

YOUR

TURN

Christmas Issue

Hampshire Woodturners Association Newsletter.
Winter issue, December 2012

The Colourful Mr Thorne



The underside of Les's bowl turned at HWA



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COMMITTEE

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

EDITORIAL:

Another year has almost passed. It's frustrating that just when life is slowing down, the passage of time seems ever quicker. Of course there's a logical explanation. A year is 50% of the lifetime experience of a 2 year old for example but a mere 1.5% for an oldie like me.

Anyway, traditionally the year end is a time for reflection and looking forward.

Although membership is lower than the heady days of 150, it has stabilised at 80 to 90 with a steady trickle of new members. Even with the reduced membership, Alan has managed to keep subs to probably the lowest in the country for such a club and within this budget Bob did a great job with 5 visiting turners (Jennie Starbuck, Simon Hope, Greg Moreton, Mark Hancock and Dennis Keeling) to entertain us in 2012 plus Les of course. The 2013 programme published in this issue looks equally attractive.

Participation used to be the mantra of ex-chairman Dave Foote and there is a lot happening that would have pleased him. Turn-ins were back in January and April with 6 members demonstrating (Bob Hope, Alan Sturgess, John Holden, Mike Haselden, Chris Davey and me). These were well received and there was even some audience participation. However, we could use some more volunteers for such events.

A major community effort launched this Autumn is our support for the Minstead Training Project. The Project helps young adults with learning difficulties to acquire skills to help them take up life in the wider community. Our volunteers will be helping the woodworking section to set up some woodturning tuition. The Project has been nominated as our charity of the year for 2013.

Hands-on days were held twice during 2012 largely thanks to the efforts of Harry & Bob. Through such efforts it is good to see new members acquiring ability and the confidence to put their work in the members' gallery.

And on that positive note I'd like to wish you all a happy Christmas and new year.

Dave Gibbard, Editor

REPORTS OF HWA MEETINGS & EVENTS

3rd September - Dennis Keeling



One of Dennis's famous cut-away segmented pieces

Dennis has been turning since he was 10 but it took a back seat whilst he earned his living in engineering. He took it up again in 1977 as a hobby and developed an interest in making bowls from wood segments.

This became his passion after a course in New Mexico with Bud Latven opened his eyes to the creative possibilities and the techniques which make them possible.

Whilst segmented turning has a much bigger following in USA than in UK, the origins were arguably in England in the 19th century, e.g. in the form of Tunbridge ware. Similar developments occurred about the same time in Italy and Scotland. Dennis has become a well-known and respected turner of segmented work and is a director of the Segmented Turners Association. He sells his work internationally, does demonstrations and tuition. Tonight we were treated to a masterclass in the art of segmented turning.

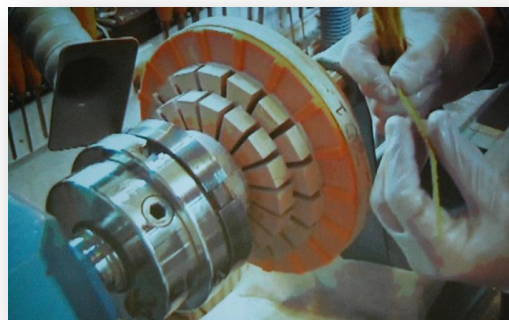
I wondered how he was going to squeeze the hours that go into the preparation into a 2 hour demo. He achieved this by clever use of clips from his video showing the preparation and assembly leaving time to demonstrate the final turning process on the night. Anyone seriously interested in having a go themselves should get the video or his book as I'm not even going to try to give a verbatim account. The actual turning usually represents no more than 20% of the effort, the rest being in the design, making the segments and building up the assembly. The secret is to draw up the design and do the maths to determine the size and angles of the segments. Dennis uses a computer programme to help with this but the maths isn't particularly difficult (he says!) The segments must be made accurately to avoid gaps and the risk of coming apart. This is a laborious process though investment in modern precision machines for planing, thicknessing (preferably separate) and mitring minimises the need for hand finishing.

Dennis uses Titebond glue to join segments in each ring, painting on each end grain face. This forms a strong joint very quickly by just pressing together. Clamping is best avoided as the stresses created can lead to failure in the final piece, often much later. The rings so formed have their lower faces flattened by sanding for assembly one at a time on the lathe. The starting point is a solid base which Dennis glues to a scrap piece of mdf held in a chuck via a paper sheet. This enables the assembly to be broken free at a later stage. Each ring is added and glued in place with pva. This is preferred to Titebond for this operation as the joint is not end grain plus pva is invisible. Each ring is pressed in place on the lathe using a disc on the tailstock and left to dry. The face of the top ring is then turned flat ready for the next one.

