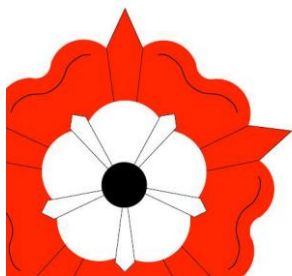


YOUR TURN

Hampshire Woodturners Association Newsletter. **Summer issue**, June 2015



Les Thorne Masterclass,
AGM reports



YOUR TURN

Summer 2015

Hampshire Woodturners Association Newsletter.
Summer Issue, June 2015.

CONTENTS

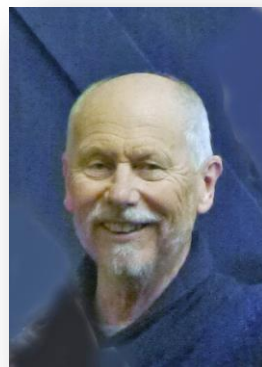
- **Editorial**
- **Reports of HWA Meetings**
 - 2 March** – John Aitken
 - 30 March** – AGM and Trevor Sapey of the Mary Rose Trust
 - 18 May** – Turn-in
- **Coming Events**
 - 1 June** – Jean Turner – “Enrichment vs Bedizen”
 - 6 July** – Mike Hasleden’s Mystery.
 - 3 August** – HWA Challenge plus
- **Reaction to NHS proposals**
- **Minstead Training Trust** – Alan Sturgess
- **My New Job** - Keith Barnes
- **Novices** Alan Baker
- **Membership** – Bill Willits
- **Les Thorne Masterclass** – Report on the 28 March event by Dave Gibbard

COMMITTEE

Lynda Barkaway, Chairman - 023 9226 6191
Lynda@woofgone.org.uk
Bob Hope, Secretary - 011 8981 3552
hopebob1@aol.com
Alan Sturgess, Treasurer - 023 8089 2622
aesturg@sky.com
Bill Willits, Membership - 01794 500929
wwillits1@gmail.com
Dave Gibbard, Editor - 023 8026 2660
d-m.gibbard@dsl.pipex.com
Keith Barnes, hints & tips - 01489 796433
kns.barnes@btinternet.com
Pierre Baumann, Outreach - 01794 515479
Pierre2548@talktalk.net
Derek Barkaway, Shop - 023 9226 6191
derek@woofgone.org.uk
Andi Saunders, A-V support - 01489 786750
andi4asg@aol.com
Standing down from the committee but still the webmaster - Phil Bristow, - 023 8065 3376
philip_bristow@hotmail.com

Editorial

HWA might appear a well-oiled machine (who’s that sniggering?) but there’s a lot changing beneath the calm façade.



Denis Hilditch has stood down as membership secretary clutching his deserved “member of the year” trophy. He has been shadowed for a while by Bill Willits who takes on the role. Welcome Bill.

On a busy Club night it’s easy to ignore visitors who might feel unwanted. So the hard-working Keith Barnes takes on another job of “New Members Co-ordinator” to look after them and afford introductions according to their skill level and interest. Keith’s column in this issue looks a bit different this time as he describes the changes and his new role.

The novice section under Harry Woolhead has been perhaps too successful. Members who have clearly improved beyond the novice stage have been hanging on (it is obviously fun in the corner) possibly intimidating new real novices. So the group will be split. Alan Baker is one such much improved turner and he will take on the real novices whilst Harry will tutor the improvers.

Phil Bristow has stood down from the committee for reasons of pressure of work which frequently keeps him busy into the evening. That’s a shame. Apart from anything else his presence reduced the average age of the committee significantly. The good news is that he will continue in his role of webmaster that he has been doing outstandingly and for which he is very well qualified.

Finally we welcome Andi Saunders to the committee. Andi has been helping Derek Barkaway run the shop but will now be learning about the audio visual system to provide back up for Steve Page. That means Derek needs a volunteer or two to help with the shop.

You can read more about all this and more in Chairman Lynda’s report from the AGM on page 5.

Dave Gibbard

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

2 March – John Aitken

It was surely a record attendance with numbers swollen by a party of scouts from Shedfield, invited following their interest in including woodturning in their woodcraft studies. Once a programme has been devised we will be looking for volunteers from our members to help them achieve this goal.



We'd all turned out to see John Aitken who had a new gimmick – he was not wearing his trade mark bowler hat! He was also not wearing goggles, though he did wear specs.

He explained that he had never had a problem with the sort of items he would be demonstrating. *Hmmm!* We didn't have the sound system operating either (sorry) but John is experienced enough to have managed very well without it.

