

# Cheam Woodturners Association Newsletter 37

June 2009

## Changes are afoot

by Ron Grace



Now is the time for all good men to put their thinking caps on and come up with exciting ideas for toys and games for children — the competition subject was suggested by Lesley Clarke.

Your reward could be a shiny platter pronouncing you the winner of your class in the latest round of the Frank Clarke Memorial competition.

No excuses; to give members plenty of time to plan and execute their entries, the committee has decided that the December club night will be the new date for the event.

There will be only one round of the competition per year and those who do not enter will be subject to a humiliating, sackcloth-and-ashes parade around the clubroom followed by summary execution!

Okay, so I have let my imagination run a little wild. We'll forget the parade bit.

Frank Clarke competition —



## How we spent a lazy Sunday afternoon at Larg

by David Buskell



We wish it was a lazy afternoon! A small team of volunteers arrived at Larg House in Coulsdon on a bright Sunday morning in May to set up the club stand.

We had been invited to attend this fundraising event, in aid of the Royal Marsden Hospital, by Liz and Beryl, the owners of Larg. The ladies had agreed to open their gardens to the public for the Royal Marsden charity as a way of saying thanks for the excellent treatment that Liz received there.

We put on a good display of work and had the club mini-lathe on the go throughout most of the day.

We were one of many stalls: flowers and plant

sales, art exhibition, tombola, bric-a-brac and various others scattered around the garden. Liz and Beryl are involved in the music business so it was natural to expect a selection of live music to entertain the 300 to 400 people who came along.

Indeed, there was live music with cabaret concerts and recitals all afternoon. All the performers put on a good show for an appreciative audience.



**Trevor Etherington: in demo mode on the lathe**

Continued on page 2



**Display: sales satisfactory**

The event was opened by Carolyn Allen (of *Only Fools and Horses* and *New Tricks* fame) and we had a short speech from the Mayor of Sutton.

The weather was kind, we managed to sell some goods and make a contribution to the Royal Marsden fund, which we understand eventually topped some £4,000! Congratulations, ladies on a job well done!

Thanks to Cliff for the tables and his help as well as everybody else who helped.



**Beryl and Liz: Larg owners**

Larg House has been on the present site for more than a century, we believe. The property was purchased some three years ago by Liz Biddle and Beryl Korman, who have made several tasteful additions to the original property and renovated the gardens.

Some of the silver birch that has come into the club (and turned by Greg at one

**N**ote: The club is willing to support events provided there is no cost to the club and there is a sufficient number of volunteers interested in participating. If in doubt, please talk to a committee member about your event beforehand. A club event form is required for insurance purposes.

November meeting) is from the trees on the LHS of the main entrance, cut down by yours truly!

Liz runs several music companies and I act as business affairs advisor to her. I've done a few wood pieces for the house and as a result of this, Cheam received the invitation to attend the gardens open day.

David Buskell

## Unusual Sorby equipment demonstrated

by Chris Barrett

Some of the more unusual turning equipment and accessories produced by Robert Sorby were the subjects chosen by Chris Pouncy for his demonstration in April.

To start with he introduced the RS 200 KT hollowing tool. In his capable hands it certainly looked easy to use and coped well with both end and side grain.

Included are scraper blades for half round, shallow and flat work as well as shear scraping.

There are a number of other cutters as well as an attachment to aid sharpening.

Chris then briefly outlined the RS 100 KT Midi multi-tip hollowing tool which is 2/3rds

the size of the 200 KT for easier access on smaller pieces. He also described the swan neck versions, the RS 230 KT Hollowmaster and the RS 130 KT Midi Hollowmaster.

A lengthy discussion ensued when Chris demonstrated the Modular Handled Sandmaster.

Working on free spinning technology, there are distinct advantages over power sanding or hand sanding — and, of course, one or two limitations.

Next Chris demonstrated a texturing and spiralling tool.

Two comments came out strongly, in relation to the use of the RS 200 KT: 'the faster the lathe the better the finish, provided safety is not

compromised' and 'we do not make mistakes, we create design opportunities.'

After tea, Chris tackled the wobble chuck. I had to double check that I had heard this right, for it seemed an unlikely name for a bit of woodturning gear.

It fits into dovetail jaws closing to 47 to 50mm and enables an enormous scope for eccentric offset turning.

This is a new device, available since January 2009, and its merits are versatility at a reasonable price.

In the summer Chris hopes to bring out a newsletter and anyone wanting to go on the mailing list should e-mail him at Sorby.

