

# Forest of Bere Woodturners Association



Summer 2004 Edition

Quarterly Magazine

**NOW WITH 24 PAGES**

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Summer Quarter

June 2004

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## **Editorial**

### **Another three months have passed.**

It does not seem possible that it's time for another magazine. Is time passing quicker? Or am I getting older? They do say that time passes quicker when you get old, so it must be the latter.



I decided to upgrade my computer, to make editing the magazine easier. As I had been getting messages about my hard drive being out of memory space, I built a new computer with 120gigabytes HD and 512megabytes RAM. And the latest graphics cards etc. and I also had it put onto the "Broadband" as well..(Impressed are you?) Baffled more like. Well I thought it was good until the mindless thing decided to automatically install all the updates that windows seems to need. Then all of a sudden "blank screen", followed by a blue screen with oodles of writing about unrecoverable errors and shutting down to protect itself, all of which flashed on and off so fast I could hardly read it. What I don't understand is, if the thing new that something it downloaded was wrong, WHY THE HELL DID IT AUTOMATICALLY DOWNLOAD IT IN THE FIRST PLACE. Any way I got it all sorted out by using the restore system in the XP package. The moral of this is that if you are not in control of something DON'T TRUST IT. This is of course true in wood turning isn't it, if you are using a tool and it does not seem to be doing what you were expecting, stop and find out why before it bites you.

**Please take note of the new email address for me below.**

**Don't forget to visit the website ["forestofberewoodturners.org.uk"](http://forestofberewoodturners.org.uk)**

**Please keep sending in as much as you can for the mag. Preferably in A5 page format 9 or 10 point, with a 1cm margine all around, on a floppy, CD or Email me direct.**

Derek Blake, - *Editor.*

**"NEW" Email To [derek.blake57@ntlworld.com](mailto:derek.blake57@ntlworld.com)**

## ***Message from the Chairman***



I had almost forgotten my report this quarter as life has been a bit hectic domestically, so much seems to have happened recently, but you don't want to be bored with that.

Some news reached me recently which leaves us in a slightly desperate situation.

Ken White does not wish to carry on after the next A.G.M. as Vice Chairman, and I respect him for his decision, and for letting me know at this stage. Because of that, a replacement will be required from September. Next years' programme should be almost complete by then, if not fully, so any volunteer would not be thrown in at the deep end. One fact remains providing I am accepted for another year, that volunteer is the likely candidate for the Chairman in September 2005. I know it might be a challenge for anyone, it was for me, but it is very rewarding. Don't be shy, have a go, we need fresh ideas.

The usual gang of five made their usual trip to Ripon for Symposium 2004; it was nice to see Bernie Giles join our company. The organisers were very pleased with the support to the weekend, and are already planning for 2005. We were treated to some very good demonstrating, which included Binh Pho with his airbrush technique colour on turning, and piercing and texturing on thin-walled vessels, Secondly we had Stuart Batty, explaining grinding & sharpening, the difference between bowl & spindle turning, also turning deep thin bowls using exotics. His turning and explanation was top class. Next we had Jacques Vessery, from U.S.A., with his carving on turned surfaces, then enhancing with colour. Some of his work had been shown in popular Woodturning Magazines. Finally, there was Hans Weissflog, from Germany, he demonstrated a small box with a pierced-through lid, then later turned a sphere, without measuring, making a lid insert, and completing as a box. This, added to his sense of humour, rounded off the week – end. As usual, the Leisure Centre did us proud with the meals, tea & coffee, and bar if you wanted. I am looking forward to next year already.

Since the last report, we have been entertained by three first class turners, in March we had Gregory Moreton with his monkey puzzle bowl, a sturdy lathe required here, then in April, our masterclass visitor was Gary Rance, who managed 10 projects in his day with us, spiced with some good humour. Our latest visitor, in May, was Yorkshireman Tony Wilson, who as well as his excellent demonstrating, enjoyed some good banter with the club members. Those who missed this last one missed a good evening.

A reminder for everyone, there is no Bar-b-cue this year, instead, we have Ray Jones, a woodturner from Knotty Ash he might also be a Diddyman.

Many thanks to all in the club who help on club evenings and Masterclasses, it really is appreciated.

