

A GOOD TURN



THE NEWSLETTER FOR THE VILLAGE TURNERS PETERBOROUGH

Welcome to this your first New Look Newsletter

It is our intention to make this a monthly but to achieve this we the committee, and I, The Editor, need your input to make it work. It is planned to keep you up to date on what happened at committee meetings, give you ideas, and see what others both in the club and outside are doing.

CLUB PROFILE

The club has gone through extensive changes in the last three years, from leaving Robins garage and trying Ferry Meadows (which was a truly difficult venue, due to the logistics of taking everything in and then removing afterwards). The decision was taken that we had to find some suitable location elsewhere. Many thanks have to be given to Robin Buckley, for the use of his facilities over the years and for his help in giving the club a great start.

The stone barn at Sacrewell Farm was our first true home, being there for almost a year, not ideal but somewhere we could meet and have everything stored within easy reach. The difficulty arose when we had to move down the farm to their workshop and live through the winter months with the chickens. This was a very cold under cover shed with little protection from the elements but we persevered.

We were then approached by Sacrewell to see if we were interested in moving to the old cowshed, (our present place of residence). We immediately saw the potential and thanks to work put in by willing volunteers we now have the clubhouse/workshop you see today

From the 20 members who had been at the garage, this has now grown and today we have just over 50 members.

The clubhouse boasts 6 lathes, dust extraction facilities, a bandsaw, grinder and various tools etc. Audio (our thanks to Arc) and visual equipment have been installed to give all the opportunity to both see and hear everything that is going on during demonstrations. This has to be some of the best facilities available to any club which does not have the benefit of an outside sponsor.

What next?

This is where you the members come in, I need your help to make this Newsletter work, I, Paul Jowett have offered to be your Editor, whilst I will work to bring you news its up to you to give some of your time to put together things you do on your own lathes, ideas you have that may be of benefit to others, anything you have to offer (which is publishable). Have you anything you wish to sell? anything you want? a photo will help .

Over to you; we as a club who can convert a cowshed into what we have today can surely make a great newsletter between us, **come on HELP**

You could give a personal profile of yourself, your workshop; things you make or places you have visited which may be of help to others.

Have you had good service from a company? Offer praise or the opposite

Here's my starter

My workshop – Paul Jowett



My workshop takes up the entire area of my garage, there are two lathes, a Nova 3000 and an Axminster M330. I have a SIP 14ins bandsaw, Axminster dust extraction, a cheap grinder fitted with ruby wheels, a pillar drill, microwave oven and a 10ins table saw and a various mix of heating devices.

I have an electric chain saw for reducing logs to a size which I can both carry and handle

The Nova is a brilliant lathe as far as I am concerned; it does everything I ask of it. It has handled far larger timber than I thought it would and given excellent results. The Axminster was purchased for taking to do demos and for producing small items such as pens, lightpulls etc. The bandsaw has replaced the table saw which now sees little use. The picture shows one corner, the rest is not for public viewing as I feel H&S let me down badly (I know its in there but exactly where is another matter).

When I take early retirement at the end of the month (Jan) this will be one of the projects I will have to prioritise.

My Log store at the moment takes up most of the wife's Patio, the garden shed a large area of the garden in which she grows plants and part of the conservatory.

The garage is attached to the house, via the conservatory. This means that I have a problem with dust getting into the house; this has to be sorted out soon by the installation of an extractor fan into the wall above the lathe.

A lot of my turning is wet or green timber which is obtained from local sources, tree surgeons and garden maintenance people. The local Parish Council also keep throwing timber over the gate, its surprising what you find.

I keep some of the timber immersed in tanks of water to avoid it drying out and thus splitting. All the wood (logs) stored outside is sealed with PVA glue, this is applied as soon as possible following delivery. Some of my timber is now dry enough to turn after being stored for 5 to 6 years and it is interesting to see the livestock that has become fond of the environment I have supplied them with. I've come across frogs and newts, (which were of interest to a local council official following a planning application to build in the field behind our house) mice and the odd hedgehog. At one time we had the company of a robin and her family this caused some interest at the time as we found ourselves talking to her, asking if it was ok to go into the covered area to retrieve plants and wood.

As I said earlier I am now about to embark on a new career following redundancy, turning wood to supply an income of sorts. Professionals who I've spoken to advise against this, why? they seem to be happy doing what they do. Their response is generally there's no money in it lad, can't understand why you want to do it.

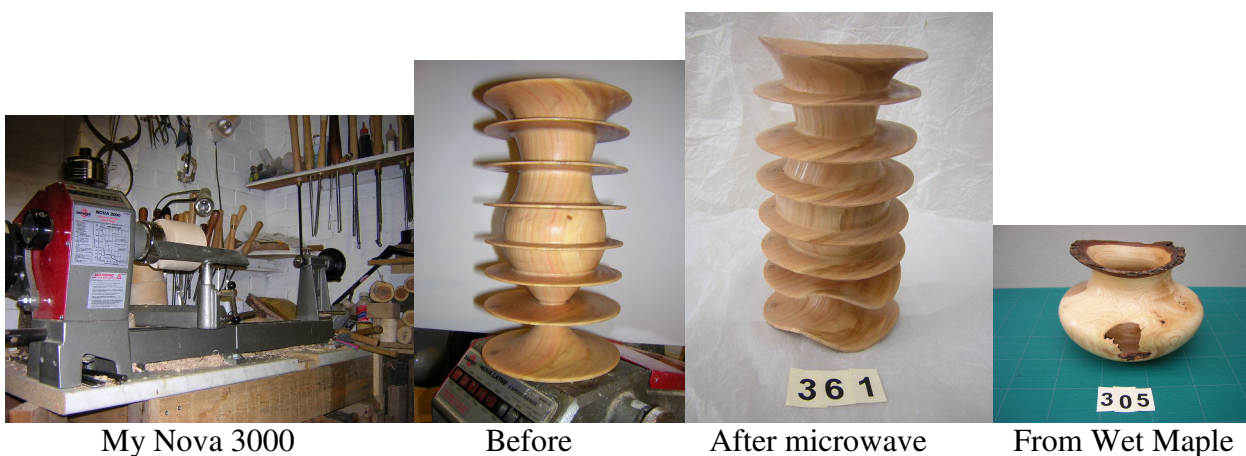
I'll keep you posted on how this works out,

Margaret is very tolerant of my hobby/living, both of us have crafts which take a lot of space and make a lot of associated mess Robin Storey, Lincolnshire Woodturning Supplies knows that if I turn up on my own he is not going to sell much but if the wife is there he rubs his hands together in the knowledge that he is going to have a good day (selling wood).

I have been turning for 7 years now and have work in galleries in Falmouth, Cornwall, Thurso in the far north of Scotland and in Whittlesey, Cambs. I now need some in Wales and I have covered the four corners of the U.K.

I owe a lot of my knowledge to members of the club, perseverance, patience and to Melvyn Firmager who taught me to think outside the box and to try the seemingly impossible. Two weeks in his company have given me the confidence to have a go, try the wood you were going to burn, turn it wet and dry it in the Microwave. If it works great, if not, keep your mouth shut and add it to your designer firewood box.

In the past I have had excellent service from Turners Retreat, Axminster Tools, Lincolnshire Woodturning Supplies and more locally Toolfix and would recommend them all.



Who's next? Come on don't be shy if I can manage to write a page about myself it should be easy for you lot, hearing what you have to say at club meetings