

YOUR TURN

Hampshire Woodturners Association Newsletter.
Summer issue, June 2012



Simon Hope and Greg
Moreton demo at HWA

2012 AGM Report,
HWA Challenge,
Outreach Events,
Hints and Tips,
and more....



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EDITORIAL

Some of you may know I've had a problem with my shoulder. I felt a twinge whilst demonstrating at January's turn-in and then went home and spent a week installing IKEA fitted wardrobes. I had selected a size that was just too high for the ceiling as the smaller ones would have had a gap of about a foot. Unfortunately that meant that they all needed to be cut down then carried upstairs and assembled in situ with absolutely no headroom to work in.

In retrospect, this may have not been the ideal treatment for a bad shoulder.

I explained all this to the Doctor who diagnosed an inflamed joint. (It's all those years of training you know). It would probably get better with the aid of anti-inflammatories and abstinence from lifting things and certainly no wardrobe installations. I was assured pain killers would help me put up with it until nature took its course. 2 weeks of sleepless nights later I went back for more encouragement and better painkillers.

My chums at HWA were full of advice including several acupuncture evangelists. Now I'm the world's greatest sceptic but was ready to try anything. I should have been cautious after one enthusiastic member claimed to have been going for this type of treatment for 30 years!

Still, I went along to this nice Chinaman who stuck pins in my arm, connected them to an electric pulsing machine and went away for half an hour leaving me twitching on the couch. After the second session produced no improvement I decided to re-join the 21st century and went back to the Doctor who asked me what I'd like to be done about it! I felt unqualified to say, really, and after kicking it around for a bit (the problem, not my shoulder) we decided it was time to try an injection in the joint which her colleague would do.

The injecting doctor explained her technique was to do it from behind. Not to worry that the pain seemed to be at the front, the needle would find the joint. She got ready and said "just a little prick".

How she could tell standing behind me I don't know. As it turned out it was remarkably painless and I went away cautioned to take it easy and not forget the problem even if I felt better.

I enjoyed my first pain free night of sleep for over 2 months and I'm looking forward to venturing back into the workshop for some turning therapy.

Dave Gibbard, Editor

REPORTS OF HWA MEETINGS & EVENTS

5 March - HWA Challenge and Roy's tools & jigs

HWA Challenge

In the latest round of the Challenge members were invited to select from the following list:

- A- Make something from a 2" x 2" x 12" blank,
- B- Make something involving carving or texturing,
- C- Interpret "the Magic Roundabout"

The challenge attracted a disappointing 13 entries from just 10 members, 6 for category A, 5 for B and 2 for C. 52 members attending the meeting were balloted for their 1st, 2nd and 3rd favourite items. Weighting these votes 3 points for each 1st, 2 points for 2nd and 1 for 3rd and totting up the totals produced the following:-

Thanks to everyone who responded, all the entries are pictured below. Let's have some more of you next time.



First choice:
Harry
Woollhead's
"Magic
Roundabout"
featuring inlaid
sections of
branches set in
black resin.

Second choice:
Jack Mansfield's
bird carving on
pebbles in a burr
elm ring.

Third choice:
Derek Luke's
"Magic
roundabout"
featuring a clever
operation with
the ribbons
winding round
the centre pole.

From top, L-R: Harry Woollhead (C), Jack Mansfield (B), Derek Luke (C)
Harry Woollhead (B)
Bob MacFarland (B) Jack Mansfield (A), Harry Woollhead (A)
Bob Hope (B), Pierre Baumann (A)
John Holden (A), Adrian Smith (B)
Lynda Barkaway (A), Bryan Matcham (A)

Roy Nailor's tools & jigs



Roy apologised to those who have seen his treasures before. This was quite unnecessary as those who have would surely agree the home-made or adapted tools, jigs etc were worth another look.

Roy is an engineer by profession and is always coming up with designs of jigs and tools often made from throw away items.

Among other things, he described:

Indexing devices including a novel use of an old bandsaw blade whose teeth mark angular divisions when bent round a cylinder depending on the radius.

A whole variety of jam chucks using split tapered wooden cylinders with a slip ring to tighten.

Screw chucks designed for holding fruit.

Hacksaw blades made into thin parting tools (handles optional).

Masonry nails ground into miniature skew chisels, parting and hook tools.

Roll pins ground to make miniature gouges.