Once thoroughly dry the assembly is ready for turning. The inside is turned first. The reason is that once the inside is finished the bowl can be supported from both ends to turn the outside to a thin wall thickness. A gouge is not suitable for turning the inside because of the reach and the glue which blunts it. Dennis starts using a hollowing tool and finishes with a tungsten tip tool (available from Simon Hope).

The assembly is then removed, the scrap base broken off and reversed onto a stepped cone and supported by the tailstock. A gouge can be used for the outside. Once the general shape is established, Dennis presents the wing of the gouge to the surface so as to sheer scrape.

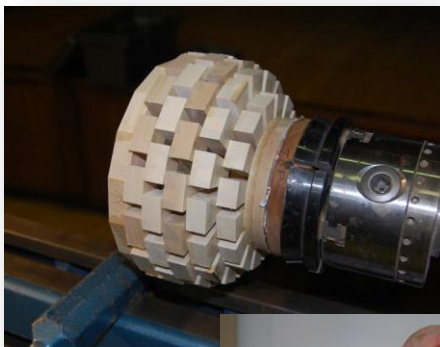
The method used for the attractive open segmented designs is very similar but a jig is necessary to assemble each ring as the segments don't touch each other. Dennis uses a commercial jig called Segeasy (?). Each ring of segments is glued and pressed to the lower one whilst still in the jig. The jig is removed when the glue is dry and the ring faced up ready for the next ring.



*Rings being assembled.
Note the jig*

Dennis Keeling, continued...

Turning is the same except more care is needed particularly at the bottom because the contact surface area is much smaller. Dennis uses a tear drop shaped sheer scraper to finish the inside. One advantage of the open design is that when turning the outside, the thickness can be seen without taking it off the lathe.



Assembled segment rings ready for turning

Finishing the outside having turned the inside and reversed onto an mdf cone drive.



Some members had apparently anticipated Dennis doing the gallery critique and the table held a number of impressive segmented items. All the gallery items can be seen on the website.

Dave Gibbard

1st October Club Challenge and Southern Power Tools

Demonstration

The demonstration from SPTA (Southern Power Tools and Abrasives) focused on two Bosch products from their professional range: the GMF 1600 CE Router and the GEX 125-150 AVE random orbital sander. Both tools were very impressive and offered a wide range of features. Both can be purchased from the SPTA team. The demonstration was down to earth and pitched very well. Both seem great products, but aimed more at the cabinet makers amongst us.

Club Challenge

The main event was our club challenge. The topics on this event were taken from previous in-house demonstrations to see if the people attending were taking notes and had tried the new techniques. The topics/options for this month's competition were:

1. A wet turned item, retaining some bark
2. An item incorporating a twist
3. An item incorporating off-centre turning

There was a bumper turnout (24 entries) for this event which was amazing to see, with very high quality pieces with lots of variation in ideas; this must have made voting very difficult.

After great discussion and interested questions the votes were in:



First choice:
Mike Haselden's off-centre platter featuring inlaid sections.

Second choice:
Phil Bristow's open twist vase.



Third choice: Jean Turner's off-centre ebonized vase.

A great competition and entries by all – let's keep it up for the Christmas competition.

Phil Bristow

Pictures of all the entries can be seen on the website, thanks to Phil. Whilst agreeing with Phil's comments about the number and quality of the entries, it has to be said that they came from just 12 members, 8 of whom entered more than 1 item. Well done all of you.

Editor

20 October - Hands-on day,

It was good to see Harry Woollhead in action again after his neck injury for this most successful hands-on day to date at the Christie Hall, Old Alresford. With 4 lathes and a grinder in operation and 4 experienced turners on hand to show the way, 9 people attended, mostly novices or improvers (who isn't?).

Apart from the inevitable sharpening queries, topics included goblets, mushrooms, basic spindle turning and Christmas decorations. I noticed some twists and captive rings too. There was some specialist interest in wheels for toys and models and a few tips on wet turning.

All in all good value for the £7 charged which for once covered the costs.

There's no date yet for the next event so watch for announcements. And if there's anything you'd like us to cover, let Harry or Bob Hope know in advance and we can be better prepared.