For those holidaying before September, have a good one

**John Webb**

**Chairman**

**John's RIPON SYMPOSIUM Photo's**



**Binh Pho Airbrush Technique**



**Binh Pho's galley**



**Binh Pho's Pierced work**



**Jacques Vessery preparing vessel prior to carving**



**Jacques Vessery's Carved Vessel**



**Examples of Jacques work**



Examples of Jacques carved work



Jacques carving on small pot



Hans Weissflog, Pierced Turning

Photo's By John Webb.

**Some of April's  
competition entries**



**May Gallery**



Photo's by Ray Mathew

**April Masterclass  
with Gary Rance**

Once again the club has surpassed its self in the booking Mr Gary Rance for a full day's master class session. This is just one of the benefits of belonging to a well-run club.

By the time I had arrived the cameras and monitors were working, the club lathe delivered and set up with 30 club members enjoying the tea and biscuits that always starts these proceedings. Mr Gary Rance our demonstrator for the day was already set up and ready to go, Ken White briefly introduced Gary and we where into another professional demonstration.

Gary spent an interesting few minutes telling us how he became a wood turner. He then started with a demonstration on Pummels, beads and coves, all of which was to be the basis of the day's demonstration. Now before I go on any further I feel I must share with you a bit of the history behind the man. Gary has done a bit of turning in his time, when I say a bit of turning I mean things like 2,500 rings at a time and years making Pepper pots all as an employee. So by the time he started on his own he was very skilled.

So to get back to the demo, as you can expect he was very quick at producing the finished article. And as with everything he demonstrated his attention to detail was faultless, he paid particular attention to the fact that we had two cameras feeding two television monitors and checked them all the while to make sure we could see and more importantly understand what he was doing. Pummels, beads and coves may seem boring but I learnt some basic skills that I'm sure will give us novices the confidence to produce these shapes without getting a dig in. Posture, Tool rest, Skew chisel Rouging gouge and Lathe height will be on all our minds next time we are in the workshop.

The next item was an idiot stick; this was a very entertaining piece that got us all going. He went to a lot of trouble giving us details like "it must be a 45.5 degree angle" and so on. One was passed around while he showed us how to make it; we had all had a go by the time he'd finished polishing the finished stick. Unfortunately that's as far as I'm prepared to go with that item other than to say both the stick making and the operation was very entertaining. If you are intrigued by this and need to know more you will need to book Gary for a demonstration and find out. (See our links list)



*The Completed Idiot Stick*

A spinning top was next on the agenda. The top was made from a solid piece of Corian with an Ebony post through the centre, as you can expect it spun very well.



*The Spinning Top*

Gary then proceeded to make a Box. It was decorated with a corian onlay. Corian is an advanced composite of natural minerals and pure acrylic polymer mainly used for Kitchen Worktops, it comes in a wide variety of colours. And an on lay is where a solid piece of material with a hole in it is glued in a pre formed recess. It is then turned as part of the original piece. I very much liked the shape and grain of the finished box.



*The Corian Onlay Box*

A 3" diameter ring was turned next, this showed us various methods of holding items to expose all sides to turn a finish, so tooling and jigs in this demo. The Ring was part of another puzzle which Gary showed us how to make.



*The 3" Ring completed*

Following on a very impressive letter opener handle was turned from a piece of Ebony to show us how to hold a delicate piece of wood between centres. The finish was good and you could just see the grain through the polish which gave it character.



*The Ebony Letter Opener Handle*



Now it has to be said that this next item had to be the most impressive part of the day. Gary turned a 150mm high long stemmed goblet. The stem was little over 2mm diameter at the bottom and tapered to just under 2mm at the top. As you can appreciate this was a most delicate item and Gary turned this piece with absolute confidence. In order to show us the removal of the stem material he had four members at a time come out and stand in front of the lathe to see up close exactly how its done. It was turned and polished to a very high standard. The timber used was Amazique, and as promised I've researched this and found it to be from West Africa, it is golden brown and often figured, its used for veneer, flooring and furniture.



*The Long Stemmed Goblet*

A Pomander Po purée was next on the list, this had three parts, the top and base was Laburnum with the body was Bankshia nut, a natural choice for the hollow part as it has holes around it where the seeds form. It seemed so easy to make despite all the fancy coves, and beads etc.