The scouts were broken in gently with John's straightforward first job of making a honey dibber. John mounted a piece of maple between centres and used a roughing gouge and a spindle gouge to shape the dibber, then a thin parting tool to make the grooves for retaining the honey. One of the visitors thought it was like magic to see the shape emerge from the wood on the lathe. Perhaps we get a bit blasé about these things.



John's Honey Dibber

The next demo was also simple – a spinning top - which involved use of the chuck to hold the top to allow the end to be finished to a point. John stressed the importance of using the gouge the right way up otherwise it would put wood back on. We wiser turners smiled at this little joke knowing that you have to use an entirely different tool to put the shavings back on. Now that *is* magic.



John said that a real test of turning speed is to set the top spinning and turn another before it stops. Having tested his top, though, he didn't attempt it.

The next item was rather more complicated. It was a tapered square section box. John pre-drills the box with a Forstner bit to save time hollowing the inside of the box. In fact to help the drilling he first drills a pilot hole the same diameter as the width of the centre spike of the Forstner bit.

The outside of the box is marked up and the taper cut using a saw and sander though he didn't include this in the demo. The box was mounted on a long cylindrical jam chuck made to fit the Forstner hole. A good tip is to relieve the middle of the cylinder to reduce the tendency to become stuck. If the jam chuck is a bit loose a piece of tissue can be wrapped round it.



John's futuristic looking box

The bottom of the box was shaped with a curved under-cut with it still on the jam chuck. It was supported by a hollow tailstock to avoid the point making a hole.

Continued...

John Aitken continued...

The top part of the box was turned to a long spigot onto which rings and sleeves were added using a contrasting wood and of course the lid. John uses a beading tool for the rings which saves a lot of time. In fact he had made his own before such things were commonly available.

John hones his skew chisels to put a really keen edge on them. He has fitted a cotton polishing wheel and a sisal wheel to a grinder and uses a linishing paste. Of course a grinder goes the wrong way for honing. John confessed to spending a lot of time trying to work out how to alter the wiring to reverse it before realising that it could be taken apart re-assembled with the housing on the other side. Chris Davey offered some alternative experience regarding sharpening a skew for turning bobbins. He has found that the less perfect edge from a grinder is better at picking up the cut on some woods since it has a burr edge.

There was an excellent display on the gallery table and John kindly made a quick pass through with a critique. Thanks to all members who put their work on the table. All the pictures are on the website.

Dave Gibbard

30 March – AGM and Trevor Sapey of the Mary Rose Trust

The minutes of last year's AGM had been published in Your Turn and the members accepted them as a true record. So Lynda proceeded to deliver the Chairman's report.

Chairman's Report for 2014 – 2015 :-

"I am very privileged to be giving this chairman's report, to have lasted the year and been helped by the committee to have got this far. I am very scatty but they work very hard to try and get me as organised as possible and not to forget too much in the notices each month. Some months are better than others. Will the committee please stand so they can all be thanked? *Committee stood to applause* We are working very hard as a committee to make the club as relevant and as friendly as possible so that every month is really worth coming to. The novice section has rapidly become a victim of its own success thanks to Harry and Alan.

We hope that Alan will be the new committee member to keep us properly informed about the progress of this part of the club. There are now 2 sections to try and make sure that everyone who wants help and encouragement is able to have some at the right level.

Each year we present the novice turner of the year award and this year I have great pleasure in awarding it to Martin Rooney.

If we do not get things quite right please be patient and let us know so that we can improve things. We do value your encouragement and for those who have written your thanks or expressed it verbally we say a huge thank you.

Keith Barnes, already a committee member is now going to be responsible for new members and helping them to find their way around the club and get the best out of it.

Our web site, set up and run by Phil Bristow, still has an enormous number of hits from all around the world. It is a bit scary to think of how many people check up on what we are doing and hopefully inspired by what they read and see. Thank you to Phil for keeping it so up to date and easy to use, even for me.

Due to pressure of work for an American company Phil has decided to stand down from the committee but is willing to continue managing our website.

We have had a wide variety of demonstrations during this last year and encouraged to turn all kinds of different items many of which are shown on the gallery table. For all those who regularly bring items to display, thank you and for the novices who are now beginning to have the confidence to turn something at home and then put it on the table for everyone else to admire or criticise we are very grateful. We can all remember when we first had the courage to display something and then waited with dread to find out what would be said in the critique. We have all learnt a lot from the experience and hopefully improved.

For those of you who did not come to Winchester on Saturday to experience a day of help and inspiration from Les Thorne you missed a real treat.