Harry fields a tricky question

Although the attendance at these events is necessarily limited, they are valuable aspects of the Club's function and are much appreciated by those who come to hone their skills. I know that a number of us help out but special thanks are due to Harry and Bob who do most of the organising and lugging the kit about. Without their efforts the hands-on days just wouldn't happen.

Dave Gibbard

5th November- Showtime with Les Thorne.



Another great presentation from our "resident pro".

A philosophical Les drew out more comments and discussion from the audience than usual prompting him to insist we had put something in the tea.

We are predominantly bowl turners he asserted, based on his own observations and sales of bowl blanks which far outweigh square section. There was not too much argument from the spindle turners as Les moved on to his bowl turning demo.

The advice came thick and fast. Too fast for me so if you were not there you'd better look at his video or sign up for a course! Here's a taster...

The long grind bowl gouge is worth mastering for its versatility. Its main advantage is the pull cut which removes material at a fast rate. It can also be used to push and this will usually give a better finishing cut. The long ground edges can also be used to scrape. All without having to pick up a different tool. The long grind doesn't work on a small gouge (say 1/4") though as the flute can't handle it. There is also a need for a much straighter grind, say 60° for the bottom of bowls when hollowing.

The first demo was a walnut bowl which Les mounted on a screw chuck to turn the outside. He always uses a spigot for the scroll chuck to hold for turning the inside not forgetting to mark the centre of the spigot for alignment later. This gives a secure grip without intruding into the bottom thickness as a dovetail would. There was a lot of discussion about this but no convincing argument to the contrary apart from the use of expansion to hold something with a hole through it or in the base. Les always re-reverses finished bowls to clean up the base anyway, often retaining the spigot as a foot. Even then it is desirable to clean it up as the chuck will probably have left its mark.

Les Thorne continued...

When hollowing a bowl, Les doesn't drill a centre hole. The only time he would do that is for a hollow form. Some find it easier to start with the bevel rubbing on the surface and then move the handle out to direct the gouge into the wood. The alternative is to attack with the bevel in line with the cut direction but this can be prone to kick back as there's no support. Of course you have to do it that way for natural edges where there's no even surface on which to rub the bevel.

Les hollows the bowl with push cuts in sections which he blends together rather than sweeping all the way round. The reason is that this involves less repositioning of the gouge on the rest during the cut, giving a smoother finish from the tool.

Repeated cuts over the same area are quicker too and the bevel can be kept rubbing during the run back for the next cut. You know the gouge is working properly when the shavings exit via the flute.

Les prefers to keep the rest outside the bowl even though the tool overhang is greater. Again, it is easier to follow the curve by sweeping the handle with the rest in this position. If the overhang becomes a problem he switches to a larger, stiffer gouge, probably finishing the centre with a steeper ground gouge presented straighter on to the wood. He aims to achieve a sufficiently good finish from the gouge not to use a scraper. This is his way rather than an elitist attitude. He acknowledges that shaping is easier with a scraper and many turners get very good results with scrapers. Les reverses his bowls onto a vacuum chuck to finish the foot. Of course few amateur turners can justify the expense and it is practical to reverse onto a pad with the tailstock keeping pressure on the spigot centre, as he demonstrated since he had no power for the vacuum chuck!



Unfinished walnut bowl. He didn't sand it for lack of dust extraction.

After tea Les turned an ash bowl by a similar procedure and then went on to texture and colour it. The outside was randomly textured with a mini Arbortec held in one hand whilst advancing the bowl with the other. (Don't use a full size Arbortec cutter unless you've got hands as strong as Stuart Mortimer's!) He cleaned up with a rotating sanding brush (available from the Tool Post).

Having reversed the bowl he turned the rim and part hollowed it. The rim was textured with a rotating burr called a "decorating elf" in a Proxon tool. (Geoff has some elves (elves?) in the shop.) Between the rim and the bowl, Les cut a stopping groove which would fill with ebonising lacquer to prevent the stain bleeding into the bowl. So the bowl was sprayed with the lacquer outside and on the rim and groove and sanded back to leave the high areas unpainted. He then applied various colours of spirit lacquer with a cloth. This could have been be sprayed on but a brush is not suitable as it is difficult to control the amount of stain. Yellow stain overall blends the colours nicely and the bowl is then sealed with sanding sealer before finishing with clear acrylic lacquer. That just leaves the inside to be hollowed, carefully removing half the stopping groove.



Ash bowl, textured and stained ready for centre to be hollowed.