All the pieces fitted together perfectly and once threaded together it received a coat of polish. This was passed around the room and was admired by all.



*The Finished Pomanda*

A little beehive box stood on the top of the lathe, Gary made a copy of this using a beading tool specially designed by him. After turning the two parts he fitted them together and using the bead tool he gave it that ribbed look. The effect was very dramatic and realistic. The original had a silver bee on it, which finished it of perfectly.



*The Beehive Box*

With 15 minutes or so to go Gary decided to make a Tippy Top.



*The Tippy Top*

This is a specially designed spinning top that once it's spun it flips over and spins on its other end, again with little effort it was turned and with three different permanent marker pens it was coloured as with children's toys. Now this is where it goes to pieces a bit, you can picture the scene cant you, grown men, some on their knees, trying to catch this spinning top that was rushing around in between all the chair legs. Time and time again of it would go in and out of the chair legs eluding all that tried to catch it. They tried laying a folded table on the floor but it just kept spinning off it. Finally Gary spun it upside down and the crowd dispersed. It was decided that with slight adjustment and better tabletops it would work perfectly. And on that note the demonstration was over.

Now I have deliberately left out the detail/measurements of the items turned today,

I think if I included such information it would detract from giving a good record of the demonstration we all witnessed. I think Gary Rance presented us with a well-balanced exhibition of woodturning. His young son Luke very accurately drew diagrams on a Nobo board to explain detail. There was a good display of finished items and during the day various items were passed around, this included another puzzle and two folders showing magazine articles and detailed drawings. We had 10 items turned for us today and every one was to a very high standard and ready for selling. This did not detract from the purpose of the visit that was to demonstrate the art of woodturning. I think we were all impressed by the skill acquired from all those early years of repetition work Every effort was made to ensure we understood every aspect of the work along with the usual questions and answers as he turned.

A big thank you for the usual behind the scenes team, we had the usual high standard lunch provided for us along with the club lathe transport, tea and biscuits, camera's, television monitors, setting up and cleaning up and of coarse to invite Mr Gary Rance. And there goes another Master Class.

**Boots, April 2004**

## FOB Demonstrate at Port Solent

After a very long absence, Forest of Bere Woodturners were again representing the club at the Port Solent Activities Centre. The weekend of 20/21 March, saw four of the FOB woodturners displaying their turning skills to the delight of a large number of visitors.



**Pete Withers, Andrew Miller, Graham Dubber & Don Smith**

This was only the second time that club members have been in Port Solent since the Activities Centre was closed for nearly 2 years due to building works. It will be lost again later this year when the area is redeveloped.

It is a great opportunity to sell some items to make a profit from a very enjoyable hobby. If you don't sell (or give away) some of the things you turn, where do you put them all? It also allows you to buy more wood (to make even more things) and helps pay for that extra tool you might take a fancy to.

You do have to remember though that you are demonstrating to 'Joe Public' and therefore need insurance, protective shielding for your lathe, electrical safety test certificates for all your electrical equipment and a very keen sense of humour, as 'Joe Public' isn't always nice!

The Easter weekend 11th/12th April was another opportunity for FOB members to attend Port Solent. We were there on

the Sunday and Monday and saw another good turnout of visitors.



**Ken White, Graham Dubber, Andrew Miller & Don Smith**

This was another good weekend with the usual camaraderie and good-humoured wit and repartee between the turners. The days seemed to fly by so it must have been good.

Needless to say Mrs 'D' did us proud by being the lunchtime fish and chip delivery service, thank goodness Mother Kelly's is nearby. For the local oldies amongst you, that's what used to be Bert's Café.

We were graced by the presence of the Chairman on Sunday, who was either enthralled by Don's turning skills or giving him some advice.



**John Webb (Chairman) & Don Smith**

I look forward to our next visit, some time in June, why don't you come along to see us next time? **Graham Dubber**

## **WHO IS WILLIAM THORNE?**

William affectionately known as Bill first came to our attention as the owner of W.J.T.Crafts, and for many years supported our club. He came as a guest speaker giving talks on preparing wood from cutting down the tree to putting it on the shelf to sell, and on another occasion Bill came along and demonstrated Pen making and Candy Twists always with his own brand of humour.