Old files ground to make scrapers. (Note the correct safety advice is not to use files for making such tools as they are brittle. However, the forces on scrapers make shattering unlikely but if you do this it is your decision.)

An old record turntable fitted with a sanding or buffing discs with a jig for sharpening gouges traversing a cord being rotated in the process.

I am sure Roy would be happy to talk to members who have specific questions about his ideas.

Roy must be so busy making all these things that I'm surprised he finds time to use them!



Miniature parting tool and skew, above

Sharpening jig and turntable, right



Dave Gibbard

31 March - Simon Hope Workshop.

The full house that turned out for this Saturday workshop was not disappointed. Simon has an assured style and covered 4 projects from start to finish, all with some aspects which were new to most of us. These included pewter casting which he accomplished without the aid of the Fire Service. Simon's work encompasses a variety of turning related activities. He makes Scottish bagpipes, teaches turning and creates turned items with innovative features. He often comes up with new tools which he sells. Take a look at his website

www.hopewoodturning.co.uk

The first project was a box incorporating African Blackwood threaded inserts.

(Simon also uses this material for his pipes.)

It is very stable and takes a thread very well. He machine-cuts the threaded ring inserts in advance in batches.



Apart from the attractive appearance of a contrasting threaded ring, the method allows wood to be used for threaded boxes that is unsuitable for taking a thread. He turned the base by the usual method, hollowing with a tungsten carbide tipped cutter. The wood was sanded wet using a mixture of liquid paraffin and beeswax. The outside was done with a 3" rotary sander and the inside with a Velcro pad on a stick holding the backed sanding cloth. Wet sanding can be messy but saves a lot of dust and seals the wood in the process. Simon finishes with a coat or two of organ oil. A recess was carefully cut in the rim to accept the female threaded ring. Simon cuts a taper for trial size before making it parallel. A small groove in the recess provides a reservoir for the superglue which is run carefully around before inserting the ring. For this design, the lid was a rectangular piece of cherry with bark on 2 opposite edges. A scrap block was glued on the top for mounting and the underside was shaped with a spigot to accept the male threaded ring, again with a glue groove. The lid was then reversed onto a pre-prepared jig incorporating a female ring to allow the top to be finished. In this case the top featured a dome with beads cut with a beading tool.



Simon's next project was a Sapele hollow form with a pewter insert. The outside was shaped first, leaving excess wood near the foot for support. Hollowing involved drilling a hole to the required depth and hollowing out with a suitable tool.

There is a number of such tools available, the Munro being perhaps the best but very expensive. The Woodcut is almost as good and much cheaper. Alternatively a simple tool with an adjustable pick is even cheaper and removes wood quite quickly but leaves a courser finish. This can be cleaned up with a scraper though the final hole is likely to be too small to be able to feel the inside anyway. The hole at the top was tidied up to accept the pewter insert.

To make the insert a wooden mould was turned with a ring recess. Pewter was melted in a saucepan and poured into the mould and left to solidify. (picture right)



The pewter ring was turned with normal woodturning tools, sanded and buffed.

The surface was textured with a Proxxon tool. The finished pewter ring can be lacquered to keep the shine then glued in place with superglue.

He went on to make a shallow rectangular dish with a polished aluminium foot. This looked really classy and belied its origin as a piece of scaffold pole! Aluminium is harder than pewter but can still be cut with woodturning tools, sanded and polished. Part of this demo involved the use of a vacuum chucking method for reversing the dish to finish the foot. There are other ways of course though this was certainly easy if you can justify the outlay.

Shallow dish with polished aluminium foot

Finally Simon made a double skinned bowl using contrasting wood. The outer bowl was turned first with a rim protruding inwards with a stepped edge to accept the inner bowl. The outside of the inner bowl was turned and glued into the outer bowl at the rim. The assembly was then reversed and the inner hollowed. Some careful depth measurements were made before assembly to ensure an even inner wall thickness with no break-throughs.



Simon Hope, above, about to fit the outer bowl and the finished double-skinned bowl, right.



Oh I forgot to mention the pound coin Simon put in the cavity before assembly to produce a rattle.

All in all a rattling good demo.

Simon generously donated the double bowl to the Club to be raffled at the AGM.

Dave Gibbard



2 April – AGM, Open Discussion and Brains Trust.

The AGM got underway with the acceptance of the minutes of last year's meeting (published in the Spring 2012 issue of Your Turn).

