects rated with degree of difficulty. It also features a large range of designs by Chris and others.



Here's the front cover to give you a flavour.

John Holden has volunteered to review the book for Your Turn, so look forward to that in the next issue.

Have a good summer,

Dave Gibbard, Editor

Chairman's Report 2010/11

Reflecting on our achievements of the last year I think that we can be proud that the club, which it has to be admitted went through a rather rocky patch a few years ago, has come through and is now going from strength to strength - You could call it a renaissance.

Our membership numbers are now at about 90, which are lower than they have been, but do seem pretty steady at that and I'm glad to see that we are attracting new members.

The Novice section, which was reintroduced by Harry Woollhead a couple of years ago with help from Bill Willitts, has continued to attract new contributors and is proving ever more popular. This is a vital part of the club's mission and the recently introduced hands-on days in Alresford Village Hall are a great way to develop this aspect of the club still further.

The past year has seen the return of a competitive element to the club, in the form of The HWA Challenge, which has attracted good support in the two rounds we've held so far. The challenge attempts to level the playing field between novices and expert turners and the format seems to have achieved this pretty successfully with two of the top three slots going to novices in the most recent round.

Thanks to Dave Gibbard's efforts, Your Turn has continued to be a great read over the past year, in the now well established form of a quarterly magazine. Mostly distribution is by email these days – and so it's in glorious Technicolor. There is also a new column on hints and tips which promises to be a nice way for us all to pass on those little snippets of information that come our way from time to time.

Bob Hope laid on a great programme of events last year. Les, Stuart King and Paul Nesbitt gave us great demos. We also had a taste of gilding, or was it deep breathing, from Lynda, carving from Bob and finishing from Ian Woodford and Chris West. Denis also showed us how to make a handy wine bottle holder from old parquet floor offcuts.

Following on from the Nick Agar firefighters' demonstration of 2009, we visited Stuart Mortimer's workshop at Grately for a full day demo last autumn. It was a brilliant day, with lots for everyone from novices to experts. Most of us came away with a serious bout of "workshop-envy" – Stuart doesn't have just one tool for every job – he has at least a dozen and that principle even extends to lathes! In the club shop, Geoff and Helen continue to expand our at-cost stock and are doing a brilliant job. Geoff's recently introduced sales of John Davis' stock on orders placed in person, phone or email for collection at the next club night. Alongside our normal stock this innovation deserves to be a popular service.

Outreach activities have continued this year thanks to the organization and dedication of several keen members.

There were demos at Prince's Mead School, The Scholing Valleys Country Fayre, The Party in the Park, Beaulieu Harvest Home and Zionhill Copse Community Woodfair to name a few.

In memory of our old friend George Gale we supported the local Prostate Cancer Support Organization, PCaSO, in 2010. Your efforts raised well in excess of £300 for them in both direct donations and sales of turned items.

In closing I'd like to pass on my thanks to my fellow committee members for their hard work and dedication over the past year. The success of the club is down to them and if there is a club renaissance they are the people who are responsible for it. Almost all of their contributions are behind the scenes and go unseen by the majority of members, but they work tirelessly to ensure that the club continues to run smoothly and to ensure that it's successful. Long may it continue.

Jon Gibbs, Chairman HWA, April 2011

Treasurer's Report for 2010/2011

It's been a steady year for finances, again we have remained within the agreed budget, and ended the year with a small surplus of £260.63

Membership remains in the high eighties which is by far our main income source. The monthly raffle made a profit of £300 but the club Shop sales were down from £961 to £580.99. Our total income was £3,109.39

Speakers' expenses were kept down as we made more use of home grown talent. Other outgoings remained much as the previous years. We continued with one all day professional workshop at Stuart Mortimer's which was a sell out. In 2010 Harry Woolhead & Bob Hope have held 3 all day Novice workshops which were all well attended and are now self funding. Your Turn is being received by nearly three quarters of the membership via the internet which has kept its production cost to a minimum. We thank Lynda Clark for allowing us to have committee meeting at her house which has saved over £100 in room hire. Our total expense was £2,848.76

Thus we had a small surplus for the second year running. It was agreed by the committee that subs for the coming year would remain at £20. However if we are unable to get club members to contribute to the monthly programme then we will need to pay for more speakers and that in turn could push up fees. My thanks to all those members operating sub committees and individuals who collect monies on the club's behalf and ensure the club continues to function smoothly.

Alan Sturgess, Treasurer, April 2011