Over the past few years he presented the club with Gift Vouchers, which were presented to the three group winners accumulating the highest score at the end of each year from the monthly competitions, and for this we thank him very much.

Well Bill has now retired and joined the ranks of the OLD AGE PENSIONERS, Golf is one of his passions and guess what? Woodturning is also up there and it is with this in mind that he feels that our club is the one to join. Bill has always said that we were one of the few clubs that supported him whilst in business and that he would like to return that support.

Bill is full of enthusiasm and wishes to pass on his knowledge and skills as a Woodturner to members of our club, which was demonstrated by him at our April meeting.

Bill's affection for all things to do with Woodturning would certainly rub off on our members and we should welcome him as a Guest member until the A.G.M. in September. He has already said that he would be willing to be one of our demonstrators at our next "Turn In", in August.

**Don Smith**

## **EDITORS NOTE**

*Due to the amount of good will that Bill Thorne has generated within our club, I have also received another tribute from one of our members.*

*I make no apology for following Don's tribute with one by Graham Dubber*

## **Goodbye Bill**

For all the time I've been turning Bill Thorne has been there for me. Like many other turners before me, he provided me with the help and advice I needed to start up. For that I will be always grateful.



**Bill Thorne, now retired**

In the years I've know Bill, trading as W J T Crafts in Alresford, he's always been cheerful, helpful and if he knew you well enough, bloody rude! It was however, the kind of rudeness that you couldn't take offence at, if he called you a 'prat' it's because you were being one. I'm going to miss him! I'll miss Sheila too, Bill's wife, partner, boss and all round lovely lady.

The joy of writing this article is that although we're all saying goodbye to Bill, he's only retired. It cheats us all out of a good wake but I'm happy to wait a long, long time for that.

He deserves a long and happy retirement in the wilds of the Witterings. He says he's going to be doing what he loves best, as well as

turning to his hearts content. He plans to have 'open weekends' when his studio will open to the public. I can't wait to get over there to 'extract the Michael', it must be my turn!

On a serious note, it does leave a big void in the turning world, where else will we get the choice of timber, tools, equipment and all the other woodturning accessories without a day trip to Yandles or somewhere equally far away. The Craft Supplies stuff can be bought on mail order, Burrs and Australian exotic woods can be bought if you fancy a trip to Andover, but quite where all the rest of the timber will come from, we'll have to wait and see.

However we all get round it, you can't blame Bill for retiring, he deserves it. I'm sure the whole club would join me in saying "Hope it's a long and happy one Bill, you geriatric old bugger!".

**Graham Dubber**

## **Editors Note**

Since Graham Submitted this article for print, Bill has attended our club to do a guest appearance. At this visit Bill said that he was considering becoming a member of our club.

If you do Bill you will be very very welcome.

**Derek Blake Editor**

## ***Spiral Turning by Micheal Denton***

Following the very successful presentation some months ago by Don Smith and Ken White on the principles of spiral turning, I came across an article in an old woodwork magazine which I thought would be most helpful to those of us who fancied having a go themselves. I don't consider this piece to be plagiarism as the article in question was in fact taken from a book called Woodturners Handybook published in 1887. (Yes that's right 1887.) By a gentleman called Paul Hasluck. However it seemed to me to be a lot less time consuming than the proscribed way of marking out the work piece and then joining up all the dots to provide the desired helix. With this tool the angle of approach can be infinitely variable and is not subject to shaky hands and wobbly lines.

There are no set plans for its construction; it's the principle that is the important consideration.

You don't need to use a chisel, you could use an old file sharpened up or stiff knife blade. It doesn't have to be held by a screw, you could wedge it. But for your guidance I submit the following as a starting point:- The overhang of the cutting edge from the face of the tool holder (Dim. "A") should be as small as convenient and the joint of chisel and the tool holder should be tight enough to prevent the chisel from moving. If like mine your lathe doesn't have a suitable tool rest, make a small table support to fit into the tool post.

Procedure:-

Determine the angle to which you require to cut your spiral. Lock the marking tool in position. Position the tool holder on the tool rest gently pressing the marking tool against the work piece and simultaneously turn the work piece by hand allowing the tool to slide along the toolrest.

It's worth practicing on scrap until you feel proficient.