John Holden gave the Chairman's report and this is given in full in this issue.

Alan Sturgess presented the accounts and his summary is also given in this issue. The proposal to increase subscriptions after many years to £25 was accepted unanimously.

The proposed addition to the constitution to acknowledge the increasing awareness of health and safety issues was also accepted unanimously. The new clause is as follows:-

"The Club will endeavour to ensure that the highest standards of Health and Safety are maintained and promoted by the club at all events held by the club. The Club will also promote the use of safe practises by members in their own workshops, Health and Safety matters will be considered when advice or training is given to members to encourage a culture of compliance to good practice".

The committee and officers stood down and Chris Davey conducted the election.

He proposed that the current members, being duly proposed and seconded, be elected en bloc and this was carried unanimously. The committee therefore remains unchanged; details are to be found on page 2. The Les Revel Cup for the best Novice of the year was presented to Jack Mansfield.

The Clubman trophy for member of the year was awarded to Lynda Barkaway.

Well done both of you.

Bottles of wine were awarded to all the other helpers outside the committee in recognition of their valuable contributions.

Open Discussion

An increasing number of enquiries are being received via the website. Where people are looking for a turner to make something for them, details are circulated to members by Email and, if time permits, by announcement at the following meeting. The policy has been to let individual members respond.

Another type of enquiry is where we as an organisation are invited to take part in an event, like the Forest of Bere Open show and competition 12-13 May. Ian Woodford wondered why so little notice is given. The fact is that the enquiries are passed on almost immediately. The problem is that we often don't get enough notice from the organisers. With Chris West standing down as "outreach manager" there is a need for someone to handle these enquiries and to organise our participation.

There was a suggestion that we should hold a "bring and buy" sale one evening. Such events have been held in the past though not for some time. The committee will look into holding another.

The continued low number of entries for the Challenge was discussed. The topics and voting arrangements seem to have levelled the playing field with relative novices doing rather well. Derek Luke suggested that it is the experienced turners now who fear embarrassment! It is likely that in our club 20 or so entries is all we can expect. Another round will be held later in the year anyway.

The recent turn-in was well received and the committee was urged to hold more such events. The problem is getting enough people to volunteer to do a turn. John stressed that we are not looking for accomplished demonstrators. A few mistakes are all grist to the mill and everyone learns from them.

Bob brought up the problem of meetings postponed because of bank holiday Mondays. This year is particularly difficult with the Jubilee. Postponing until the 2nd Monday is not possible because of prior bookings and the 3rd Monday clashes with Test Valley Turners. On a show of hands, the alternative of holding postponed meetings on the Wednesday immediately following seems to be worth considering.

Phil Bristow circulated a questionnaire about the Club, what do members like or dislike and are there any suggestions for changes? The results broadly endorsed the type of activities that are currently held though some individual suggestions will be looked at by the committee. A number of members put their names forward as willing to help. Thank you. No doubt you will be contacted.

Brains Trust

3 members had their arms twisted to form the panel: Jean Turner, Mike Haselden and Dave Gibbard.

The first question from Ian Woodford was about how to avoid getting into a rut with your turning. Whilst acknowledging that this happens, the panel got inspiration from a variety of sources- the work of others, including the members gallery, nature, the work of artists in other disciplines. However, real innovation doesn't come from copying so be inspired to try variations of your own. *(I thought later that some ruts are better than others. You could arguably say that Bert Marsh was in a rut for example. I wish I'd thought of that at the time – Editor)*

Mike Hasleden's large oak bowl in the gallery prompted discussion about the challenges of making large objects. The obvious constraints are lathe capacity and physical strength to mount the blank and use the tools. Maintaining a smooth curve over a long distance is more difficult with a large bowl. If you are of a commercial inclination, the price you'd need to charge for all that effort restricts the market. Jean pointed out that at the other end of the scale, really small items are equally tricky for quite different reasons.

Cont.....

... 2 April, Brains Trust continued

There followed a discussion about the newsletter and website. Dave said that he valued the contributions to Your Turn, particularly the regular ones like Keith Barnes's but more would be useful. Nobody writes letters to the editor any more, or even sends Emails. Project write-ups are always popular but very few get sent in.

Phil Bristow pointed out that there is also provision for such items on the website but so far it is only his work that has been featured. A show of hands implied that the majority of people claimed to use the website but Derek Luke pointed out that nobody responded to the discussion forums. I think the message is that a bit more active involvement would be welcome.

