


# YOUR TURN

Hampshire Woodturners Association Newsletter. Winter Issue, December 2014

*Elf Warning -  
Christmas Issue*



*Did you say there's  
Green Baize on the  
bottom??!!*

## CONFESSIONS OF A WOODTURNER

*Starring  
Gary Rance  
and  
Les Thorne*





# YOUR TURN

Happy  
Christmas HWA.  
Yo-Yo-Yo

Hampshire Woodturners Association Newsletter.  
Winter Issue, December 2014.

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## EDITORIAL:

What a memorable evening we had when we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Hampshire Woodturners Association in October.

Though the previous issue of YT was the Anniversary one, the report of the meeting can be found in the pages of this, the Winter number.

It was good to see so many of the “originals” there to mark the evening when we looked back to the time when the Association was formed under Brian Hannam, the first Chairman.

*Here’s a snap of those I managed to round up. Not easy when Lynda’s cake was on offer.*



The committee received many appreciative comments about the evening and I’d just like to add my special thanks to new Chairman, Lynda for the enthusiastic way she promoted the whole thing. In particular the cake was unforgettable. Brian still had enough puff to blow out the candles. Just as well I got the shot as I don’t know how a request for a re-take would have been received. And don’t let’s forget Keith’s initiative to produce the mugs – a great memento for us all.

Finally, thanks to our good friend (I hope I can call him that in spite of some good natured ribbing) Gary Rance for entertaining us.

And what of the future? After the steep learning curve of those early years when everyone seemed to participate, membership grew to well over 120. That dropped back partly as a result of new clubs being set up in other parts of the County by HWA members. It is very encouraging to see membership growing again with an influx of enthusiastic novices. Harry has created a good natured welcoming atmosphere in his “corner” and overcome novice shyness to put their work on the gallery table. A number of us “senior” turners have encouraged the movement by responding to Bob Hope’s efforts and helping at the hands-on days.

*Merry Christmas Hampshire Woodturners and good turning for the next 25 years.*

*Dave Gibbard, Editor*

## REPORTS OF MEETINGS

### 1 September – HWA Challenge and John Bennett “knee deep in shavings”

With quite a few members away on holiday attendance was rather disappointing with just 40 voting for the challenge. We had just 8 entries from 7 members but what was lacking in numbers was compensated for by outstanding quality. Pictures of all the entries are on the website.



Mike Haselden is seen here receiving first prize from Alan Sturgess for his superb bowl of balls of various wood.



Third went to Phil Hill for his amusing toy tortoise whose legs were balls and the shell was a larger ball which rotated backwards as the creature was pulled along.



*Here is Phil receiving third prize from Alan.*



The balls were displayed in a lovely burr elm bowl.

Inventive as ever, Denis Hilditch (*right, with Lynda looking on*) entered a ring with a handle with a choice of balls to run round the inside.



The trick was to move the ring smartly in a vertical plane to get the ball revolving without falling out. There was a certain knack to this which nobody mastered for more than a few seconds. Denis's entry was voted into second place.

During the counting we had an illustrated talk from **John Bennett** a local ex-teacher and no mean expert in wood. He explained that hard and softwoods are distinguished by the cell structure and perversely some hardwoods are soft (e.g. Balsa) and some softwoods are hard (e.g. Yew). Hardwoods lose their leaves in winter whereas softwoods are evergreen and are also coniferous. That is except Yew which doesn't have cones despite being softwood and Holme Oak and Holly which keep their leaves although they are hardwood. Got that? The way to tell the age of a tree is to cut it down and look at the ring structure. Of course this doesn't do the tree much good. Rings are caused by variable rate of growth during the season. The outer rings conduct nutrients to the tree and are called sapwood. The inner rings are older and lose this function but are essential to support the considerable weight of the tree. They form the heartwood. The sap and heart woods exhibit quite a different appearance in some trees like Yew and Laburnum whereas in others it is difficult to distinguish between them. Around the outside is the bark beneath which is the growth material. At the centre is the core or pith.

The rings are not necessarily circular. Growth on one side is frequently greater than the other depending on weight if the wood is not vertical and prevailing weather conditions.