**You may find the following drawing a helpful starting point.**

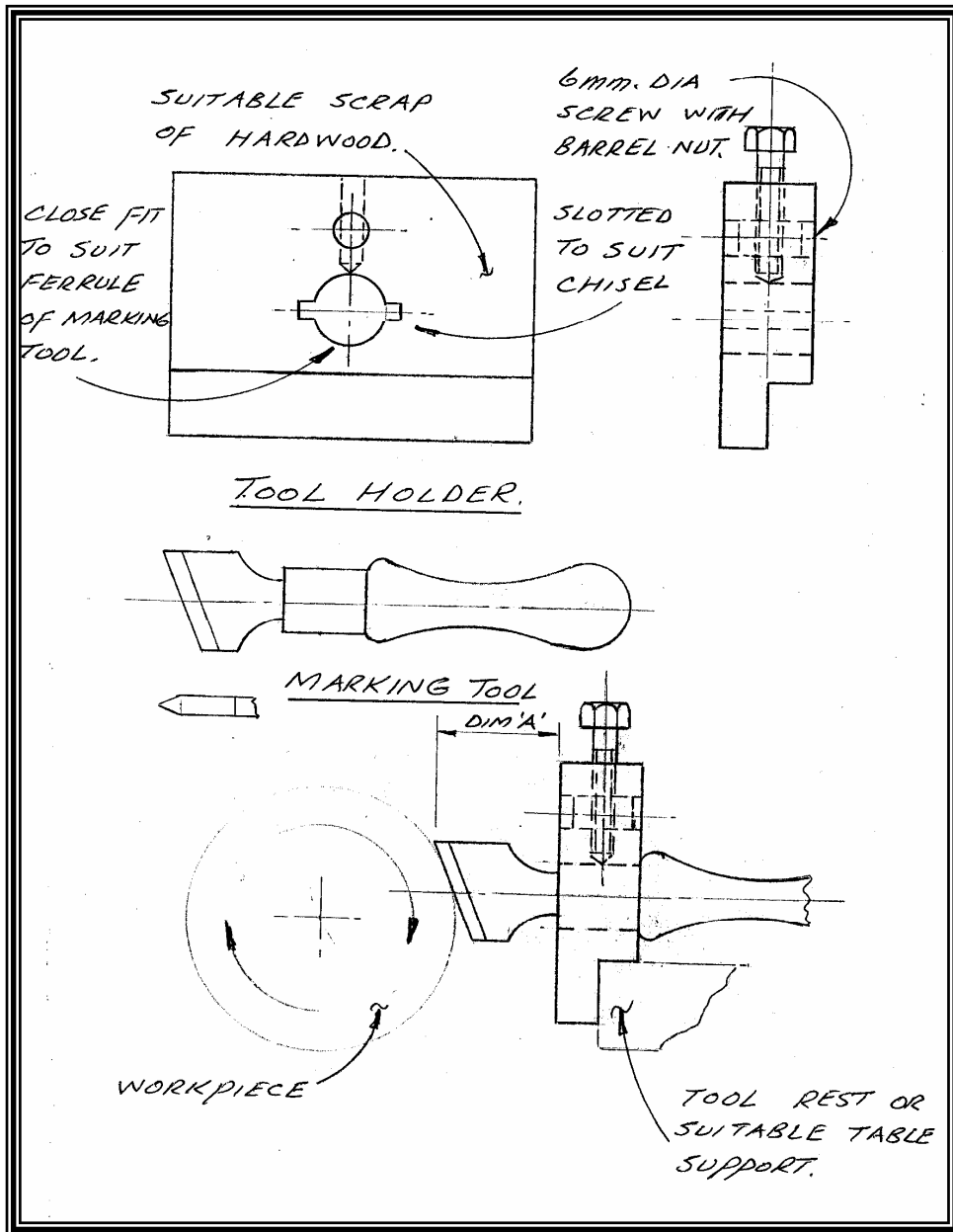
**Michael Denton.**

***Visit the club Web Site to read more articles.***

Please visit the website and if you would like to contribute, submit your copy to Boots, either at the club or you can email him, At [mickgiles2001@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mickgiles2001@yahoo.co.uk)

He will be only too pleased to take your article to the web. ***Ed.***

Mike Dentons Spiral Turning Jig



## **Monkey Business. (Turning Monkey - Puzzle Tree Bowls) Gregory Moreton Evening 17/03/04**

Well this was going to be some evening, if the size of the wood blank was anything to go by. Gregory mounted a log of monkey-puzzle wood about 18" dia. & 15" long between centres on his VicMark lathe. He explained as he adjusted the log for balance, that the log was not soaking wet but was not dry either. He went on to say that this wood does not split too much on drying out.