Finally, there was a debate about what grit to start sanding with. The consensus was that it depended on the quality of the tooled finish and the coarseness of the wood. Getting a fine tooled finish on Spalted wood can be difficult as can thin natural edge bowls where the bevel cannot rub all the way round. Simon Hope started with 240 for some items at his workshop. Ian wondered why Bert Marsh said he always started at 60 regardless. It's fair to say that baffled the Brains.

Gallery

Bob Hope gave a knowledgeable critique of the members' gallery which featured some very nice things all of which can be seen on the website.

Dave Gibbard

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It was with some trepidation that I took on the role of chairman at last year's AGM as I was following on from Jon Gibbs who had done such a fine job. I hope you agree we have another good year, our membership numbers are about the same at 90 and we continue to welcome new members and visitors month by month.

Bob Hope, our secretary, arranged a good program with demonstrations by Gary Rance, John Davis, Chris Eagles, Mark Sanger, Jennie Starbuck and not forgetting Les Thorne. In addition we had some hand-on hollowing, a turn-in in January, Chris West on salt & pepper mills, Roy Naylor's tools and jigs, what's in my shed and three rounds of the challenge. Members also enjoyed a Christmas social and quiz. In fact the years program only finished last Saturday with a day workshop with Simon Hope. This time the fire alarm was not activated and members enjoyed a first class session on box making, casting and turning pewter and making a double skinned bowl. Having mentioned Chris West, he is to be congratulated on the publication of his book *Turning Salt & Pepper Shakers and Mills*, it is really excellent

Our thanks are due to Dave Gibbard for producing *Your Turn*. It must surely be the best club newsletter in the country but it does need contributions. So don't be shy, letters, articles and opinions are all welcome.

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I am pleased to see the novice section going well under Harry Woollhead. The Saturday sessions have been much appreciated by members who have attended and I would encourage you to give them a try.

The gallery each month continues to display items to a high standard. I hope members will continue to support it and not be too shy to bring their work along.

Outreach has continued to be a club activity with the club represented at a number of events in the region. This has involved relatively few keen members and I would love to see more members taking part. So please offer to help, you don't have to be an expert.

The running of the Club is a team effort and a lot of people contribute to our meetings. Special thanks to Steve Page who put together and run our video system for some years and we are grateful for his commitment.

Phil Bristow is doing a great job in running and developing our website – enquiries do come our way through the site. Then there are the welcome team, the tea boys, the raffle men, the book and video table, the display table and the shop (it is yours, use it).

Finally I would like to thank the contribution of the committee, each member really does pull his/her weight. They are a great crowd to work with and they do make my job easy. All I have to do is turn up and use the microphone!

John Holden

TREASURER'S SUMMARY

Once again we have stayed within budget for the year.

Although we ended with a deficit of £491.77 this was mainly due to re-stocking the shop. Membership remains in the high 80s with 11 new members in the year. Subscriptions are our main income source at £1728. The raffle made a profit of £300 the club Shop sales were £618. Total income was £3,291.50.

Speakers' expenses have been going up as their travel cost increase, the cost to the Club totalling £938. We made good use of home grown talent which kept costs down. Other outgoings remained much as in previous years. We held 1 all day workshop, Simon Hope on 30th March. Harry Woollhead & Bob Hope ably assisted by other senior members held 3 all day Novice workshops which were self funding. Your Turn is being received by ¾ of the membership via the internet which has kept distribution costs to a minimum. We are again indebted to Lynda Barkaway for holding committee meetings at her house which has saved over £100 in room hire. Our total expense was £3783.27

Hence we had a £491.77 spend greater than income. Based on the programme and Budget agreed at committee it was proposed to raise subs to £25. This was put to the AGM and was 100% supported by those present.

My thanks to all those operating sub committees and individuals who collect monies on the Club's behalf that makes my role much easier and ensures the club functions smoothly. I would also like to say that no member of the committee claimed any expenses. This also helps keep the clubs costs to the bare minimum.

Alan Sturgess

28 April – Hands-on Day

Those who came along to Old Alresford had an enjoyable time and we all learned something, including those on hand to advise. Apart from the inevitable sharpening, topics were bowl turning, processing rough turned bowls, boxes, hollowing and thread chasing. What a pity more people didn't turn up. Bob and Harry are reluctant to abandon these valuable events but changes are being considered to get more commitment to numbers attending and planning of turning topics. Watch for announcements.



