



Making Shavings

The Newsletter of the
North Wiltshire Woodturners Association

EDITORIAL

I feel thoroughly spoiled by the succession of professional turners who have demonstrated to NWWA recently, especially the two all-day events. In mid-July we had Stuart Mortimer wielding an Arbotech like a pair of scissors, creating spirals and twists. Then there was David Springett at the beginning of September. If you ever wanted to know how to make a 12 pointed star inside a sphere inside another sphere only 6cm in diameter, then Dave's your man. I also thought Colin Simpson's demo last month was very instructive. The fees we pay for these demonstrators are our biggest single expense, but worth every penny of it.

Like many of you (at least those who have expressed an opinion to me), I was also somewhat disappointed with the Festival of the Tree – or Tree-fest, as it seems to have become known - at Westonbirt over the August bank holiday weekend. Whilst there were many familiar faces there, gone are the chainsaw carvings. Many of the smaller exhibitors were rounded up into a large marquee which was only part-filled. Apparently, the organisers wanted to go more up-market but it seems to have upset some of the regular exhibitors. I also saw a trend of several non-wood or tree related stalls and, more worryingly, some stalls selling cheap

foreign imports, no doubt from eastern sweat shops.

Returning to our club, I'd like to welcome the following new members who have joined in the last couple of months: Sam Pearce, Malcolm Whyatt, M. Wagstaff and Christopher Harris, who is our youngest member at just 15 years of age. Not only is it good to see the younger generation taking up woodturning but Chris also brings our club membership to a whopping 53, the biggest in our club's short history. Whilst we're at it, Chris is hoping that someone can offer him some tuition – any offers?

It seems that the club had an eventful day at the Fairford Steam Fayre two articles (thanks Richard Branscombe and Ian M-W) tell the tale of woe on that fateful day out! How's the head feeling now, Richard?

And finally, a get well soon message to Jane, our chairman, who is nursing a broken foot. The eagle-eyed will have spotted that Colin Simpson was a late replacement for Jane who was due to demo to us at the September club night.

Hope you all enjoyed your summer holidays.

Thank you.

Clive Alabaster

CLUB NEWS

CLUB NIGHTS

Venue: The club night meetings take place at Hook village hall, just north of Hook itself, between Wootton Bassett and Purton.

Times: The evening runs from 7.30pm to 9.30 pm although the hall is hired from 7pm to 10pm to enable us to set up and clear away (your help would be appreciated with both).

Fees: £2 on the night, however, bring a little extra and have a flutter on the raffle. All proceeds to club funds.

Diary: The program over the next few months is as follows:

MONTHLY THEMES

Please note that only items along the theme for each month may be entered into the vote for the favourite piece. The creator of the item gaining the most votes wins the coveted Show 'n Tell shield. Members may still bring in and display any other items they wish but these will not be included in the vote.

Items may be photographed for the web site (with owner's permission).

LETTERS & E-MAILS

Following last Saturday's excellent demonstration by David Springett, I went to both Swindon Lidl Stores to try and buy an Electronic Digital Vernier Caliper but without any success. However I did Google 'Electronic Vernier Calliper' and out of a huge list of possible suppliers at all kinds of price I settled on a Firm called Henrich Hardware, Unit 7, Glenmore Business Centre, Hapton Industrial Estate, London Road, Devizes, SN10 2EQ, [tel.no. 01380 829975](tel:01380829975) who also sell through Mainlys Hardware located at 12 Margaret St, Devizes, SN10 1RW, tel no 01380 829975. The price is a reasonable £8.84 inc VAT but excluding delivery.

Richard Branscombe

AGM

A quick reminder that our AGM will be held at the November club night, at 7.30pm on the 9th November. Please let me have any items for "Any Other Business" a week before the meeting. The agenda is given on the last back page.

Clive

Date	Demonstration	Show & Tell theme
12 th Oct	Steve Heeley - Jardinière with stand	Something for the kitchen
9 th Nov	AGM & Ron Headon - TBA	A Jardinière
14 th Dec	Christmas do & Clive Alabaster - TBA	Fruity !

ARTICLES

Report on Visit to John Davis Woodturning

George Gansbuehler

Over the weekend of 2nd/3rd of July John Davis held a couple of open days with various trade suppliers and demonstrators present.

I went along on Sunday 3rd July, a nice sunny day and as it happened my mother-in-law's 83rd birthday, so she, along with my wife, came with me. It's about a 50 mile drive to Chilbolton which is just past Andover in Hampshire, so they got a nice scenic drive through Savernake forest and beyond.

