

Turn Around

THE NEWSLETTER OF



APRIL 2004

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Chairman's Notes

Just a few thoughts on how the club is progressing. We now have a good working site and a committee who have gelled well and are working in many different ways on your behalf.

Please do not lose sight of the fact that it is your club and needs your help, especially on those demos before the public.

Some members have expressed a reluctance in speaking to strangers. May I suggest, with long experience, that after the third time most members will enjoy the opportunity. On the fourth occasion you might well be asking for "Star Billing"! remember you are, after all, speaking to people showing an interest, and it is your subject.

The matter of the Adult Institute is still ongoing, and I will keep you informed of progress.

Secretary's Ramblings

I originally called this "secretary's notes" but after reading it through I decided that ramblings was more suitable.

There is a change to the layout from this edition onwards, only essential pictures will be included in the, such as for a quiz. Instead they will be on a separate sheet for those who are sent a hard copy and in a gallery for those who access it on the web. This is to keep down the file size and make my job easier as far as the layout goes. Also, for those who get a printed copy, attached is a printout from our web site of local suppliers, if there are any other companies you think should be included, please let either Dave Hearn or myself know, preferably in writing.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their good wishes for my recent knee operation, everything went well and six weeks down the line I am back on the lathe again, all be it for only about an hour at a time. I would also like to thank everyone who offered to turn me a new knee or even a whole leg, I am happy to say that it was not needed this time but I will bear them in mind in case it is at some future date.

This newsletter has taken a bit longer than I had hoped to put together because I have found it difficult to sit at the computer for long periods, but better late than never. We have contributions this month from Mike Wickham, Paul Jowett and Claudine and Graham Garner. If you have anything you would like to contribute please let me have it via the normal channels it would be much appreciated.

One of the benefits of sitting around doing nothing is that I have managed to catch up on some of those books I was going to read, this includes some woodturning ones. If I am feeling brave I might do some book reviews over the next few months, mind you they might be a bit biased. One thing I have noticed is the price of these so called specialist books, on average about £15 each, which seems a bit high to me. If you have a look around Smiths or a good bookshop at some of the other specialist books they are cheaper. Maybe woodturning books do not sell as well as other hobbies, or is it that we are just prepared to pay more for them, what do you think?

March Meeting

The meeting was well attended with over 30 people in the barn, this included members and prospective new members, another good turnout. There was a demonstration of bowl turning started by John Butler and finished by Peter Mitchell, I think, if I have got this wrong I apologise and please let me know.

The box competition was successful with five entries in the experienced section and three in the novice. All the boxes in the experienced section were excellent but the winner was Dave Hearne with a beautiful box in Red Palm, it was an exceptional box both in design and execution with a perfectly fitting lid. Second was Barry Weston with a Yew box and third was Brian Benton with a box made from Cherry. In the Novices class it was a clean sweep for, me, not because they were so much better than the competition but because there was no competition. So come on all you novices out there get turning and give me some competition, please.

April Meeting

Again the meeting was well attended with over 30 people in the barn at one stage, including four new members.

Mike Wickham gave a demonstration on gavel turning which was well received, especially as the June competition is for a turned gavel. The members gallery again had some wonderful pieces on display but due to technical problems we do not have any pictures of the meeting. If you had a piece in the gallery please bring it along to the May meeting so we can photograph them, it would be appreciated.

May Meeting

Please remember that the May meeting is on Saturday 8th not the 1st. Stan Knowles will be giving an illustrated talk on segmented turning and Bill & Cilla will be there from Cambridge Blanks. They have told me that they will have an even better selection of blanks than last time so we should be in for a treat, don't forget to bring lots of money with you.

New Members

So far this year we have had 4 new members join the club they are: Philip Johnson, David Smith, Alan Myland and Peter Shough. The committee would like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the club.

New Lathe

Well new to us anyway, our thanks go to Glyn Mould who has lent us a Myford ML8 lathe on extended loan. This will be available for use by members from the May meeting onwards. Thanks go to Dave Hearn for the donation of a motor and John Butler for his work in fitting it etc.