Pierre Baumann shapes a bowl under the watchful eye of Mike Haselden.

Dave Gibbard

21 May Meeting– Greg Moreton

It's been a few years since Greg last visited us and this was a welcome return. He turned up with an enormous Vicmarc lathe and all his kit in a horse box towed by a Land Rover which seriously challenged the access to the Institute.

His first demo was a **round bottom bowl with double off centre hollows**. The yew blank was mounted on a screw chuck to turn the outside. Greg is not a fan of long grind gouges, preferring more traditional grinds for bowl work. Long ground gouges were designed for pull cuts along the grain for hollow forms and not for push cuts. Greg's favourite tool is the 5/8" bowl gouge and he has several, ground at various angles. Steep angles like 60° are used for working deep inside a bowl in order to maintain a rubbing bevel when far from the rest. Working closer to the rest, Greg uses his little finger on the rest to stop the gouge kicking back on entering the work before the bevel can be brought into play.

The face side was turned as far as possible whilst mounted this way round, leaving a small raised area in the centre. Having sanded the outside, the bowl was removed and the raised centre roughly flattened with a power chisel. 2 centres were marked on the face and the bowl mounted in a jig to turn the hollows. The jig consisted of 2 wooden discs held together with long bolts. The rear disc had a spigot screwed on for chuck mounting and the front disc had a hole through which the hollows could be turned. The bowl was mounted offset with the smaller hollow centre on the axis. This was turned out with a bowl gouge. Remounting with the larger hollow centred allowed this to be turned.

Careful power sanding is needed to maintain the sharp line between the 2 hollows.

The second demo was a **bud vase with an offset flared rim** with a natural edge. Starting with the log offset between centres, the diameter below the rim was reduced for balance but left thick at this stage for support. A spigot was turned at the base to get into a chuck ASAP. The flared rim was turned carefully on both sides. Firm tool work is needed since there is only a partial surface to support the bevel. A hole was drilled at slow speed with a gouge to the required depth. The stem was turned in stages, working towards the base. It is not possible to go back to re-turn so it has to be finished as you go.

At this point we were given a choice of a third quick demo or a critique of the gallery. The project was chosen. This was Greg's method of turning a **sphere**. Starting with a square section blank Greg turned a cylinder between centres. Marking the length equal to the diameter, the ends were rounded over. It was then parted off and re-mounted at about 45° between cups on the drive and tail centres. The shadow outline indicating where it wasn't round was turned away. This was repeated with the sphere at different angles until an acceptable sphere was obtained, finishing by sanding. This is one of the few occasions when sanding is used for shaping.

We had been treated to a very full entertaining evening. It was a pity that time did not allow a critique since the table was full of really well turned items. They are all featured on the website.

Dave Gibbard



*Greg with bowl jig, left
And bud vase below.
See also front cover*



OUTREACH EVENTS

21/22 April - Heritage Skills weekend at The Vyne

The Club was invited to provide a demonstration of woodturning skills at the event held in the grounds of this Jacobean National Trust house a few miles north of Basingstoke.

We set up two lathes and six club members demonstrated in shifts to cover the two days.

They were John Holden, Bob Hope, Mike Haselden, Brian Hannam, Geoff Spierling and Derek Luke. Derek was even interviewed and photographed by the local press! The pitch provided was somewhat small but the presentation generated a lot of interest from the visitors, many of whom had not seen a woodturner at work before, and we were able to answer their questions.

The most common question was "how long did it take to make that?" and people were surprised that the time taken was shorter than they expected. There were also questions about the turning of wet and dry wood and seasoning times, which showed a genuine interest in what we were doing.

The display items brought by some members also generated great interest and more questions. We had one or two enquiries about membership and the cost of starting turning so we may yet see some new converts as a result of the weekend.

Bob Hope



Mike making shavings fly at the Vyne

Mel Turner was piercing platters and allowing visitors to try their hand! He had an electric machine which turns at 30,000 RPM and pneumatic one which runs at an unbelievable 400,000. I was curious about the source of compressed air so I followed the blue plastic pipe. Outside the building was a very loud compressor. I remarked to Mel of the irony of such a large machine to turn a tiny drill and he agreed. For £600 he could have a silent one like dentists use.