Opposite the entrance to the event is a small orchard which is used as an over-flow car park for these occasions, I left my wife and mother-in-law to enjoy a picnic under the shade of the trees.

John's shop is stocked with a variety of tools from Robert Sorby etc.. He also has a selection of adhesives, pen blanks (wood and acrylic), some Jet lathes and a wood store which includes a large stock of Australian burrs.

The demonstrator for Sunday was Simon Hope

Simon first made an ash platter and then attached a contrasting colour hollow wooden dome - so the end product looked like a flying saucer. He then demonstrated finishing the bottom of this item using a vacuum chuck. It was fascinating to see the strength of hold you could get with a bit of vacuum.

Simon sells a vacuum chuck kit for lathes but you need a No.2 taper size in the head stock. He also makes a range of handles and sander units.

The second demonstration he did was for a smallish tulip shaped box made from zebrano. The interesting thing for me was the hollowing technique; essentially, he used a high speed steel bullet nosed milling bit fitted into an 18" (45cm) long steel rod and handle. Once the bit had got itself started the wood was removed very rapidly.

All in all an enjoyable day out.

Fairford Steam Fayre

Richard Branscombe

It all started quite innocently when I offered to help set up the Club marquee at the Fairford Steam Fayre. By the time the team from Hook had arrived at the site Mike Crawshaw had already laid out the marquee roof metal roof structure on the ground and it took only a couple of minutes to clamp it altogether. The next step was to spread the roof canopy right over the top prior to attaching it to the metal frame with the bungee rubber ties. Unfortunately the bag containing them was sitting in splendid isolation on the ground underneath the marquee top. I spotted the bag at the far end and went forward to retrieve it. So that I didn't dirty the knees of my freshly washed jeans I decided to bend over double and walk forward. One of the drawbacks of age is that the human body is not as flexible and able to bend over as far it used to be and consequently my height was very nearly the same as the height of the roof. Which would have been ok except I hadn't given myself enough clearance for the projecting bolts that are used to hold the roof beams together and as a consequence I made a little red irrigated furrow about 1.5" long on the top of my skull. I went down on my knees (getting them dirty after all), felt my head and discovered the bleeding. I gathered up the bag of bungee ties and went out to tell the others of my mishap.

Fortunately the Club's pitch was quite close to the main entrance so I made my way across, stooped over Quassimodo style to stop the blood running down my face, and found Show Steward who told me that a Paramedic would be on site very soon. At that time a van drew up and the driver said he had a First Aid Kit if I needed it - yes I said. He got out the First Aid Kit and take out what you need. It doesn't take much imagination to visualise someone sitting down on the back of the van, trying to open a bandage wrapped in a plastic package whilst trying to stop blood running all down your face - but I managed. The paramedic then arrived, asked all the usual health questions and proceeded to clean up the wound by which time the bleeding had stopped. He determined that, because of my hair, Steri-strips would not work, and needed either 'gluing' but he hadn't been trained in that procedure!! (How many of the Club Members have been on an Instant Gluing course?). I was advised to find either an A & E or MIU (Minor Incident Unit) to get it seen to. To give him his due he did use Google on his mobile to find out that there was an MIU at Cirencester and I was very fortunate that Keith (I don't know his surname) was also helping out that day and knew the way where the wound was treated very quickly. I now have another scar to add to my collection. Please don't let my experience put others off putting up the Club Marquee. I think I might now invest in a 'Hard Hat' or perhaps restrict my help in future as a Project Manager. Apart from that we had a small measure of success and members sold about £150 worth of goods

On Sunday afternoon when the marquee was dismantled, in the record time of about 15 minutes, there was, needless to say, quite a few choruses of 'Mind your head'. Whilst that was the end to my drama I understand that Ian Murray-West arrived back at Hook on the back of a low-loader....

Fairford Steam Fayre

Ian Murray-West

Fairford Steam & Traction Engine Rally was the last of our two day demonstrations this year. Strawberries and Steam in June was quite successful we had a decent pitch and managed to recruit a couple of new members; contrarily West Oxon show in July was abysmal, the exact opposite of the previous year which had been brilliant. We had a lousy pitch away from all the action and lousy weather to go with it and sold practically nothing.

So it was with some trepidation and a not too special weather forecast that we arrived at Fairford. However we had an excellent pitch next to the main craft tent, a burger bar and the funfair at the corner of two main drags. Mike came with his trailer and the tent, I with mine and the lathe, tables etc. Backed up by Richard, Keith and George, who had helped load at the hall.