Thank you to the wonderful tea boys who succeed in being ready to serve drinks in a short and undefined time.

Thank you too for the raffle and for the loan table of books, magazines and DVDs. If you haven't borrowed anything yet please go and check what is available. Lots of home tuition on the DVDs and no one minds how often they repeat the same task so that you have time to watch it in the house and remember what to do while you hurry to your workshop and hope it comes out vaguely the same.

AGM, Chairman's Report, continued...

Thank you too for the shop for the endless supply of sandpaper and super glue and special orders. You will not find sandpaper cheaper anywhere else. Ordering your new lathe through the club will save you 10% of the catalogue price so that you can then afford your chuck with 15% discount. Home delivery is not a problem and usually within 2 or 3 days. Andi has helped Derek to serve at the shop for over a year and is now going to learn how to work the sound and the cameras so that there will always be a reserve who knows what to do. We hope that Andi will be voted as another new committee member. There is now a vacancy to help at the shop. We are hoping there will be 2 of you at least who volunteer so that the help only involves 2 out of 3 meetings, please speak to Derek during the tea break and form an orderly queue to have your offer of help processed. Your Turn is our brilliant club magazine. All of us are allowed to contribute and Dave Gibbard would love more of us to include something of interest. Please send him your article and photos if possible via email and it will almost certainly be included next time. A report on any exhibition you go to or Yandles show will be very welcome.

Before I became chairman last year I had not realised how many trees fall down in Hampshire and just how many people hope they are of huge value. I am learning to decline their offers. If there is anyone here though who would appreciate being informed of a free or very cheap supply of collect your own green wood please let me have your email address and I will happily forward you the email directly. You will need to be ready to turn it green or be able to treat it and store it properly until it is fit to use. This is often easier said than done and suddenly you find lots of shakes in your potential bargain wood.

For the sound and projector systems that have been developed by Steve Page and Peter Willcocks and brought and set up each month and then stored at home we are so grateful. The club would not be able to serve so many without this facility, the best by far of any club that I have been to.

For our outreach programme at Minstead for adults with learning difficulties the club is making a very much appreciated contribution. They are so thrilled to be able to make something that can then be sold in the shop. If you think you might like to help but not sure what is required please see Alan Sturgess.

Tuition is now given on a Monday morning as well as Thursday. There is a rota that can easily be stretched to include more helpers. A CRB check is required before you can begin. It is brilliant to be able to serve people less able than ourselves and to make a real difference in their community.

Our grateful thanks go to our incredibly efficient secretary Bob Hope. The minutes are written and emailed almost before we have the meeting and the demonstration turners are all booked in plenty of time. I would be completely sunk without your patient help.

Alan keeps a very careful eye on the money and makes it go a long way. We have not had to put up our annual sub up for many years but you are now getting a years' warning because the fee has gone up for our visiting turners. Thank you Alan for all the work you do and the accounts always balance.

During the summer months the club is often asked to demonstrate at a woodland festival or some other outdoor event. Pierre liaises with the organisers and makes sure the lathe and extension lead and all the other stuff is at the right place on the right day. We will let you know of these events on our new white board so that you can come and join in if you are interested. If there is anyone else who would like to help at the event in any way please let Pierre know. There is one other new committee member and that is Bill Willits. You have passed him at the door as you signed in. Bill has been helping Denis now for several months and as from to-night is taking his place. After many years of service in many ways Denis is finally retiring from an official position but will still be keeping an eye on us and making sure the constitution is correct and in order. Denis we are so grateful to you for so many willing hours of work we would like to present you with the member of the year award in recognition of your contribution.

To the long suffering and very hard working committee I say a very big thank you. Monday Club night is now busier than ever and without their input the evening would never work. I reckon we work well as a team and are always grateful to you for any help that you give us on the night.



Thank you for your support and please do keep coming."

Lynda Barkaway

Phil Bristow expanded on Lynda's comment about the website saying there have been 30,000 hits in the last year from all over the world. The projects are the most popular items, so let's have more of them.

AGM continued – Treasurer's Report

Our Income for the year 2014/15 was £4,092.61 and the expenditure £4,728.84 giving a loss of £636.23. This is comparable with previous years except in two areas.

2014 was our 25th anniversary year and that was only realised after the budget for 2014/15 was agreed in October 2013. The costs of the 25th year celebrations were close to £650 but I hope you agree it was well worth doing. The other expense above budget was Shop Stock. But the shop is now fully stocked with an increased range, and although it causes a shortage of available cash it's still an HWA asset.

The closing cash balance was £3,505.43. Whilst this is a comfortable balance for the year ahead and subs are not being increased this year, we will need to look at raising to possibly £30 next year to meet increasing costs.