Les still had sufficient energy to do a quick critique on the gallery. All the items can be seen on the website. It is nice to see a number of relative newcomers putting work on the table and improving by learning from the constructive comments.

Dave Gibbard

COMING EVENTS

3 December - Christmas Social.

You are invited to come along with your “partners” if you wish (Sorry, apparently we are supposed to refer to them that way) for a **quiz** including several rounds where non turners will get their chance to shine. Prizes for the winning team.

The regular helpers will get the night off to allow them to participate and enjoy festive refreshments provided by Lynda. (Expect a treat!)

As usual the bar will be open. There will be a bit of fun in the form of a sort of competition. You are invited to bring along a **spinning top**. No strings or other complicated means of launching, just the sort you spin with your fingers. You will be invited to demonstrate your top and prizes will be awarded for the **longest duration spin** and also the **prettiest top**.

The spinning tests will be conducted according to strict Elf and Safety rules.

7 January 2013 - Steven Daysh

The impressive work of local turner Steven was spotted at the summer's Hampshire Open Studios Event. We are pleased that he accepted Bob's invitation to come and demonstrate his lattice work bowls.

4 February – Mike Haselden

Surely no introductions are needed any more for Mike Haselden. His work regularly draws admiration in our members' galleries for its design, workmanship and finish. He will be entertaining us this evening.

The programme for the rest of 2013 is shown below. A few details still remain to be filled in but this is another impressive effort from our secretary Bob Hope. In addition to the evening meetings, we are looking into another all day workshop by a visiting turner and a number of Saturday hands-on days. Watch for announcements.

PROGRAMME FOR REMAINDER OF 2013

| Date | Event | Demonstrator |
|--|---------------------------|---------------|
| Monday 4 March | Resins and metal spinning | Steve Giles |
| Monday 3 April | AGM | HWA Challenge |
| Wednesday 8 May (Yes, <u>Wednesday</u>) | Offset Turning | Tony Halcrow |
| Monday 3 June | Club Night | |
| Monday 1 July | Little Boxes | Stewart King |
| Monday 5 August | Club Night | |
| Monday 2 September | TBA | Mark Baker |
| Monday 7 October | Club Night | |
| Monday 4 November | Showtime 2013 | Les Thorne |
| Monday 2 December | Christmas Social | |

In addition, **Mark Sanger** has been booked for a full day workshop on **Saturday 9th March** at Badger Farm Community Centre, Winchester. More details to follow.

Bob Hope

MINSTEAD TRAINING PROJECT UPDATE

Following on from the article in the Autumn Your Turn and a couple of announcements at club nights we have now 8 volunteers plus a couple of members as fall back if required. MTP helps people who have learning difficulties develop skills to fit them for life in the community and we will help the woodworking department of the Project to start a turning section for their students.

On 18th October our volunteers had a guided tour of the facilities and met the staff and some of the students. It was a very positive session with lots of questions from all parties. The students we met are very keen to get started in fact one has his own set of turning chisels.

CRB checks are now underway. We hope to make a start in January provided all details can be completed and we have an agreed programme of tasks along with completed generic risk assessments etc. The workshop requires all those taking part to have Safety Shoes and we have agreed we should also wear Face Shields. I have approached a local industry to see if we can get some help in obtaining these items and await their reply.

Last minute Editor's Note. Alan and I went along on 15 November to clean and set up the lathes and make a list of items needed. There were more turning tools than we thought though we will eventually need a couple of small bowl gouges. Both lathes have the same thread ($\frac{3}{4}$ " 16TPI) so if we can get a chuck it can be shared. We'll try to get some levers to replace nuts so that tool rest and tailstock adjustments won't need spanners! The dust extraction system looks impressive but shifts very little air. It's full of dust and shavings and will be cleaned out.

The HWA Committee have agreed to adopt Minstead Training Project as our 2013 charity. So if you have items you've made and wish to donate for them to sell please get in touch with Dave Gibbard or myself. We'll have more details on their fund raising events and timing soon.

Hopefully all together we can make a difference. It's never too late so if as the days roll by you feel you would like to be involved with this venture just get in touch with us and we can talk you through what's required or even arrange you a visit to Minstead.

Have a look at their web site for more details of their Project and its aims.

www.minsteadtrainingproject.org/

Alan Sturgess



Woodworking supervisor Mandy talks to HWA volunteers



Claire Feltham and HWA volunteers behind nice oak garden table made by students for sale.

Thanks Alan.

We've had a spindle gouge donated by John Holden and I'm holding a sum of £7.60 donated by various members for some old Woodturning magazines brought along to the November meeting.