We set up in record time but Richard cut his head on of the thumb screws, crawling through the half erected tent. A temporary patch wasn't enough and Keith took him to casualty; both to reappear some two hours later. Mike had to leave us as Heather was still immobile following her ankle operation. So I was the main demonstrator, until Richard came back. All in all we had a pretty good day, a lot of interest, another possible new member and modest sales. The others left 5-ish and I stayed open, playing on the lathe completing some demonstration bits. During which I sold a big piece of Richard's and took a useful commission for myself.

As night watchman, I organised my bedding, shut up shop and went in search of drink and food. Two pints of excellent cider and an enormous pig roast roll, lots of crackling and apple sauce and by then not a little tipsy, walking back through the fair I passed the dodgem bumper cars and was tempted to some childish fun. I remembered the last time I played was from an anchored sailing catamaran by a tiny French village at the top of an arm of the Brest estuary when my daughter, who was one of the 8 man crew, was only 17; that's 35 years ago. Where we spent a very drunken evening les Francais vs les Anglais till, having nearly wrecked the place or so it seemed, we were chucked out hours later. Any way at Fairford I had several sessions until very shook up I decided it was time for bed. Sorry, I digress, I'm meant to be talking about wood turning not reminiscing...

Next day, having woken early, I had a sluice under a cold tap, when I deemed it a sufficiently civilised hour to start the noisy brute (*I presume you mean the generator? - Ed*) and made myself a much needed cup of tea. I started turning a very messy chunk that should have gone on the fire but had kept teasing me. Twenty minutes or so later I had a rather unique "bowl", well three quarters of one some how holding together. But it does demonstrate what rubbish can be turned (*you said it - Ed*)! It should have remained unsold but was sold within two minutes of its appearing on the table which only goes to show that you can never tell what will sell, punters often prefer the crude or unique that looks au-naturel rather than perfection which they associate with factory made.

After a gargantuan breakfast at the stall next door, at home when cooking for myself I can be quite a gourmet but on these occasions I can also be a real gourmand, as well. I opened up and was the sole occupant for the morning, quite busy rushing from lathe to sales table as

needed with another possible recruit for the club. At lunch time Ron came to demonstrate. Over the afternoon the others drifted in. We started packing up discretely about ½ an hour before closing time and by 5.15pm it was all done, trailers all hitched up and loaded, with a small profit to the club.

Going out I was tail end Charley with Keith in front to show me the way. Unfortunately we got separated by traffic and pushed by bloody great traction engines. Keith had to keep going. As I left the ground and hit the hard road surface there was an awful scraping sound from behind. The trailer skid was on the road. My hydraulic suspension had gone! Frantic phone call to my breakdown service and unsuccessful attempts to reach the others, I finally got hold of Ian Hooker to warn the others and open the hall to unload their bits. The breakdown guy was spot on his “within the hour” and in no time had the car loaded and the trailer hitched on behind. He was a terrific bloke and couldn’t have been more helpful. On our way I managed to get hold of George to arrange help to unload. We stopped in Purton to drop the car at my regular mechanics yard, unload the necessities into the lorry cab, re-hitch the trailer and off to Hook village hall where George, bless him, was waiting. With the breakdown guy’s help we were unloaded in a few minutes. With the trailer still on behind were soon home. In the event, just one hour later than planned. Relief, a long drink, a hot shower, some clean clothes and a spag bol from the freezer; relaxed I fell asleep!

But Fairford has a jinx on me, last year it was a puncture in the trailer. Next year? Perhaps I’d better not go!

COMMITTEE SPEAK : A GUIDE TO INTERPRETATION

Richard Branscombe

The situation requires delicate handling - we're doing nothing.

An informal meeting was held - we went to the pub.

More research is required - deferred the decision until next month.

A full and frank exchange of views - a punch up!

We're keeping a watchful eye on developments - we're doing nothing.

A unanimous decision was reached - we adjourned for tea.

We'll let members vote on this matter - why should we take all the blame?

We'll ask the members for their suggestions - we haven't got a clue.

Lots of committee work this month - members keep asking awkward questions.

Annual General Meeting of the North Wiltshire Woodturners Association

AGENDA

1930hrs 9th November 2011, Hook Village Hall.

- 1 Welcome.
- 2 Minutes of last AGM - corrections, matters arising.
- 3 Chairman's Report
- 4 Secretary's Report
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Constitution – discussion of possible change(s)
- 7 Election of the Committee
- 8 Agreement of Annual Subscription Fees
- 9 Any Other Business