**The Huge Blank Mounted on Greg's Lathe**

With much trepidation on the part of the front row Gregory started up the lathe. Luckily he had set the speed before hand to about 18 rpm. He then started to reduce the base at the headstock end to a rough bell shape, using a normal bowl gouge (albeit a large one), raising the speed to 180 rpm. as he did so. Gregory then turned his attention to the tailstock end to try to even out the unbalance and to allow him to raise the speed. Because Gregory uses the tailstock as support during nearly the entire turning, he hollows out the middle of the bowl leaving a central spigot, about 2" dia. Returning to the headstock end again increasing the speed, Gregory formed the spigot for his chuck, to be able to give a better support during the hollowing process.

After fitting the chuck, Gregory remounted the work piece bringing the tailstock up again for support. He then formed the base before turning his attention to the shape of the outside.



**Greg taking the middle out**

With a few deft passes of his gouge Gregory finished the outside, and explained that he uses "Orange Oil" as a lubricant when sanding the finished project, as it does not dry as it gets warm like other oils, and also acts as a dust inhibitor. Tea/Coffee interval at this point.

After the break, Gregory told us that he was not going to take up too much time finishing this bowl; instead he was going to use one, which he had half turned previously. He said that he normally hollows out to give a wall thickness of about 4mm. Gregory then passed around the part-finished work piece for us to scrutinise.

A very large face plate was at this point fitted to the chuck, and the previously turned bowl centred on it, again the tailstock being brought up for support at the foot end. Final polishing is normally done using Danish Oil, after using 320 grit sandpaper.

Gregory then removed the chucking spigot. Because this tree wood always has a hole in the heart of it, Gregory turned a small piece of "Grass tree root" which he explained does not have a pronounced grain structure, to plug the hole.

Gregory used a sanding pad in a Jacob's chuck held in the headstock, to free hand sand the base removing all traces of the chucking spigot as well as the hole.





**The Bowl Reversed on face plate**

He went on to explain that he always sign's his work at this point using a "Gel Pen" on the bottom before finishing with 2 or 3 coats of Danish oil. The finished bowl was then passed around the appreciative audience, who thanked him in the usual manner by clapping thunderously.

The evening concluded with the competition results, followed by the raffle organised for the last time by Arthur Ellis, who is going into hospital very soon for an operation.

**We all wish Arthur all the best for a very speedy recovery.**      **Derek Blake**

**Photos by Ray Mathew**



**Part of Greg's Gallery of work**



**The remainder of Greg's Gallery**

**Comment on Greg. Moreton's Demo by Micheal Denton**

On the 17<sup>th</sup>.March, whilst observing Greg delivering his talk/demonstration on turning large bowls from monkey puzzle tree sections, I found myself ruminating on what had happened to me not so long ago.

The reason for this reverie was the way that Greg set about removing the spigot from the base of his turned item. i.e. holding the bowl with one hand and proceeding to remove the spigot by cutting horizontally towards it with a hard point tenon saw. This is most dangerous, is not to be recommended and goes against the most basic of safety rules:-

Don't cut towards yourself and keep your hands behind the cutting edge. I probably wouldn't have given too much thought about it during the demonstration but recently I retrieved from Portsmouth harbour a section of tree which had some small branch sprigs that needed to be removed. Yes you've guessed it, the log was placed on my Workmate, held with left hand and sprigs were duly removed with a hard point saw. Saw completes the cut, carries on and tries to remove my thumb, resulting in an unscheduled visit to Haslar Hospital. Like most of us I know about safety rules and like most of us I can also suffer from complacency.