*Continued...*



*John Bennett continued..*

Some wood has radial marks called medullary rays. These can be prominent in Oak and London Plane (Lacewood). The latter is quite a plain wood except when quarter cut to display the rays.

Another interesting and bizarre phenomenon is the case of the Lignum Orientalis Variegatus tree the section of which, if carefully cut at the correct angle has a pattern of contrasting squares. This is sought after for manufacture of checker boards.

John regrets that you probably wouldn't be allowed to wind-up students like that these days.

Does that about cover it John?

Oh yes there were a few other things, like Lignum Vitae being the only wood known commonly by its Latin name which incidentally is one of the very few woods which sink being denser than water. Woodworm love sapwood because it is softer and tastier than heartwood but the waterborne Toredos like it all and bore great holes in wooden ships unless thwarted by copper sheet. Hence the expression "copper bottomed".

Fascinating stuff and I apologise if I haven't got it all right or if I've missed something important. Perhaps you'll let me know?



*Here's John doing the critique of the Challenge entries, talking to Jack Mansfield about his finial ball box.*

*Dave Gibbard*

## **6 October – 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY MEETING with Gary Rance**



There was a great turn-out for our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting. In pride of place as people arrived was Lynda's magnificent cake depicting a woodturner at his lathe and an array of tools. (At the end of business at the last committee meeting Lynda produced a box of coloured icing and asked us all to make some tools to adorn the cake.)

The culinary work of art didn't last long as it was whisked away for the ceremony of blowing out the candles carried out by the first chairman, Brian Hannam (*pictured right*) and then to be sliced up to accompany the tea at the interval.



So on with the show. Lynda introduced our old friend Gary Rance who started with a quick summary of the basic spindle cuts; converting square to round with a roughing gouge which can also be used to plane (though this is better done with a skew); V notches and beads using a skew and coves using a spindle gouge. If you missed the show you might like to put Gary's DVD on your Christmas list.

His main demo was a stand for a pocket watch. Now I promise there was no collusion here, it is entirely coincidental that our next Challenge in February is to make a stand for something. You could do worse than to show how well you have absorbed Gary's lesson.

*Continued...*

*Gary Rance continued...*

Gary admitted that he puts **green baize** on the bottom, excusing himself by saying that he doesn't sell to woodturners and the customers like it as it avoids scratching the furniture. It also saves a bit of time of course.



*Gary turning the base of the stand on a screw chuck*

The base was turned from a hexagonal blank rather than round to avoid putting a bias on the bandsaw blade when cutting the blank. It was held by a very short screw, the screw chuck being fitted with a spacer which determined the amount of screw protruding. The base was trued up by pull cuts with a gouge before adding decorative features. Beading tools can save some time here, Gary liking one with a central point that cuts 2 halves of adjacent beads at the same time. Whilst on the chuck, it was possible to get round the bottom of the base to cut a groove into which the baize is tucked for a really neat edge.

Now for the half ring forming the handle at the top of the stand. As a naïve novice, Gary admitted that he tried to make this part by steaming and bending a straight spindle. In fact this is almost impossible. The way to do it is to turn a ring and cut it in half. The other half can be used on another stand. One face and the outer edge of the ring can be turned with the blank mounted on a screw chuck. Care has to be taken with sizing the ring diameter to fit a wooden jam chuck for turning the other side after parting off. The cross section size and profile is also important as when cut in half it needs to match up with the vertical spindles.

The spindles themselves have to match. He used a "scratcher" consisting of a piece of wood with nails driven through at the bead positions. Holding this against the revolving spindle marks the bead positions the same each time. For real production speed, a jig with adjustable "fingers" can be used. The fingers fall when the diameter at that position reaches the set size. No messing about with calipers.



Joining the parts together was done by drilling holes in the ends of the spindles, the handle and the base. Gary used small screws with the heads cut off. These were glued into the spindle ends which were then screwed into the handle.

There were some nice pieces on the gallery table which Gary thoughtfully reviewed. It's a tricky job to do constructively but he steered the course with care and I think most people would have come away pleased with the helpful remarks and with some ideas how to improve. As always, all the gallery items can be seen on the website. Gary went on to present the certificates to the top 3 in last month's Challenge. (See previous report).