I would like to thank all those members in the sub groups that collect monies on behalf of the HWA for looking after their own income and expense areas, as always it's making my job that much easier.

The total valuation of monies to hand and stock at 30th March was £5,526.96

Roy Nailor asked about the £240 spent on equipment maintenance. This was mostly on improvements to the sound system and larger wheels for the Vicmarc lathe trolley, necessitated by the uneven route from the lock up. He also asked about the loss of shop stock. This was about £30 and theft is suspected. The shop display security has been improved plus extra vigilance. It has however left a bad feeling about trust in members' honesty.

Ian Woodford asked about the price of tea and coffee which has remained the same for a very long time. The feeling is that this is a service to members and not a profit making exercise. There is no policing of your payments but income more than covers the ongoing costs.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Ron Caddy, seconded by Phil Hill and carried unanimously by a show of hands.

Lynda then stood down and handed over to Chris Davey for election of the committee which was taken en bloc and was unanimous. So Lynda took the chair again for the awards to members. I refer you to her report printed in full above.

The AGM was closed at 8 o'clock.



Trevor Sapey of the Marie Rose Trust then gave a fascinating talk.

Maybe like me you thought the Marie Rose sank on her maiden voyage. Not so, she had been in service for over 30 years. Henry VIII came to the throne with no navy and a serious threat of invasion from France. He rapidly started building ships. The Marie Rose and her sister ship were the first, built in 1509 at Portsmouth dockyard. In 1545 the French did indeed invade, taking the Isle of Wight from where they attacked the British fleet at the Battle of the Solent. The battle was won and invasion of the mainland was prevented. But the Marie Rose, heavily laden, top heavy and with gun ports open sank before firing a shot whilst manoeuvring with the loss of all but 30 men.



Trevor Sapey of the Marie Rose Trust in period dress with model of the ship.

Initial attempts at recovery were soon abandoned and the wreck settled into the mud. In the 1830s some fishermen snagged nets on some debris and managed to recover some guns. No further attempt was made until in 1965 Alexander McKee found it after 6 years search. So dedicated was he that he sold his house to pay the costs. In 1979 he was joined by Margaret Rule to form the Marie Rose Trust and in 1982 what was left of the wreck was raised. The complicated operation involved divers excavating the surrounding mud, installing a steel frame and cables and lifting it with a huge crane.

The remains were taken to Portsmouth dockyard where they were sprayed with PEG solution for years to displace water and allow the timber to be dried.

Spraying has now ceased and restoration work has taken place to give visitors a better impression of the structure.

The ship is on display together with a huge number of artefacts (some replicas pictured right) found inside it at the Portsmouth Historic Dockyard which is well worth a visit.



AGM Meeting report concludes...

Lynda thanked Trevor and invited Denis Hilditch, our newly awarded club member of the year, to critique the gallery. As usual pictures of all the gallery items can be seen on the website. Thanks to all who took the trouble to bring their work to the table.

Dave Gibbard.

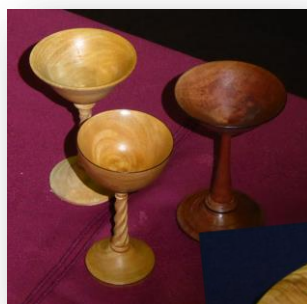
18 May – Turn-in

There was a very good attendance for the May Turn-In and the three turners were kept busy the whole evening, they were barely allowed time for a drink at half time.

Alan Sturgess (picture right) was explaining bowl turning giving much practical advice and completed four bowls in the time.

Bob Hope was also bowl turning but using wet wood and turned two bowls which then need to dry out before final finishing.

Harry Woolhead was turning goblets (he did three) and people were very interested in how he did the spirals on the stems.



Harry's goblets, left and one of Bob's bowls, below.



As ever the secretary is always looking for members who are willing to have a go and share their skills with others so why not volunteer?

This was an evening of some basic woodturning which was much appreciated by our growing number of new turners but not without interest to those of us who have been around for much longer. The evening concluded with Mike Haselden sharing his thoughts on the gallery and the usual raffle.

John Holden

COMING EVENTS

1 June – Jean Turner – “Enrichment vs Bedizen”

OK, I had to look it up too. Bedizen - dress up or decorate gaudily.

6 July – Mike Hasleden’s Mystery

If I told you it wouldn't be a mystery, would it?

3 August – HWA Challenge. Topic to be announced, plus supporting programme.

STOP PRESS - NHS Proposals, they might affect some of us ageing woodturners

The GMC has responded to David Cameron's proposals for the National Health Service.