There were some fine pieces made by members of FoB, some of which were for sale and of course the inter club competition. Unfortunately we were only given short notice of this and were unaware what the parameters were. Dave had dashed around and retrieved some of the winning entries of our club 'challenge' and entered them from HWA. We managed 4th place (out of 4 entries!). Winners were Test Valley, followed by Forest of Bere and Surrey.

Denis Hilditch



HWA entry for the FoB open, above, and the Test Valley Winning entry, Right.



Forest of Bere Open Weekend 12-13 May

I visited on the Saturday and was cordially welcomed. The event is free, but supports various charities so a donation seemed appropriate.

Our friend Les Thorne was demonstrating and as always with a great deal of good natured 'banter'. I watched him convert a piece of 'firewood' into a handsome natural edge bowl and as he said "If it all goes wrong it was just a piece of firewood and you can burn the shavings anyway".

A man was turning some very pretty pens. I didn't like to ask his name as he was concentrating on his work. Don Smith was burning wood, not as I do, in a stove, but making lovely pictures in monochrome. It's called pyrography as you know.

HWA were represented by Geoff Spierling who was also helping John Davis. Mike Haselden was demonstrating on Sunday. Geoff commented on the lack of support from HWA members. He spoke to FoB about getting some more notice next year and details of the judging criteria for the competition.

Editor

19 May, Sholing Valleys Fair (Millers Pond Nature Reserve Official Opening Ceremony and Spring Fayre)

As we turned into the entrance we had great expectations and were not disappointed. The horses had been turned out of the field and a large crowd turned out to sample the attractions. The weather turned out to be better than expected and the garden produce on sale had all turned the right colour despite the recent poor weather. The children were waiting their turn at the bouncy castle. The lady on the 'Tombola' stand kept turning the drum of tickets and the pretty girls were turning a few heads. The members of the 'Drum and Pipe Band' were well turned out in their black and white uniforms.

The Owl in the Raptor display turned his head almost three hundred and sixty degrees and the man with bar-b-cue turned the burgers and sausages with great skill.

Oh, I nearly forgot, two members of The Hampshire Woodturners Association (Mike Haselden and Denis Hilditch) took it in turns to turn items for the patrons.

As the event was free to enter no one was turned away. There were small sea birds flying overhead I wonder what kind they were!

Denis Hilditch

OUTREACH EVENTS TO COME: 30 June pm, Party in the Park, Kilham Lane, Winchester

COMING EVENTS

18 June – What's in my Shed? and Making Seed Pots

Keith Barnes presents an insight into the workshops of several more members who will be on hand to talk about them.

Alan Sturgess shows how to turn a mould for making paper seed pots.

2 July – Mark Hancock –

Mark will demonstrate multi-legged vessels, offset chuck jaws, ebonising, painting & gilding.

13 August – Club night – Turn in with Chris Davey, Mike Haselden and Alan Sturgess

Advance notice - HWA Challenge

The next round of the HWA challenge will be held at the October Meeting. Following the interest in the topics at the January Turn-in (see Your Turn, Spring 2012 issue), the challenge will be a choice of the following :-

- A) A wet-turned item preferably with some bark retained.**
- B) An item incorporating spiral(s) or twist(s)**
- C) An item made using off centre turning.**

MEMBERSHIP

First of all, thank you to the members who have already paid their subscriptions for the year. However If you have not yet paid I will be pleased to relieve you of £25 at the next meeting on 18 June. If you are not going to be there, and I wonder why not, please would you write a cheque made payable to HWA, put it in an envelope addressed to: Denis C Hilditch, 6 Oregon Close, Southampton, SO19 2PS. Put a stamp on it and pop it in the post box. If the cheque has your own name on it you don't even need to write a covering note. You see, I do try to make it easy for you! If for some reason you are not going to renew your subscription, would you mind letting me know?

Attendance at meetings appears to have been dropping off recently. 57, 51, and 46 over the last three months. Could it be the 'unusual' dates due to the bank holiday Mondays? We do miss your company and you are missing some good entertainment.
My Very Best Regards to you all.

And please let me know about changes of address, 'phone number or Email address

Denis C Hilditch, Membership secretary.

ORIGINS OF SAYINGS

We all use expressions in everyday speech that seem to make little sense. Have you ever wondered about the origins of these sayings?

Ralph Stone sent me these explanations though I'm not entirely convinced about some of them. Maybe he's "**pulling my leg**"?