Meetings

Over the last 18 months or so the finishing time for our meetings has become midday, before this they went on till late in the afternoon. Sacrewell have no problems with us being there all day, in fact the opposite they would welcome it as it gives them another attraction. So starting from the May meeting we will be extending the meeting till late afternoon, of course you are free to leave whenever you like. It is easy to say we will extend the meeting but what will we do? We could just stand around drinking tea and coffee and chatting but that could get boring. One possible answer is to extend the demonstration so instead of limiting

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it to a couple of hours it can go on longer if needed. Another possibility is to have another demo in the afternoon, but that depends on you coming forward to volunteer. The third option is that following the demonstration's the three lathes and other equipment will be available for you to use. The idea behind this will be being a sort of workshop, if you are having problems with a bit of wood, need advice on sharpening tools, want to learn how to do something or just need some general help and advice, the equipment is there for you and if you ask a member of the committee we will find someone to help you.

The March meeting was the first where you were asked to wash up your mugs after you had used them, this worked very well but we were still left with 2 or 3 dirty mugs. After the April meeting we were left with about 10 mugs which was a disappointment. Please wash your mugs after you have used them, if we continue to get a number of dirty mugs at the end of each meeting we will have to go to plan B. This is to let people bring their own or to use plastic disposable ones.

After discussions with Sacrewell we have been told that they are happy with the arrangements and we can continue to hold our meetings and store our equipment at the farm. This is great for the club as it gives us a base for the foreseeable future. There are a couple of strings attached. One is that at our meetings we have the doors open to allow any visitors to the farm to come in and have a look at what we are doing, we can see no problem with this and it might even attract new members. The other thing is for us to put on demos throughout the season, this is from about Easter till October, I think. This will be at weekends and during school holidays, weekdays. Several members have already done days up there and all the feedback I have had has been positive, but we need more members to volunteer for this. If you are interested please let a member of the committee know ASAP.

Since our move to Sacrewell one of the problems has been with sound, due to the size of the barn it is sometimes very hard at times to hear what the demonstrator is saying. Members are also standing around in groups and talking which is adding to the problem, not that we want to stop this interchange as it is a vital part of the club. The committee is looking into some sort of sound system to solve this and allow everyone to hear what is going on, in the mean time your help would be appreciated. When a member is demonstrating please keep the noise down, if you want to have a chat you can always go outside the barn or right down the other end. After all when we have an external demonstrator everyone sits quietly and pays attention to what they are doing, shouldn't we show the same courtesy to club members who are demonstrating? Yes, I am as guilty of this as other members but will change my ways.

Sacrewell Farm Demos

As mentioned above one of the things Sacrewell wants from us is to put on turning demo days, Claudine & Graham were the first two members to volunteer to do this on Sunday 8th March. Below is a brief report on their day.

We enjoyed a good day at Sacrewell farm on Sunday, demonstrating wood turning and meeting visitors.

We arrived at 11.00 and set up fairly quickly, got a table from the hen barn to lay our tools and the mini lathe on and improvised a sign to invite the public in the barn. Then it was down to business, Claudine was quite nervous to start with but gradually concentrated on the task in hand: dibbers, honey dippers and finally a goblet in green beech. Graham, when not interrupted, turned a miniature box and some spinning tops which the kids enjoyed taking

away. We made a lot of contact with the public, all very positive as we explained we were quite new to the game and had a lot of learning to do. So if you are undecided please take this opportunity to expand your skills by turning with another member, not necessarily with more experience but who has a different approach. We donated the dibbers to the shop for sale. we did not take any of our turnings but it would be a good idea to show some, as it provides a starting point for discussion and, who knows, you might sell something. The restaurant serves dinners and cakes at good prices.

Claudine & Graham

As with any new venture there were a few teething problems which the committee is looking into, they were:

1. *The storage area needs to be closed to the public as a lot went in for a good nose around.* This is a good idea providing Sacrewell are not using it for display purposes, a couple of tables across the entrance would be an effective barrier.
2. *Dutifully we put the screens in front but very soon we realised that it does a good job of stopping our voices going over but did not protect the little visitors.* This is something we need to be aware of, the problem being that if we lower the screen then shavings etc could fly over the top of it. One answer is to put a line of chairs in front of the screen, this will keep people back and if the little ones climb on them for a better look this should bring them to a height where they are protected by the screens. As for talking to the visitors the only way is to either raise your voice or stop what you are doing and move around the screens. Due to the risk to the public, all be it small, the screens are essential.
3. *We also mentioned that more lighting would be useful.* This is a problem in the barn at the moment along with the power supply. We have a number of extension leads to make life a bit easier along with a halogen light. Unfortunately a couple of fuses and the light blew, we will make sure spares are available in future. Sacrewell are looking into the problem and have plans to rewire the barn.
4. *Another problem was that some tools etc. were locked away in the filing cabinet.* We are currently looking at some form of storage to go under the Record lathe to hold these items. Please see Your Club Needs You later in the newsletter for further details.
5. *Glyn Mould visited us too, and suggested a stable door to encourage visitors to walk through both workshops.* This sounds like a good idea and we will discuss it with Glyn.