**Remember you know it makes sense, don't risk it!**

**Michael Denton.**

## ***Review of a “Book or Video” from the club library***

FUN AT THE LATHE by R C BELL, This is no 52 in the clubs list of books, and is currently rated joint 4th place of books hired by our members. It provides a good mixture of spindle, face and bowl work across the 30 projects shown. There is plenty for both the novice and the experienced turner with the added benefit that because all the projects are games they need not be left collecting dust on the shelf or homeless once they are finished. Any of the projects would make a nice present as the games are unusually interesting. There is a very informative history and a set of rules with each individual project. It is a colourful book giving the simplest of task in the beginning of the book working on to the more complex. Basic geometry helps create the divisions that are either painted or carved using a woodcarver's V tool; traced paper patterns can create any shape you need. A good mixture of techniques and skills are required but don't be put off by that, there are a good variety of projects that will as I've already said, suit the novice and the experienced turner. I'm sure this book will expand every ones skills in some way whether it is in woodturning, woodcarving, geometry, painting, or just playing the finished game. Our clubs Christmas competition was a toy, I chose to make the cup and ball that is from Japan; I was fortunate enough to have an original brought especially for me from Japan. It is almost identical to one of the six examples shown in the book. For those of you who are interested this gentleman has written several books on the history of board and dice games. At the back of the book you will find a very extensive list of other books, video's and magazines covering every aspect of woodturning and associated crafts. The list of publications on games looks interesting; one in particular has caught my eye. "Board and table games from many civilisations" I will certainly be getting this out of the library again. Reviewed by Boots 04/02/04\_

**Thank you Boots.**

**If Would be nice to make this a regular feature in the magazine. ,If you have enjoyed one of our library items, please put it in writing for others to share.**

**Just as Boots did with this one.**



***Masterclass with Stuart Mortimer***

***Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> 2004***

***On Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup> 2004 The “Stuart Mortimer” Masterclass will be held at Stuarts own workshop at Gratley near Andover.***

***Tickets will be available from “Dave Hayward” at a cost of £17.50p which includes a pub lunch.***

***Seats are limited so book early for this very good day out.***

## **The Last Of A Dying Breed**

It's sad to say but the ironmongers of the past are few and far between. I remember back in 1958 when my Mum was working in small Country village ironmongers in Billingshurst Sussex. I used to love visiting the shop so I could look through all the little drawers of nuts and bolts, nails, screws and stuff. It was an absolute Aladdin's cave of useful bits and pieces for farmers and householders alike. Every available space was used to display the goods to catch the eye of the potential purchaser. Their wares were hanging from the millions of hooks in the ceiling. There was so much on display it was difficult taking it all in, you could look through row after row of items and on returning to the same place you would see even more bits and pieces jammed in between the stock.

After I left school I had some time before my apprenticeship started and I got a job working in a hardware shop called Baileys in Waterlooville Portsmouth. It was a subsidiary of the massive Bailey & Whites from Portsmouth who were based right on the dockside more or less where the ferry port is today.

It was the best job in the world, all those shelves to go through and this time not getting told off for opening boxes to look inside. This was a perfect example of how a hardware shop should be. All that stuff to put out the front every morning and desperately trying to remember where it all went so you didn't have stuff left over with nowhere to put it. If I remember correctly Len Scott from Clanfield had an account there. I was earning £3-12-6d a week. I remember spending hours going through the tool catalogue over and over again just to look, especially at the Stanley No 50 combination plane. In a month or so I'd saved enough money to purchase one and took great delight in ordering it, it cost me 111 shillings and six pence or £5-11-6d old money of course. I still have that plane 44 years later in the original box in mint condition, the box has suffered a little though.

Getting back to the plot again. These shops were something special, today's modern outlets have loads of stuff, but they don't have character, they don't have that personal thing that makes you feel that somebody is really interested in your project and knows their stuff, that nothing is too much trouble and they quite often have that little something you don't see anywhere else.

Established in 1961 Robert Bish or Bob Bish as we locals all call them who are in Fratton Road Portsmouth are as the heading suggests "The last of a dying breed". The little shop is exactly how an ironmongers shop should be, it is stacked from floor to ceiling with everything you can imagine and best of all are the two brothers Bob and Roger. I don't think there is a subject in the trade that they don't know about and if they haven't got it they will order it. My last purchase was a bit special, I needed something to do a particular job, not only were they familiar with the subject but took great delight in taking the item from the box and demonstrating it's capabilities. I took home the said item along with a little extra bit of knowledge that helped me with my project. I had looked around but nobody took as much interest or looked after me like these guys. It's sad to say these little shops are disappearing slowly. We are as individuals knowledgeable to a certain degree but are limited in the subjects and who we can help. The local DIY shop though is a central point that is always there and can cover a vast range of subjects with up to date information for everybody who comes through the door. It will be a sad day when they are gone.