A cart carrying prisoners for execution had to pass a pub. The guard would stop the cart and offer the prisoner one last drink. If he declined he stayed "**on the waggon**". If he accepted he had "**one for the road**".

Urine was used to tan animal skins and families saved their urine to sell to the tanners. Those who relied on this as a means of survival were "**piss poor**". Those who were so poor they couldn't even afford a pot "**didn't have a pot to piss in**".

In the 1500s, personal hygiene was awful. Baths were infrequent and shared. The man of the house went in first, followed by adult sons, women and then children. By the time it was the baby's turn the water was so murky there was a risk of "**throwing the baby out with the bath water**".

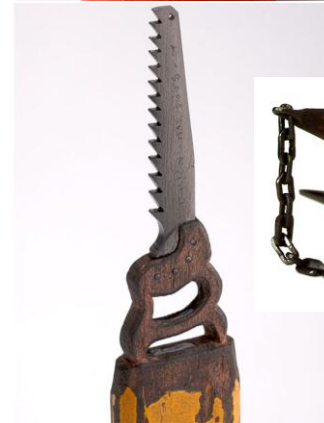
Houses had thatched roofs, earth floors and little heating. Family animals burrowed into the thatch to keep warm. They became dislodged by severe rainfall and fell to the ground. So the weather was "**raining cats and dogs**".

Those who couldn't afford to cover the earth floors were "**dirt poor**". The better off spread straw left after threshing (thresh) on the floor. As it became soiled, more was added. To retain it a step was fitted at the bottom of the door frame. This was known as the "**thresh hold**".

People consumed vast amounts of alcohol, partly because beer was safer to drink than water. People got so drunk they were often taken for dead. The body was laid out and the family would gather round eating and drinking whilst they waited to see if it would wake up. Hence "**holding a wake**". Nonetheless, mistakes were made. In an attempt to avoid them, a string was attached to the corpse's wrist and the other to a bell above ground. Someone watched the open grave for a night. If the bell rang the "corpse" was "**saved by the bell**". Otherwise it was obviously a "**dead ringer**". I'm not sure I believe that one. Isn't a dead ringer someone who could be taken for someone else? Or is that a "spitting image"?

I'd be interested in any alternative explanations for the above or of any others. If I don't get any I might fly off the handle.

THE MINIATURE WORLD OF DALTON GHETTI



When David Bird sent me these pictures, a bell faintly rang. Eventually I remembered having seen the original work at the V&A museum a few months before*. I almost missed the exhibit altogether it was that small. The museum had thoughtfully placed a magnifier in front of what looked like a row of pencils. On closer inspection, all the leads had been carved! I know it's not woodturning but such an impressive painstaking work of art that David and I thought you'd be interested.

The work is by Brazilian carpenter and architect Dalton Ghetty now living in Connecticut. He carves pencil leads by hand as a hobby and for meditation! Each one takes months to complete and it is not disclosed what Dalton says if the tool slips after 5 months work. What's the Portuguese for "Oh bother"? If you'd like to see more, visit www.daltonmghetti.com

**The exhibit is part of "the Power of Making" exhibition at the V&A which is on until 2 June.*

HINTS, TIPS & THINGS

Safety in the workshop Part 3.

Lung Protection

We can all buy an extractor fan, and replace it when worn out but we do not have the same luxury when it comes to our lungs.
Please remember to breathe clean air.

Face Protection.

Safety glasses and goggles are not sufficient when turning wood. You should use a face shield of some sort to protect your face.

Variable – speed

A good example of technology causing a potential hazard. With variable-speed dials, it's easy to wind up the speed and forget it was set high for spindle work. Think what might happen if a large bowl is attached to your lathe and you have forgot to lower the speed Setting. If you are quick, you can reach for the stop button or the power socket and avoid disaster, if not and you are in the firing line you become target practice it may severely damage your good looks.

Enough said.

General Safety

A number of accidents occur to woodturners while using saws, especially band and chain saws. Learn and follow the safety guidelines for these machines before operating.

Paul Daniels, did not or was it "Not a lot"?

This Tip was sent in by Denis Hilditch for members who do not have the facility to lock their lathe spindle shaft.

Have you ever needed to lock your lathe in any given position for hand sanding or carving with nothing built into your machine for the purpose?

There is a very simple and inexpensive solution to the problem.