After the raffle it was time for members and guests to collect their Anniversary mugs from Brian as they left. Well done Keith (Barnes) for organising the mugs.



A memorable evening which needs something special to follow. That task falls to Les Thorne in November.

*Dave Gibbard*

### 3 November – Les Thorne

Les has made the November slot his own and we always look forward to his show and the banter. He has become a most accomplished turner with a relaxed confident style. He says this is the only demo he does these days where he feels nervous because of his history with the Club. Well, it didn't show, Les.

Tonight's demo was a box with texturing, colouring and even a metal finial. I couldn't possibly give a full account so I'm just going to give an outline description with some tips Les mentioned that struck a chord with me. If you want more detail you could put his DVD on your Christmas list, or even sign up for some hands-on with the master.

*Les's box.  
Textured,  
coloured and with  
a turned brass  
finial.*



The process of making a box starts with turning a cylinder between centres and putting a chucking spigot on each end. There's no point in wasting time getting a fine finish as the shape will be refined later.

There's that reference to time which figures a lot in Les's thinking as a professional turner. He says that Gary Rance thinks the same way and that anything that takes longer than 6 minutes can't make money. Les claims that Gary was told this by a girl at King's Cross station.

The cylinder is mounted in the chuck with tailstock brought up for stability and the positions of the parting line and mating spigot marked. Les starts with the lid end in the chuck. You should think about the operation sequence to minimise re-chucking not only to save time but also because when the work piece is removed and put back in the chuck it is likely not to be on precisely the same centre no matter how careful you are.

The base to lid ratio is a matter of taste. It's not a bad idea to draw the box first as the appearance on the lathe can deceive, particularly as the finished box will be shorter because of the overlap.

Les doesn't like a lid to fit too tightly but snugly enough that it settles in place as the air inside is expelled. To achieve this it is necessary to have a long mating spigot and overlapping lid (or vice versa). The disadvantage is that the grain match at the join will be poor if the grain pattern is not straight.

When parting off, Les leaves a small witness line on the lid corresponding with the mating spigot. This allows the lid to be hollowed to the correct internal diameter without constantly checking for size.

Having parted off the lid, it is hollowed as much as possible with a gouge then with a scraper at the mating face. Les favours a round skew type tool for this. The same tool can perform a number of other scraping, parting, planning and beading operations. As luck would have it he sells such a tool!

The size of the lid is checked using the parted off base. Although the finished fit will be looser, it is left tight at this stage to allow the lid to be jammed on to finish the outside.

The lid is removed and replaced in the chuck by the base which is shaped on the outside and hollowed. The lid is then jammed on and the outside finished including drilling a blind hole for the brass finial.

The next stage is texturing with the lid still jammed on. Les used a Savur rotating burr cutter to make a random pattern over box as far as grooves made either side of the join.



*Les texturing  
his box with  
Savur cutter*

The frayed edges can be burnt off or removed with a sanding wheel before colouring. Without the lathe running, Les first applied sanding sealer and cut back before spraying with black acrylic. Finally copper gilt cream was applied sparingly with a dry brush.



### Les Thorne, continued..

Having removed the lid (not easy as it was jammed on tight) the mating spigot was gently sanded to achieve that desirable suction fit. That just left the base of the box to be reversed onto a jam chuck for the bottom to be finished.

Finally, though there wasn't time to finish, Les turned a brass finial for the top of the box from a small cylinder. Purists would say that a metal lathe should be used to turn brass but with some trial and error you can get a small scraper or pointed tool to remove metal smoothly before sanding and polishing with burnishing cream.

Les did well to squeeze all this into the evening and also managed to do a helpful critique of the gallery. As usual, pictures of all the gallery items can be seen on the website.

Another great show, Les, and we hope to see you at our Christmas quiz.

*Dave Gibbard*

### 1 November - Hands-on day

It was fine for the hands-on day at Alresford where we had a record 6 lathes going overseen by senior Club turners for the benefit of members keen to pick up some tips.