# Tips from MWA

by Gordon Cookson

For the Middlesex Woodturners Association newsletter, Gordon Cookson prepared a report on a seminar given by Chris Eagles. He also submitted it to CWA. However, it is much too long to include, so I have extracted a number of tips from this report and offer them for your interest. RG



● To avoid backache, particularly when bending over to see inside hollow pieces, Chris has his lathe between four and five inches above the conventional elbow height for the mandrel. This means that he has to support gouge handles midway under his upper arm rather than the more usual place beside his hip. As I get backache, I will report back when I have lifted my lathe by about 3in and got used to the new handle position.

● To help tame the skew chisel, he recommends a curved edge, with the top corner at the apex of the curve. To get a clean cut, move the chisel in, slightly up, then down to the end of the cut in an arc.

● When asked about which timbers are bad for dust problems, Chris replied: "I don't know of any dust which does you any good!"

● Slow the lathe speed on each change of wood or

orientation. This will reduce vibration and improve safety. If the tool vibrates, check why and rectify with a different angle or tool — otherwise the bad cutting will get worse.

● Test the angle of tools on wet wood and rotate the lathe by hand; when you get shavings, stop and look how the tool is positioned and then switch the lathe on.

● Sharpen hook tools with a round diamond file.

● To drill a depth hole with a spindle gouge, it needs to be ground symmetrically. If not, it will go off line and will be very difficult to hold.

● Finger-nail grind refers to the shape of the cutting edge and not the bevel — it is very difficult to achieve without a jig.

● Use the small size ring tool for the bottom of end-grain vessels and the larger ring on the sides.

● When turning wet wood, hollow the inside first keeping it wet. Then do the outside using a light inside to achieve an even thickness of the sides. Also shape the stem and undercut the base to prevent cracking. Wet sand both sides with the same grit to lessen distortion.

# Getting cosy

Amalgamations are more usually associated with big business, but small outfits, such as local clubs, can also have close relationships!

Several members of CWA now have dual membership with the Sutton Association of Woodworkers, a club which covers many areas of woodworking as well as metalwork — according to the whims of members.

The club meets about 20 times a year on Thursdays; contact Events Secretary Mark Scott on 020 8642 6227 for more details.

Just to whet your appetite:

June 25

Practical — Show and tell  
Members who use MDF



July 9

Star attraction  
Stuart Dyas

Author of *Classic Forms*.  
Will talk on what makes a piece of turning classical. From columns and candlesticks to balusters and balls, tazzas, finials, lights pulls and even the humble handle.

## Woodturning tuition

with

## Gregory Moreton RPT

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## Fred Cannings reports...



Photos: Ron Grace

The demonstration for March was by John Johnson. He has been a professional turner since 1993.

His subject was inverted turning, often known as involute turning.

He started with a block of wood about 6cm square by 25cm long. The

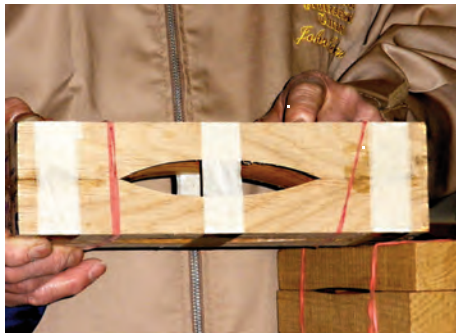
end of the block was numbered in four quarters and mounted on the lathe. A long cove was cut, but leaving a distance at each end square. Then he sanded and polished the cove as this was to become internal faces which cannot be reached later.

The block should then be band-sawed lengthways into four quarters, reassembled and glued together in numerical order, but with each piece rotated by 180 degrees. In Blue Peter fashion John had one prepared earlier. He uses rubber bands to hold the ends while the glue sets. Care must be taken that the ends align properly. A squeeze in a vice will enable a thin glue line.

The glued block was mounted on the lathe using step centres. It is important not to use point centres as they may force the glue apart. This done, John turned a long convex curve which as it broke into the hollow inside of the glued block formed four staves. He was careful to keep these staves even along



**John Johnson:**  
*Inverted turning*



**Left: four quarters reassembled and glued together inside out. Right: nearly complete and ready to become a chalice**



their length. The piece was to form a hollow stem for a chalice so at each end a boss was turned with a flat shoulder and round spigot to mate with a base and bowl.

John finally showed how, if making a table lamp, the end spigots can be drilled to take a

tube for the cable and even that can be decorated by slipping turned and drilled pieces between the staves.

This was a very interesting evening and many present would have gone home intending to have a go themselves.

In May, Dave Reeks made a lidded box and a natural edge bowl.