The Allergists voted to scratch it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had a sort of a gut feeling about it, but the

Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve. The Obstetricians felt they were all labouring under a misconception.

Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted. Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Pediatricians said, "Oh, Grow up."

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the

Radiologists could see right through it.

The Surgeons were fed up with the cuts and decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.

The Ear Nose and Throat specialists didn't swallow it, and just wouldn't hear of it.

The Pharmacists thought it was a bitter pill to swallow, and The Plastic Surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter...."

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were pissed off at the whole idea.

The Anaesthetists thought the whole idea was a gas, but the Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the arseholes in Whitehall.

Brian Hannam



New challenges ahead

I'm constantly amazed by the energy and enthusiasm shown by the students at Minstead. I had wondered if, as we entered our third year, they would start to lose their interest in woodturning. But instead we are now up to 16 regular students and all continue to be excited by woodturning. Yes, we have started the extra sessions on a Monday, which have extended the number of students. The items they make seem to sell almost as they come off the lathe. In fact we are now getting commissions, which adds a different pressure.

I have a contact that works as a volunteer at a falconry and he asked if I could make stands to show the birds on. I thought that we might make these at Minstead and in return get the students a free day out at the falconry. This has been agreed in principle and we are now in design mode.



*Student
Dave Smith
with
prototype
bird stand.*

The Trust's Open Day is on 20th June. Last year our skittles competition was successful, so what next? Dave Gibbard had the Idea of Quoits. So we set about making some sets, one for the competition and a few to sell on the day. The only drawback is making the rope quoits.

John Holden made some but we need some more. So if there are any ship's riggers amongst you that could help out please shout, and quickly as the event is fast approaching.



*One of the
spliced rope
quoit rings
made by
John Holden.*

The first outing for the quoits will be at Totton Fun Day on 13th June where Minstead Trust has a fund raising and awareness stand. The event is from 1 to 5 pm at the Testwood recreation ground in Salisbury Road. Full details on the website www.tottonfamilyfunday.co.uk

Another challenge has arrived on the table this week. The father of one of the students is a Fly Fishing instructor and wants some wooden priests made.

At Christmas we made a Gavel & Block which was purchased by a member of staff and given as a present to a friend. That friend has now asked us for a price make a number, *yet to be agreed*.

So I'm now very mindful of trying to maintain the enjoyment and variety for the students whilst making items that give a financial return to the Trust and support the cost of the woodturning consumables, but without the pressures of a production exercise.

We constantly seem to be re developing the programme. If you fancy coming along to see what we get up to just ask and I'll arrange a day and time for a tour. We are looking for help on the 20th June to run the Quoits completion at the open day as a number of the HWA (resident) turners are on holiday. So if you fancy an a bit of fun in the sun give me a call.

Alan Sturgess

My New Job

Hi, all.

Our club committee is keen for us to improve the way in which we welcome prospective new members to our monthly meetings; as you will appreciate new members are the long term future of our club.



It has been difficult in the past for the Membership secretary to look after both the members and visitors on a club evening due to the tight time scale we work to on a club night.

The club in the past has lost many visitors who have not returned for a second meeting, we can only put this down to the fact they felt they were not welcome. To this end I have been asked to become the clubs first "New Members Coordinator" this will involve greeting visitors, discussing with them the aims of the club and the ways they will benefit from being a club member and skills they can gain.

Once they have been greeted, visitors with minimum or no turning skills will be introduced to Alan Baker in the "Novices" section, Alan is looking after novices with less than 2 years turning skills. Harry Woollhead will continue working with novices with over 2 years' experience.

Visitors who are experienced in woodturning will be introduced to other club members to make them feel welcome.

Once the visitor becomes a paid up member I will offer them a short visit to a member's workshop to help them gain a practical insight to basic woodturning.

If you would like to help out by giving a new member an insight to woodturning at your home, taking up about an hour of your time please let me know then I can include your name on my list of members willing to help out.

I'm sure with your help this improved way of meeting, greeting and welcoming people to our club will be very successful.

I look forward to hearing from you.

A few weeks ago my wife and I visited a village close to where we live as she had been told there was a newly open craft shop in the square.

The shop had an array of goods for sale and I noticed a few turned wooden items, so in the true Harry Woollhead tradition, I picked up one of the items and turned it over.

At this point a gentleman approached me and said, "are you a wood turner as they always look at the base of turned items?" I went on to say I was looking at the way the wood was held. He said he had made the items and he uses a chuck from Axminster Tools. I then asked if he belonged to a woodturning club; it was clear he didn't as the chucking point was not cleaned up or disguised in any way.