Harry Woolhead turned a candle holder and goblet, Denis Hilditch had two absolute beginners to deal with and also made some simple candle holders. John Holden was doing some off centre work and Mike Haselden made a box with some laminated wood someone had brought in, complicated by the glue lines. Alan Sturgess turned some small bowls and Dave Gibbard was wet turning bowls from green oak. All the participants were hands on for as long as possible and hopefully came away with more knowledge than when they started.

*Bob Hope*

*Thanks, Bob and Harry for organising another valuable day's experience for the members. Ed.*

### 30 August - Community Woodfair, Zionshill Copse.

We had been watching the changeable weather leading up to Saturday and were dismayed that there was overnight rain. But the forecast insisted that the sun would shine and sure enough by 8.30 it did and we had a fine day.

Denis Hilditch, John Holden and I gingerly made our way into the woods in 2 well laden cars managing to avoid most of the tree stumps. We missed Pierre's 4 WD and Bob's pick up.

We're masters in the art of gazebo erection now and the stand was ready with the generator and lathe going in time for the first visitors at 10.

We were working with background sounds of chain saws drifting through the woods, the rhythm of nearby pole lathe turners, the chipping of the woodcarvers and excited children carving blocks of soap across the clearing. See what you missed?

John had brought some small bowls, mushrooms, pens and door wedges to sell for Minstead Training Trust and we all added to the stock during the day. Mushrooms in particular were selling as fast as we could make them. I found a felled silver birch lying in the woods and hacked a lump off to make a particularly large one. Denis made a yo-yo which delighted the younger generation who had never seen one!

By the end of an enjoyable if tiring day we had raised £65 for Minstead thanks in no small measure to John's pre-show efforts.

*Dave Gibbard*



## COMING EVENTS

### 1 December – Christmas Social

The social will include the usual quiz with general knowledge as well as woodturning rounds and prizes for the winning team. The Challenge this year is to make a yo-yo. There will be a prize for the best performing yo-yo and another for the prettiest. Performance might come down to how long you can keep it going but extra points will be awarded for tricks. There's actually a website called yoyotricks.com! Would I make that up? There will be no shop, library or gallery apart from the yo-yos. Regular helpers get the night off to allow them to participate. Feel free to bring a guest and look forward to some festive jollification and snacks courtesy of Lynda.

### 5 January – Gary Renouf

Gary will be turning a winged natural edge bowl.

### 2 February – HWA Challenge

The Challenge this time is to make a stand of some sort or something incorporating a stand. You could, for example, take inspiration from Gary Rance's watch stand demonstrated at the October meeting. Or you could make a cake stand, ring stand, a stand for a box or bowl etc....  
John Bennett recently gave us a talk about wood technology and, in response to interest generated, is returning to speak about types of wood. If you have any particular questions, tell Lynda in advance.

### 2 March – John Aitken

John, often referred to as the "bowler-hatted turner" will be showing us how he makes a square finial box.

## PROGRAMME FOR 2015

Here's the programme for the rest of the year. Firstly evening meetings:

### 30 March – AGM and Brains Trust

### 18 May – Turn-in

Demonstrations by members with audience participation.

### 1 June – Mark and Lisa Raby

Our guests' subject is "wood finishing"

### 6 July – Mike Haselden

Mike is being coy calling his demo "Mike's Mystery".

### 3 August – HWA Challenge.

Subject to be announced.

### 7 September – Jenny Starbuck

Jenny is well known for her topic: Colouring Techniques.

### 5 October – John Wyatt

Lattice work bowls.

### 2 November – Les Thorne

What can I say about Les's "Showtime"?

### 1 December – Christmas Social

Rumour has it there will be a quiz and novelty challenge.

### Plus... Saturday 28 March

Whole day Masterclass by Les Thorne at the Badger Farm Community Centre. Details to follow.

*Once again we owe thanks to **Bob Hope** for arranging a great programme of events. – Ed.*

### Stowaway

A sailor went into a lap dancing club and got to talking with one of the girls. She was worried about her debts to the management. "I have no money and they are not nice people," she said. "I need to get right away." "I could stow you away on my ship," said the sailor, "we're going to Australia in the morning. You'd have to stay hidden. I'd bring you food and, well.... you know...."

So she was stowed away and for many days the sailor brought her food and... you know. But one day she was discovered by chance and brought before the captain.