Purchase a pair, though you only need one, of luggage straps from Halfords, Catalogue code: 249458-0 £7-99. (you could share with another club member)

Pass the strap around the chuck and the bed bar, or any other fixed point and apply enough tension to hold your work in the position you require.

Thanks Denis

Good practice

Any chucks you may use should be doctored for safety by filing or grinding all leading edges. In the event of your hand making contact you may then have only a bruise instead of a gash.

John
Berkeley

Dust Extraction

Don't forget to turn on the dust extractor and have a nozzle close to the work. I have recently bought an Axminster nozzle system with flexible links which is very good for getting the nozzle in the right place, but again quite expensive. Watch the dust to make sure it is being taken away.

Dave Gibbard
2011

Tool-Rest

I have been told on good authority not to waste your money on "S" type curved tool-rest. In two words: bad design. They don't work for their intended purpose, so instead, buy that piece of figured wood you have been eager to get.

Or can you tell me other wise; is it that my colleague is just using his "S" tool-rest in correctly?

Living Longer

From a recent publication I read, having a potting shed or workshop could "help you live longer" the reason given was that it gives "therapeutic effects by helping to relieve stress, which lowers blood pressure and even boosts self-esteem".

No mention was made about getting away from the wife / husband for a couple of hours.

Happy turning
Keith Barnes
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Silencing Your Dust Extractor

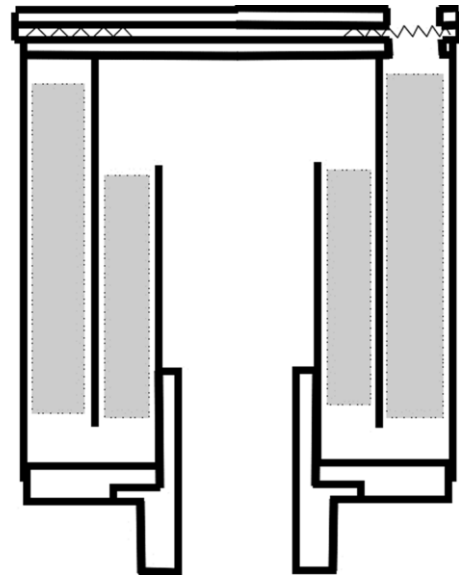
I found myself unwilling to make much use of my dust extractor because it was so noisy. The solution to site it outside the workshop was not possible so I needed another way to quieten it. Fortunately in a Woodturning article some time ago Tim Evans described how he constructed a silencer using paint tins. So I searched back in the pile of old magazines to find No.149 and decided to have ago.

In my version I used 2.5 litre and, 0.75 litre paint cans and a can that had contained baby clams (we had to eat them first!). The more ubiquitous baked bean tin was just too large a diameter. The diagram shows the basic construction. The first step is to turn the adapter which sits on top of the dust extractor and holds the small tin with top and bottom removed. This in turn sits in the lower lid on which stands the largest tin. The upper lid is in two parts as it sandwiches some expanded aluminium which stops the wadding from blowing out. The middle tin, which only has the lid removed, is attached on the underside of the upper lid. The whole is assembled with some wadding in the gaps between the tins, it does help if you have access to the scrap bag of a quilter!

Then comes the test, does it work? I am pleased to say it has brought the noise level right down to about a quiet vacuum cleaner, so now I use it much more!

John Holden

Those who came to the Greg Moreton demo will have seen John's extractor in operation. - Ed



Cross section diagram, above and picture of the finished silencer, below.



Signing Off

Apologies to novices and anyone else who enjoys the read for the absence of the Novice column in this issue. It's because Keith has been busy sunning himself somewhere. He'll be back next time with even greater enthusiasm.

Finally, if you lie awake at night worrying about the safety of the banks, you won't feel any better for this news sent to me by Brian Hannam. It seems the problems have spread to Japan though the authorities have been trying to keep it quiet. In the last 7 days, Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank announced plans to cut some of its branches. Yesterday Karaoke Bank was put up for sale and is likely to go for a song, while shares in Kamikaze Bank have nosedived. Samurai Bank is soldiering on following sharp cuts, Ninja Bank is reported to have taken a hit, but they remain in the black. Further, 500 staff at Karate Bank got the chop and analysts report that there is something fishy going on at Sushi Bank where it is feared that investors may get a raw deal. The few remaining staff at Ojime-Netsuke Bank say they are hanging on by a thread, and shares in Tempura Bank have taken a battering. Ah, so...

Dave Gibbard, Editor