The gentleman went on to say he was self-taught and that a club would not be of interest to him.

I wanted to ask him if he knew about reverse jam chucking and the use of using finishing grit through the grades when sanding, but at this point I felt a sharp pain to my ankle that was given to me by my wife's right shoe.

So I took the hint thanked him for his time, we then left the shop.

The moral of this story is no matter how good you think you are, belonging to a club will give you a better insight and understanding of your hobby along with the social side of meeting likeminded people as all our members will appreciate.

One final question.....

Have you any suggestion (Clean ones please) on the way the club can attract new members?

At present we use our web site, Radio Solent and are due to put an advert in local shop windows.

If you can suggest other ways please let me know.

*Happy turning
Keith Barnes*

NOVICE CORNER

The subject of shape and form came up in The Corner and the answer given was a simple rule of thumb. The smaller dimension should be a 1/3 of the larger. This applies to height and diameter.



It is of course not the only principle to follow but is a good starting point when considering the shape you want to produce. I found that initially I could not easily keep to a fixed dimension, as I had to have several attempts to cut a final shape. This reduced the size of the wood. In turn this meant that if I had a lid or another section to turn it had to be adjusted according to the final dimension of the first item.

When you start you need a little help to find the easy shapes to copy and then after a little while you want to try making other shapes. Gaudi the famous Spanish designer used stone and wood to produce wonderful shapes. He designed and built a building which does not have a straight line in it. It included all windows, doors and beautiful wooden furniture. This was a mighty feat. He has designed many amazing buildings all works of art that are well worth seeing. He maintained that he gained all his inspiration from studying nature. We may be too old to start this, but I discovered that Bert Marsh has written a book "Woodturner" and in it are some interesting chapters on the subject of shapes. The book is part of our library and well worth reading.

If like me you have been used to using drawings then I can recommend "Woodturning Projects A Workshop guide to Shapes" by Mark Baker. No he is not a relative but a quality craftsman. In the book Mark gives detailed descriptions and dimensions of Boxes, Bowls, Platters, Hollow Forms and Natural Edged Work which I am sure inspire you to want to try and make.

If all else fails then you can go onto our website and take a look at the back numbers of our great magazine "Your Turn" and you will find the photographs of the items presented to the table of interest.

A question was asked about what type of wax should be used and the answer was Carnauba one of the hardest waxes known.

With a buffing mop held in the chuck jaws and the speed set 1750 rpm hold the wax to charge the wheel. Then offer the wood to the wheel for no longer than a second. This will produce a beautiful protective sheen.

Your work should be sanded to at least 600grit paper to achieve a fine finish.

The Beal Tool Company produces a three stage buffing kit with 3 wheels and a Tripoli (red wax). Then a White diamond wax and the final polish of Carnauba. They recommend you to seal your wood after sanding. They use a coat of Tung oil not a Linseed oil. Then when the oil is dry buff with the three waxes.

Make sure you hold the work firmly when applying to the wheels and below the centre line of the wheel to rotating anticlockwise to allow the waste to spin away from you, but not the work.

The other alternative is to use a Celluloses sealer and buff with a Microcrystalline wax made by Chestnut Products and sold in the shop. This means you only have to purchase one mop and one wax.

The Beal system produces a different result because it uses 3 different waxes in its build up. The Chestnut product claims to give a finish that is water resistant. Further information is available on the internet from Beal and Chestnut on the safe methods and other products. I have used both methods and the better one will only be found out with the passage of time.

I have spoken to a furniture manufacturer who puts 20 coats of Danish oil onto his tables, allows each coat to dry. This builds up to a very hard protective finish. So the choice is yours. I have used 3 coats and never considered 20 as it takes a long time to finish the work with drying in between. But prefer the Buffing for a shinier finish.

Alan Baker

MEMBERSHIP

I have taken over as membership Secretary from Denis. That's me over there on the right.
The first challenge is to persuade everyone to renew their subscription. If you haven't done so you can catch me at the next meeting or send a cheque for £25 payable to Hampshire Woodturners Association to me at Marstan, School Road, Romsey SO51 7NY.
If you don't intend to renew, would you mind telling me?

When we've done all that I'll be able to say what our membership is now.

Numbers signing on at recent meetings were:
18th May 54, 30th March 50, 2nd March 68.

We have 2 new members, please welcome Roger Wood from Ropley and Roger Thornton from Chandlers Ford.



Bill Willits, Membership Secretary.

A View of HWA from a New Member

Thank you for the recent copy of "Your Turn".