She explained her need to get away and that a sailor was hiding her and bringing her food. "Plus," she said, wanting to make a clean breast of it, "he's screwing me".

"He certainly is," said the captain, "this is the Isle of Wight ferry".

*Based on a story from Brian Hannam*





## A Challenge Accepted for Christmas Decorations.

Well the summer and the skittles are well behind us now and the woodturning at Minstead returned to normal, making stock for sale at Furzey Gardens. Then there was this bright idea with the changing season to make Christmas decorations. We had done a few last year which the students enjoyed making with some colouring on the lathe using felt pens. Most students took one home for the family tree, and some were sold to staff at Minstead Lodge.

Starting in October we wondered where would we be able to sell them as Furzey Gardens coffee shop closed 1<sup>st</sup> November. Then by chance I went into Hythe Trophies to get some engraving done. On leaving I spied in the corner a glass cabinet with a display of woodturning for sale. It was instantly recognisable, due to the high quality, as woodturning from our endeavours at Minstead Trust. The Trophy shop shares premises with the "Herald", the Watersides free paper published every three weeks. I went back into the shop to enquire how and when this had started. Apparently MTT had employed a new Fund Raising and Events Co-ordinator who lives near Hythe and had asked if they could take some turned items for sale. Having introduced myself as one of the volunteer woodturners we talked about possible stock for the cabinet and the subject of Christmas decorations came up. Eureka we had an outlet for our decorations! Since then the students have been busy making the decorations, some have been decorated and some painted. On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November a box of items ready for sale was delivered to the Herald Office. Hythe has an extended shopping night on 28<sup>th</sup> November and the Herald Office will have a Christmas display which will feature some of the Students' work.

I was asked to write a piece about our involvement with MTT for the next Herald issue. This was published in the edition released on 30<sup>th</sup> October, and I took the opportunity to announce that our decorations would be on sale shortly. I'm very pleased that we managed to make both the deadlines. I just hope the items sell.

We have now been asked to get the students to make 25 Christmas baubles in interesting woods for the Trust to give as presents. So the challenge to the end of this term is set, I guess in January we will start again producing items for Furzey. But I bet before long there will be some other request from some section of MTT which will give as a new challenge.

We welcome Alan Baker who joined us recently, he has been gently eased into the fold. We now have 10 HWA volunteer woodturners but there's always room for more; why not join us?

*Alan Sturgess*



# HINTS, TIPS & THINGS

Hi, All.

I have been asked the question, "when should I use an RCD trip?"

The simple answer is all the time especially when using portable electrical equipment.

RCD is an acronym for "residual current device" and it detects a tiny difference in current between that flowing in the live and neutral wires. The live and neutral current should be identical but if there is a difference it means it is leaking to somewhere else. That could be through your body if you've touched something which has become live because of a loose wire maybe. The RCD trips really quickly and at a current level lower than that which would kill you. It's potentially a life saver.

If I interpret the electrical regulation correctly (and of course these are changed regularly so I may not be completely up to date), if you install a main supply cable to your outside work shop this cable must be fitted with a 30 ma RCD trip to protect the cable in the ground or overhead. This cable must be suitable and rated for the duty it is being used for.

Steel Wired Armoured cable (S.W.A.) is the most widely used cable for this job.

When the cable enters your workshop and you intend to use more than one circuit the supply cable must be connected to a distribution box / consumer unit. This box / unit must be fitted with a 30 ma R.C.D. unit main switch to isolate the system within your workshop. The distribution box / consumer unit will be fitted with circuit breakers/ trip switches for the circuits in the workshop, such as lighting and power points. If you intend only to have a socket in your workshop and then plug your light into it you only need to install a socket fitted with a 30 ma RCD. This will save you the expense of a consumer unit etc. If you use electrical equipment out in the open these must be plugged into a socket that is RCD protected. This is all designed for your safety and protection. You should check the operation of RCDs at regular intervals by pressing the test button on the unit.

If it fails to trip you need to get it checked out.  
A.S.A.P.