One area I am not sure about is selling work direct to the public, I think the agreement is that we will only do it through the shop. I will check on this and let you know later.

Ferry Meadows Show

It is that time of the year again, the Coppice to Craftsman event at ferry meadows takes place on the 16th May. We have some volunteers already, they are Mike Wickham, Brian Rosam, John Taylor, Brian Shortland, John Butler and Jim Craig, if any one else is interested please let me know. We will have a short discussion at the May meeting to sort out what is happening.

Membership

There are some members from last year who have not paid this years subscription, if you are one of them will you please make sure you pay your dues by the May meeting otherwise you will be taken off the mailing list.

Please send any articles etc to the secretary or by email to secretary@villageturners.org.uk or phone 01733 5333010 The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the club.

Wot-U-Got

This months Wot-U-Got comes from Paul Jowett

Item	Used	Rating	Comments
Teknatool NOVA 3000 http://www.teknatool.com/products/Lathes/3000/nova.htm	Regularly	5	An excellent piece of kit, the build quality is great, 8 speeds from 178 to 3000 rpm. Swivel head. 1 drawback, it only comes with a 12" tool rest . Excellent value for money, I would recommend it to anyone
Champion grinder (B&Q)	Regularly	5	Now I have put a white wheel on it , It's improved no end
Electric chainsaw	Now and again	4	A vast improvement on my bowsaw
Nova chucks (2)	Regularly	5	With the extra jaws they are a very versatile addition
Sorby Sandmaster	Regularly	4	Care needs to be taken when oiling, as you get splashes from the rotating tool on your work if your not careful
Pillar drill	Now and again	3	Cheap and cheerful model from Aldi. 1/2 " chuck. Not enough room from chuck to pillar
Gouges and chisels	Some regularly and some not / never	1 - 5	Lots purchased in my early days have had very little use, as they did not produce the finish the brochures promised. We all live and learn
Home made deep hollowing tools	Regularly	5 Probably bias as they are my own production and design	These are made from silver steel with purchased cutters or from 2ft long cold chisels of various diameters
Axminster ADE100 Dust / chip extractor	Regularly	5	At £180 worth every penny, not a lot of dust in my workshop (garage) any more + clean handkerchiefs

Fun quiz

As I look through books or trawl through sites on the Internet I occasionally come across some strange looking objects that have been made on a lathe, below are three such examples.

Do you know what they are called and what they are used for? Answer in the next newsletter.



Your club needs you

Yes it is time for more appeals, as John said at the beginning, it is your club and we need your help and input to keep it going and hopefully growing. I will start with the items you have heard before but we still need your help on.

I still need articles, odd items, interesting lists, letters etc. for the newsletter. I am quite happy to keep producing it once a month but I need help to keep filling the pages. There will come a time when there is very little news and new things happening plus I will run out of things to talk about.

Although we have a pretty full agenda for this year there are still some slots available for you to do a demonstration, especially if we are extending the meetings to all day. The demos can be quite long and take up the full day or just for an hour or two.

Although the meeting starts at 10am members of the committee and others are there from 9am setting everything up, additional help for this is always appreciated. As is help in putting everything away at the end of the day.

As mentioned we still need members to volunteer to do turning demos at Sacrewell on non club days.

In the February newsletter I mentioned that we had asked Robert Sorby to come and give a demo on their tools etc. Unfortunately they do not come to clubs on weekends as they do dealer demos then but they would be willing to come one evening. We have had a word with Sacrewell and they will let us use the barn one evening providing we give them plenty of notice. So the question is do you want to see a demo from Robert Sorby one evening and if so which weekday evening would be best. Please let me know what you think.

One of the problems we have is storing all the tools etc. so that they are secure but still available for members to use when needed. We have a filling cabinet but that will not hold everything and Sacrewell do not like it in the barn as it does not fit in with the age of it. One idea is to put the Record lathe on a cupboard which we would age to fit in with the barn. This would hold all the turning tools etc needed for the demos. Have you got a cupboard that you no longer need that we can adapt or do you know someone who is renewing their kitchen as a double base unit would be ideal as a base to start from. Again please let me know.

We are also looking for a display cabinet, this would be glass fronted at the top and cupboard below. This will be used at Sacrewell to put on a permanent display of turned items.