I have only been a member of HWA for about a year and have possessed a lathe for about two years. I am a self-taught turner and as such have picked up many a bad habit but managed to produce numerous items that I am proud of, and inevitably some that have not made the grade and have been consigned to my neighbour's wood burning fire, and one beech vase that managed to spin off the lathe bounce up and destroy the clock on the workshop wall and then proceed to smash the window... Oops. No damage to me though, but it was all my fault. Another lesson learnt.

Since joining HWA I have been very impressed by the level of knowledge that your members have, and I especially cherish the help and advice that is openly given, and the free and easy attitude of all the committee members who are committed to helping me and others to improve our skills on the lathe.

I particularly enjoy the Novice Corner with Harry who really does a fantastic job of commenting on our "works of art" and giving genuine praise and helpful advice where needed on ways to improve, or alternative methods of achieving a possibly better result.

Over the years (57 of them) I have been a member of many clubs including Running, Model aircraft flying, sports clubs, Plastic modelling, sailing and others but I must say in all honesty that the HWA is by far the best organised, best run and most enjoyable that I have ever had the pleasure of being a member of. I find that every week is different, the guest speakers and demonstrations are interesting and relevant to our hobby and I find that their ad-lib hints and tips are worth remembering (although I do forget some of them and revert back to my self-taught naughty ways).

I know I'm bad, but I am learning, and improving. I must be coz Santa gave me a new chuck and jaws. Talking of Christmas.... The Christmas party, the freebe HWA mugs, and all the organising, baking and preparation was most appreciated. I must admit to not having much cake; I had LOADS of cake.

Another nice touch is the photographing of the exhibit items as this reminds us of what can be achieved with the application of a bit of knowledge and skill on the lathe, and the fact that the demonstrations are highly visible to all in the hall due to the video screening is yet another unusual and welcome addition to the appeal of the HWA.

The raffle and the shop are other fun and useful assets to the club that give that extra 'interest' value to the evenings proceedings.

I must mention the brilliantly helpful and informative Hands-on session at Old Alresford last year, a truly useful and enjoyable day for us novices, where even the teachers seemed to enjoy themselves as well.

Thank you to everyone on the committee, and others who help out on the monthly sessions. I really appreciate your dedication and acknowledge the huge amount of work that you all put in.

I know that you don't always get to be praised for your efforts and that sometimes you may feel 'apathy rules' on the part of some members, but your efforts are appreciated more than you are aware.

Looking forward to the next meeting. Stay safe one and all.

CHEERS from a Grateful HWA member.

Dave Simpson.

Les Thorne Masterclass

28 March, Badger Farm Community Centre, Winchester.

Les said that demonstrating to our Club is the only time he's nervous. I think I can understand that as some of us have known the Thornes since before Les took up turning. I used to work in Kings Worthy and often went to WJT in Alresford in my lunch break for a bit of good natured verbal abuse from Bill (Les's dad). I could guarantee meeting up with others who had gone along for a gossip and I was invariably late back. Bill complained that we never bought anything but he was the first to indulge in the gossiping. I won't repeat what Bill said about Les's abilities; but I will say, Bill, if you are reading this, that "the lad's done good". Anyway if Saturday's demo was Les at his most nervous, I wonder what he is like when relaxed and uninhibited.

Les is a production turner and he makes large quantities of mostly spindle work having first carefully worked out the quickest way to do the job. But when he gets the chance his creative side takes over with imaginative use of texturing and colouring. His presentation was crammed full of tips and explanations of what was going on, with asides about choice and use of tool and how to sharpen it.

Les started with a bowl with beads on the outside and rim.

He likes ash for such work because the grain is pronounced and takes coloured pastes like liming or gold wax well. Also the dust is less irritating than most wood though in his workshop Les uses effective dust extraction and a respirator. The blank was mounted on a screw chuck and the outside turned using pull cuts with a long grind bowl gouge.

There was a lot of discussion about tool shape and sharpening. The long grind is suitable for pull cuts and removing wood quickly but a push cut is usually better fine finishing cuts. The long grind is versatile and can cut quickly, the length of cutting edge on the wings allowing a big cut to be made without needing to change to a larger gouge. However, a long grind is unsuitable for a small gouge as it clogs up. And a bowl gouge with a steep straight grind is still needed to shape the bottom inside a deep bowl.

The often derided scraping technique can produce a fine finish but should not be used for shaping. The wings of a long ground gouge can be used for scraping without having to pick up another tool. Speed is important to a professional and sanding can be quicker than attempting to get a perfect finish from a gouge. However, though ridges can be easily sanded out, grooves cannot since all the surrounding wood has to be removed down to the level of the bottom of the groove. In this case you should revert to a gouge or other suitable tool to improve the surface.