At our September meeting I was asked by a member, what was the cause of his lathe motor running very hot; so hot he was unable to put his hand on it even when it had only been running for a short time? He had been told that the capacitor needed replacing. This was carried out but still it got hot. It is very difficult to diagnose the fault without seeing the type of motor. It is probably a single-phase Induction run motor.

There are other types of motors using capacitors but this is the most common. The capacitor is used only to give the motor its initial boost on start; once running the start winding is switched off by the centrifugal switch operating inside the motor. If the switching has not taken place, after a few seconds the trip or the fuse should blow in the plug to protect the motor. Failing this the start winding in the motor will overheat giving off a lot of smoke resulting in the motor having to be replaced. This is why it is always best to have the correct fuse fitted in your plug. The fuse should blow before too much damage has taken place in the motor. I was told it was not smoking only getting very hot.

If any of you have the same problem then my answer would be:-

Check the name plate to see if the voltage of the motor is correct for the supply voltage.

Check all the motor connections for tightness.

Check the cooling fan is operating correctly.

Clean out any dirt etc. inside the motor.

Check the bearings in the motor (both ends) by rotating the motor without any belts being fitted. Any signs of restriction/tightness, replace the bearings.

Check the tension of the lathe drive belts.

Check the bearings in the lathe headstock.

If all is found to be ok it can only be the windings of the motor that are heating up, due to their insulation breaking down or they are shorting out in some way. Rewinding an electric motor is very expensive and is only beneficial when a replacement motor is not readily available.

Happy turning  
Keith Barnes

# NOVICE CORNER

I was asked to stand in and cover for Harry for one session. I am sure you would join me in passing on our good wishes to Harry and his family during this time of sickness in the family.

I cannot hope to do as good a job as Harry but my overriding impression of the Novice corner has been the fine quality of work brought in. The finishing in particular has been very good with only the odd small section that has escaped. Thank goodness it has, otherwise we would not have had anything to comment on.

The odd tool mark or tear out can be removed with a little judicious use of sand paper. Now I know that we should all strive to use the tools as much as possible so the use of sandpaper is kept to a minimum and the more you strive achieve this the better your turning will become. But during the learning process it does help to know that sand paper is a cutting tool and at times should be treated as such. So do not be afraid to use it.

For the novice the time to recognise when a tool has just lost its edge has to be learnt and at times we are guilty of applying a little more pressure to attempt a cut rather than backing off and sharpening the tool. This often does not mean a complete sharpen but just a light touch up with a stone or diamond impregnated pad or file. Trend tools make one which has a flat on one side and half round on the other to cover all options when lightly putting an edge back on to the tool tip.

We all get tear out as we try to cut end grain and often this can occur twice round the outside or inside of a bowl. Harry recommended you use a 50/50 mixture of sanding sealer and cellulose thinners to coat the affected area then sand with a 240 or maybe a 320 grade paper depending on the amount of tear out and hand sand in the direction of the grain.

*(I would also recommend power sanding the area with a sanding disc with the lathe stopped. Velcro discs are sold in the shop. Ed.)*

At one of the sessions Harry handed out small square sections of Oak which he wanted the novices to turn and bring back. He was so impressed with two of the bowls that he asked for them to be put on the gallery table. He recommended turning fast, say 1200 rpm, and using a sharp tool. Oak has a habit of blunting the tool quite quickly and you have to sharpen regularly.

For the purist I can recommend The Complete Guide to Sharpening by Leonard Lee. I have seen it in the library, but it comes with a health warning if you put it on your Christmas list. Your family will think you rather sad!

Harry also produced some formica which could be used to burn grooves. It is preferable to wire as you could get your fingers burnt from the heat generated. Thanks again Harry .

*Alan Baker*

*Alan missed the hands-on day so I'd just like to add what a pleasure it is to see the interest from the novices in watching and having a go with some experienced turners on hand.*



*Here we are just getting under way at the hands-on day.*

*Looking at the progress being made by the novices I anticipate an increasingly high standard of turning in the future from the Club.*

*Editor*



## MEMBERSHIP

Please welcome 5 new members:

**Gerald Tilley**, from Winchester, **Peter Wood** from Hedge End, **Paul Patterson** from Stockbridge, **Surinder Vir** from Shirley and **John Handbury** from Winchester.