If you have any unwanted items in your toolbox and would like to make a donation just bring them along to a club night and Alan or I will be happy take them to the Project.

During the tour I was straggling behind the group as we left the workshop and I overheard Josh, one of the students, say to Mandy "What very nice gentlemen". I'm afraid I rather welled up at that.

Dave Gibbard

NOVICE CORNER

Hello, all novices.

In the last issue of "Your Turn" I wrote about the safety implications associated with cutting round wood/log shapes on a Bandsaw. I stressed you should try and use a jig when possible to help hold the wood firmly. A jig will help prevent the wood from spinning or jamming up when it comes in contact with the fast moving saw blade.

I have been asked by a number of you to describe how a jig for this purpose should be set out. So here goes.

1. Cut a piece of 19mm (3/4) ply or MDF the same dimensions as your bandsaw table plate.
At the time of making my jig I only had a scrap piece of ply to go $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way across the top of my bandsaw table plate.
2. Glue and pin a small batten strip to the underside of the jig plate to run into the slot/channel of the saw table plate; this should be a nice sliding fit not too tight to jam up. Make sure after fitting that the jig sits down flush to the band saw metal table plate, also make sure that this strip is at 90° to the board front.
3. Glue and screw a small batten approximately 50mm x 10mm (2 x 1/2) to the front end of your plate to act as a stop bar. This will stop the new plate sliding off the metal table plate when pushing through your round wood. Make sure it will not come in contact with any other part of the bandsaw.
4. At the other end of the jig plate screw and glue an upstand approximately 100mm (4) high x 19mm (3/4) making sure it will not touch the saw blade or the guide adjusters. This upstand will help you to hold the round wood against it when cutting. Wedges will also help in holding your work firmly or you can attach clamps or straps to help secure it.
5. With the bandsaw switched **ON** and running, push the new plate through the saw blade and up to the stop bar, making sure the underside batten strip runs in the channel. This will now give you a saw cut half way down your new plate.
6. Now **STOP** the band saw and switch it **OFF**.
7. Your jig plate is now complete and ready to use.
8. Once you have tried the jig and happy with its performance try pushing/sliding the jig with your body. (Like the old fashion bacon slicer). This will help you to hold the wood with one hand and have your other hand free to stop the machine if required.
9. You can also use your jig to cut logs sideways on, but be very very careful to wedge the timber up securely.
10. Keep the Bandsaw table plate clean and shining so your jig can slide freely. And always use sharp saw blades.



The underside of the jig showing the batten strip that slides along in the channel of the metal table plate.



Stop bar and upstand showing the saw blade having cut a slot down the plate.

My granddaughter recently showed me her Christmas list. I thought what a good idea so I have made up my own list to give to Mummy Christmas. Top of my list is a Planer / Thicknesser as I fancy trying segmented turning after seeing Denis Keeling demo at the club back in September. If I behave myself up to Christmas day and am lucky to have one. I will tell you all about it in next year's issue of Y.T, all the good and poor points that I find.

That's it for 2012 have a Happy Christmas & New Year And remember to "Keep Turning"

Keith Barnes

keith.hwa@mypostoffice.co.uk

HINTS, TIPS & THINGS

Hi, All

A few more items for you to consider. Hope you find them interesting and useful. Please don't forget to send me your Tips.

Applying a finish on the lathe.

Finishing on the lathe allows you to apply a quick and even finish. For best results with oil finishes, apply the oil to the wood and to the abrasive paper. While the piece is turning the wood dust will mix with the finishing oil sealing the pores of the wood.

Lathe Maintenance.

Coat your lathe bed bars with Wax paste and buff off to give a smooth running banjo along its bed / bars.

Storing C.A. glue.

Store open bottles of C.A. glue in small airtight containers. C.A. reacts with moisture in the air so keeping it in an airtight container limits the amount of moisture available to the glue, preventing it going hard.

Using paper joints.

Before attaching your wood to a face plate or chuck, first glue a scrap mounting block to the wood you intend to turn. Glue one sheet of newspaper between them. Denis Keeling recommends using glossy paper. After your turning is complete, split the paper joint with a sharp knife or chisel, and now clean the face up with abrasive paper. The face plate can be re-faced ready to use again. This method leaves no visible screw holes or chucking points.

I have been using a hot glue gun recently on face work, finding it has many benefits and advantages over cutting a spigot. The Americans tend to use heat guns a lot.