Les offered to set up a 1 day pop in session for members to advise them on tool sharpening and handling. *We'll sound you out for interest in this idea.*



Les's first demo was this beaded bowl



Pull cuts and push cuts with the versatile long grind gouge



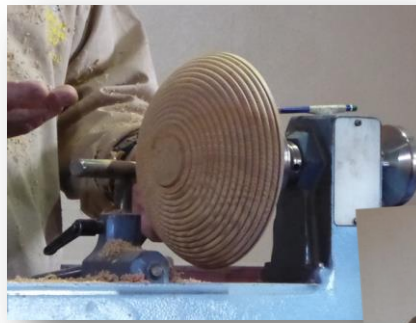
Back to the bowl. The beads were cut with a beading tool. The correct way to use this tool is to stop before the top of the bead touches the tool. However, Les ignored this since the beaded surface would be textured so the finish from the tool was not important. The inside was left unfinished at this stage whilst the beads were treated. Firstly a quick burn to remove the hairy bits (done outside for fear of another visit from the fire brigade) before a rotating sanding brush was used to create texture by removing the softer grain. The beads were then sprayed with ebonising lacquer. The spraying distance is critical. Too far away and the droplets have dried before hitting the surface; too close and the paint is wet and runny. Liming wax was then brushed on into the grain and the excess removed with a tightly balled cloth. This is one of the few occasions when a cloth is used albeit carefully as so much pressure is needed that paper would disintegrate. Les would normally then break the rules by spraying with a clear lacquer though it shouldn't work over wax. The reason for using it is to seal the surface which would otherwise trap dust over time which would be impossible to remove.

The inside of the bowl was then finished, carefully and unconventionally pulling the cut up to the rim to avoid getting wax and lacquer onto the inside surface of the bowl. Les used lemon oil to finish the inside. This is the only oil he uses, producing a truly matt surface.

Finally the bowl was reversed to finish the foot. Les would normally use a vacuum chuck but to show that it can easily be done without, he reversed the bowl onto a rubber pad in the chuck, held in place with pressure from the tailstock. This allows access to all but the centre of the foot which is finished by hand.

The next demo was a box, “inspired by bronze age helmets”.

As usual the box was started between centres with grain parallel to the axis. The blank had been cut roughly octagonal rather than square to reduce turning time and shavings. A roughing gouge is the best tool for this and all parts of the edge can be used which evens wear and reduces the need for frequent sharpening. Spigots were turned on the ends and the box parted into 2.



Beads cut on the bowl, left and ebonising after burning, below



Liming the beads then finishing the inside cuts before power sanding



Finishing the base



Starting the “helmet box”

With one part mounted in the chuck the centre was hollowed with the Les Thorne spindle gouge and finished with a scraper ground with a negative rake. This is when the top surface of the scraper is tapered down towards the cutting edge. A scraper is normally held tilted downwards but when constrained inside a box this is not possible. The rake at the end allows the tip to be trailed whilst the scraper is level. A spigot was turned at the end for the centre collar. The hollowed part (let's call it the bottom) was reversed onto the chuck to shape the outside. This was to be fixed into the collar so the chucking marks on the spigot would not be seen. The top on the other hand would be removable so it would be reversed onto a jam chuck to avoid marking the spigot. The finishing method for top and bottom was similar to the bowl beads except that a gold cream was used to fill the grain, the excess removed with a mild solvent (white spirit or oil) followed by an application of paste wax.

The centre collar was started between centres. A useful tip if turning such a short item between centres is to drill a pilot hole first to locate the drive and tail centres as it is very sensitive to misalignment. A shallow spigot allowed the collar to be mounted in the chuck and turned inside (to suit the spigots) and outside. Having turned the inside at one end the collar was reversed onto expanding jaws for the other end to be turned. The inside surface held in the chuck jaws is the one to be glued onto the bottom part so, again, chucking marks do not matter. Les used a burr tool in a Dremel to texture the collar which he then sprayed black and over sprayed with brass whilst the black was still wet. This produced an interesting distressed metallic look.

To finish, Les quickly turned a candlestick/lamp from 2 pieces of pine to demonstrate something more like his production turning work; what he called "proper turning". Leaving himself open to a charge of sexism, Les gave the 3 pieces he had made to the 3 ladies present.

I don't know about Les but the audience was exhausted by the end of a remarkable day.

Dave Gibbard



Hollowing the box before turning the outside and brushing to enhance the grain, below



Texturing the centre collar