Our current membership stands at 89 and recent recorded attendance figures are September 39, October 63 and November 61.

May I please remind ALL members of the importance of signing in at meetings? This is a health and safety REQUIREMENT and is there for a good reason and though it is unlikely that we will have a fire, please remember that it was unlikely that there would be a fire at any site of a disaster but it happened none the less.

I would like to ask members to let me know if you change any of your details such as postal address, E-mail address, telephone number etc. Also if you hear of other members who have any change of circumstances I would be pleased take this on board.

By the way, I have free for the asking: A quantity of wax for sealing end grain of wood for drying, also unused printer ink cartridges, HP 920 XL black and colours.

*Denis Hilditch. Membership Secretary.*



### CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

On behalf of the committee we wish you all a very happy Christmas and a good turning new year.

October's meeting was an evening to remember as we celebrated 25 years of the Club and it was so good to welcome some new members as well as everything else that was going on. Gary Rance gave us an excellent demonstration as we expected and it certainly did not disappoint. Thank you to everyone who worked hard to make the time a happy one.

You may have a little extra time to turn over Christmas and the New Year; anything to get out of the decorations and washing up. There was a lot less on the gallery table in November than recently so please try and bring something. It doesn't matter how short a time you have been turning because we can all make use of someone else's ideas and change them a bit.

I hope that you all kept up with Les's demo with so many useful bits of advice, words of caution, and as always an enthusiastic commentary! I hope your textured box is coming along well.

If you want to use gold leaf on it the best place to buy it from is Tiranti at Newbury. If several of you want gold leaf we will buy a pack of 25 sheets, 4 inches square and sell it for about £1 a sheet. A very small area will give a wonderful addition to your work.

Please can we all try to make better use of the shop. Anything that you find missing in the shop please will you speak to Derek or Andy and it can be ordered for you through our account with Axminster tools. A deposit will be needed with the order. Large items can be delivered to your home. Orders placed through the Club shop for anything in the woodturning section of the Axminster catalogue get a 15% discount.

I hope that you all have a wonderful time at Christmas. Just remember amongst all the lights, special food, drink and presents that we are celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Here's looking forward to an exciting 2015.  
Help! Where has the time gone?

*Lynda Barkaway*

## Church Notices

As Lynda reminded us, Christmas should be about celebrating the birth of Christ. Fewer attend church these days so if you are not one of them, maybe you should go along to see what you have been missing and spare a thought for those working tirelessly behind the scenes writing the church notices. I can't remember who sent me these but if you'd like to own up I'll give you due acknowledgement. If you'd rather not, I'll quite understand.

Low Self Esteem Support Group  
will meet Thursday at 7 PM .  
Please use the back door.

Don't let worry kill you off –  
let the Church help.

The ladies of the Church have cast off  
clothing of every kind. They may be seen  
in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a  
chance to get rid of those things not worth  
keeping around the house. Bring your  
husbands.

James and Sally were married on October 24  
in the church. So ends a friendship that began  
in their school days.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'  
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

At the evening service tonight, the sermon  
topic will be 'What Is Hell?'  
Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Our guest sang 'I will not pass this way  
again,' giving obvious pleasure to the  
congregation.

## And Finally

It wouldn't be Christmas without a cracker. Our proud nation retains world leadership in one important area; that of the production of excruciating jokes for Christmas crackers. Here's a small sample...

How does Bob Marley like his doughnuts?  
Wi' Jammin  
What does Bob Marley say to his friends  
when he buys doughnuts?  
Hope you like Jammin too.

Mother superior called all the nuns together  
and said "I must tell you we have a case of  
gonorrhoea in the convent".

"Thank god" said an elderly nun "I'm so  
tired of chardonnay"

What did Santa say to the smoker?  
Please don't smoke in here, it's bad for my  
elf!

How did Scrooge win the football  
game?  
The ghost of Christmas passed!

What did Adam say to his wife on the  
day before Christmas?  
It's Christmas, Eve!

What does the Queen call her Christmas  
Broadcast?

The One Show

How did Santa get on when he went  
speed dating?

He pulled a cracker!

What do you call Santa's little helpers?

Subordinate clauses