Tool-rest height.

I am told the height of the tool-rest to your lathe is not important. Riding the bevel of the gauge on the wood is. The tool-rest height has to be at the height that makes this happen while the handle of the tool is held in a comfortable working position.

Connecting up an electrical 3pin plug.

When connecting up a 3 pin plug make the green & yellow earth cable longer than the brown & blue cables this will help keep the earth cable connected if the cable lead is accidentally pulled out of the plug. This will give you some protection against an electric shock by preventing a loose earth cable touching the live pin.

Grinding Wheels.

For many years Aluminium Oxide has been regarded to be the correct type of wheel for sharpening high speed turning tools.

The colour of a grinding wheel has little or no meaning. While all white wheels may be Aluminium Oxide not all Aluminium Oxide wheels are white.

Grinding wheels made from aluminium oxide not only come in white they also come in pale green, violet, pink, blue and yellow.

The colour comes from the dyes the manufacturer use in the binding agent that holds the abrasive particles together.

Peter Child Woodturning Supplies web site explains the technical background on grinding wheels for turning tools far better than I can. This site is well worth a visit.

It is said 60-80grit is the best grit size wheel to use for sharpening turning tools and the slower the grinder (1,425 rpm) the better as this helps to prevent the overheating of the tool steel.

I was once told that all grinders have a low speed, this is when you switch them off, but sharpening a tool from a high speed grinder (2,850 rpm) when the motor is running down is not as easy as you would think and could be dangerous.

Sharpening jigs will help in maintaining the same tip profile on your tools.

Next time you need a grinding wheel for sharpening your turning tools ask your supplier for an Aluminium Oxide wheel, explain to them the material you need to use it on i.e. high speed steel but don't quote to them a colour.

You may find you pay a premium price for white wheels. I know buying from a well-known tool maker of turning chisels you will pay over the odds for a white wheel. So it helps to shop around before you purchase.

The best places to buy these wheels are from a tool supplier like Southern Power Tools & Abrasives at Winchester, Lawson Tools, Cromwell Tools and Buck & Hickman in Southampton to name just a few.

All of these companies can be found on the internet. A phone call to them will give you the availability, price and of course give you home delivery.

Well that's it for 2012.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and New Year and thanks for reading my column in 2012. Happy turning in 2013

Keith Barnes

Keith.hwa@mypostoffice.co.uk



It's a Cracker

Having lost our status as the major industrial country in the world, comfort can be drawn from the fact that Britain has become the global powerhouse of the Christmas Cracker joke industry. Here are some examples found in crackers. Don't tell me if you've heard them...

Which playwright was terrified of Christmas?
Noel Coward

What was Santa's favourite Pizza?
Deep pan, crisp and even.

What do you call Santa's little helpers?
Subordinate Clauses

Who invented fractions?

Henry the 1/8th

What does Santa suffer from if he gets stuck in the chimney?

Claustrophobia.

What do you get if you cross an orange with a comedian?
Peels of laughter

How many ears has Captain Kirk got?
Three: the left ear, the right ear, and the final front ear.

What's pink and wrinkly and hangs out your pyjamas?
Your mum.

Is all this really in my contract?
Where's the escape Claus?

What does the Queen do when she burps?

She issues a royal pardon.

What's the difference between a barrow boy and a dachshund?
One bawls out his wares on the street and the other... Oh that's enough surely?



WOODTURNING CANADIAN STYLE



This gem came via John Holden. If you want to see the movie clip, here's the link:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4qB6n1cm04&feature=related>
Frightening. Don't forget to wear your hard hat when watching!

MEMBERSHIP

We've had another "new" member. In fact an old one returning.
Please welcome back Alf Cooper of Fair Oak.

Recorded attendance at recent meetings was September 57; October 50; November 57.

These figures probably understate attendance. Would all members please remember to sign in on club nights, even if you come in by the back door, climb through a window, come down the chimney dressed as Father Christmas, or any other inventive ways of entry!

Happy Christmas. from Denis Hilditch, Membership secretary.

Signing Off

In these straightened times, not everyone is having to tighten their belts it seems.
Denis Hilditch says this notice was seen in the ladies powder room at the Ritz!!.

"In the interest of good hygiene (and never mind the expense), patrons are asked to use only one side of the toilet paper."

This begs a couple of questions.
How can Denis afford the Ritz and...
What was he doing in the ladies powder room????

Now I feel like a lie down. Probably until after the New Year.

Merry Christmas from Dave Gibbard, Editor