For the box he took a piece of kiln-dried yew about 200mm long by 100mm square, rounded it and made a spigot at both ends while explaining that a box looks best if the body is twice the height of the lid, excluding the knob.

The piece was chucked, the position of the join decided, (with the base portion nearest the chuck) and a square groove cut to the diameter of the mating lip. Groove length was lip length plus enough to leave a witness on the lid after parting.

The base cavity was cut, sanded and polished. Next the lid was hollowed using the witness diameter as an aid followed by careful fitting and internal polishing. With the base chucked the lid was positioned and a finial knob formed.

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**Dave Reeks:**  
*answers*

Dave usually sands his work to 600 grit (Hegner Velcro recommended) then applies 50/50 sanding sealer at speed. A polish is achieved by holding a piece of carnuba wax against the work.

The bowl blank was a half log of part dried ash, with bark, of radius and length about 180mm. He put a Forstner bit through the centre of the bark in



**Box: ideal lid/body proportions**

order that the drive bit would get sufficient purchase.

**Continued on page 5**

# Turnaround Turnaround Turnarou

## Proud of your work?

Judging by the number of entries for the Frank Clarke competition and by the Show table on club evenings, not many



members are pleased with their efforts. Or not pleased enough to show them off.

Now that there is only one competition each year, there is more opportunity. So let's be proud!

I'll start the ball rolling with two pictures of clocks I have



*Left: laburnum slices with ebonised silver birch centre. Above: purple heart; base from centre*

made — and I'll put them on the Show table tonight.

OK I'm a clockaholic — 20 at the last count not including timers and radios!

Send me a picture of your beautiful work and I will put it in the next newsletter (if flooded, I reserve the right

to spread them over several newsletters!). I am ever hopeful....

## On loan from Fred

Taking advantage of the club's loan scheme, I have been using the Sorby ring tool.

It certainly does, as claimed, a good job on end grain and my experience reveals that the angle of attack is very important. Get it slightly wrong and it will not cut or will grab too much. Get it right and it is a joy to use. But that applies to almost any tool in the turner's armoury.

Bit outside my budget, as was the thread chasing tool I borrowed a while ago. I suggest you have a go; see Fred Cannings for details.

Then report back for the newsletter.... RG

## Continued from page 4

By hand, a series of trial offerings of the tailstock found a



## Bowl: with an even bark edge

spot where the high and low parts of the bark would be level on the finished bowl. A large spigot was cut through the bark

face then the blank rather bumpily roughed to the outer shape of the bowl with a spigot base. Then the inside of the bowl was formed.

Important! Check the chuck for tightness as wet wood crushes. The direction of cut is away from the bark to avoid knocking it off.

Dave usually boils rough turned bowl blanks to remove the sap and so reduce drying time and wastage. He produced one dried earlier, trued the base spigot after pressing it to the tailstock with a buffered chuck.

Initially the turning concentrated on the upper part of the bowl, getting a constant width to the band of edge bark. Then the lower parts were turned.

An interesting evening.

## S&B donate — and Jeff Cordery collects



Photo: Greg Moreton

Jeff Cordery collects his £55 Sorby hollowing tool — won with a £1 raffle ticket — from Nick (Mr Raffle) Paneth

Bigger raffle prizes — and Jeff was one of the first to benefit with the Sorby tool. Treasurer Brian Ash persuaded David Bates to donate a plank of elm for the club's monthly star raffle prize.

It will be cut into bowl and spindle blanks for the June/July raffles. Proceeds from the raffle go to improve club funds and facilities.

## 2009 Programme

June 20	Ashtead Village Fair	
July 15	Simon Hope	An artistic platter
August 19	Practical evening	
August 31	Carshalton Park Ecofair	
September 16	Gary Rance	Spindle masterclass
October 21	Practical evening	
October 25	SAW Open Day	
November 18	Greg Moreton	Surprise night
December 5	Fairfield Halls Fair	
<b>December 16</b>	<b>Frank Clarke Competition</b>	<b>Plus Christmas social</b>

**Club website: [www.cheamturners.co.uk](http://www.cheamturners.co.uk)**

**In addition there may also be ad hoc tree harvests, hands-on mornings and exhibitions. Changes to the above programme may be necessary at short notice owing to unforeseen circumstances. Check our website for further information.**

**Meetings start at 7.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month at:  
North Cheam Sports and Social Club, 658 London Road (A24), North Cheam, Surrey  
(adjacent to Sainsbury's supermarket).**

## Committee

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## Next newsletter September 2009

**Copy deadline  
August 29**

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**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE  
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Views expressed in the newsletter are those of the people submitting the material and not necessarily those of the committee.