**Boots**

## A FORTUNATE DISCOVERY

Having just completed an excellent holiday of 17 days encompassing the North and South islands of New Zealand and Sydney Australia, I decided to share the following experience with other Woodturners.

Whilst staying in Rotorua North Island, a very up market car boot sale appeared in the parkland in front of our hotel. Luckily, having a couple of hours to spare and accompanied by my good wife, who likes to shop, we strolled across to see what was on display. We came across a table laden with some very fine turned pieces using local wood being exhibited for sale by a Peter Symonds. I was very impressed, my wife would have liked to buy the piece with the ball carved into it, unfortunately we had to think about luggage weight. It was priced at \$195 (£86.00). I think the photo gives some idea of the quality. Regrettably, all we brought away with us was some photo's of his work, We thanked him and continued the tour.

In a large building overlooking the park we stumbled upon Bob Collins, another wood-turner displaying his wares, this consisted of many bowls and platters in a variety of woods. He was very [enthusiastic about his work and](#) I ended up purchasing a little bowl small enough to fit in our luggage. This bowl came with a written description which Bob thought would make an interesting display on a club night or as an article.

**David Jenkins**



**This is what was written on the card.**

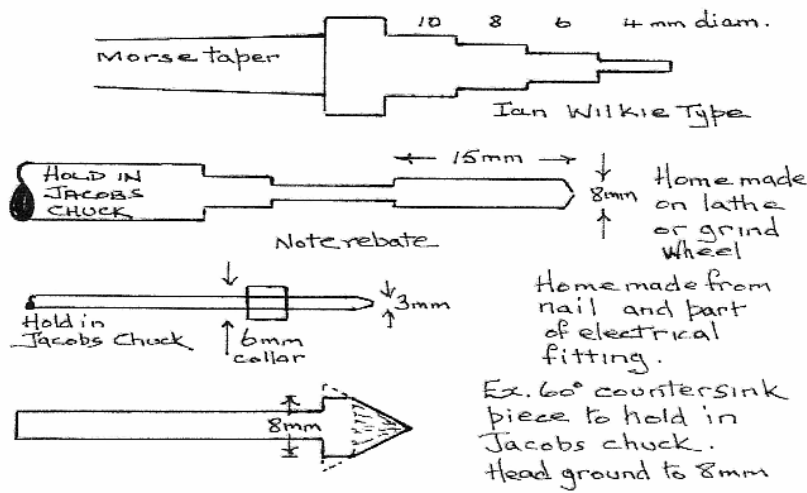
This piece has been handcrafted from New Zealand "Swamp" Kauri, obtained from the Whitianga locale of Coromandel Peninsula. Back in the mist of time, a forest giant, itself maybe a thousand years of age fell in a primeval swamp to be completely submerged. So it was perfectly hidden and preserved by natural process. Discovered and recovered in recent times, this wood has been subjected to the science of carbon dating, so estimated to be thirty thousand years old. The history and mystery of this ancient wood, along with its scarcity and perfectly preserved beauty of texture, makes this piece a collectors item, truly buried treasure.

## Light Pull Drives Prevarication. by john Hilton

These seem to come in various sizes and shapes but those sold commercially seem generally to be on the principle of the counterbore centres. In fact if it was the right size the counterbore centre from a long hole boring kit would be a possibility although I would not be keen on the four prong drive that is part of it. With a suitable washer slipped over the end this objection would be overcome (use a plastic washer to save damaging the prongs and to be easy on the light pull).

I have used a ring drive centre with the centre pin advanced to go into the drilled hole of the workpiece (it should be a snug fit). If the ring leaves a mark, enhance it and leave as a decoration.

A useful commercial centre piece is of the Ian Wilkie type which will take a variety of hole sizes as shown in the diagram. A single size centre can easily be had by cutting a length of the right size rod and holding it in a Jacob's chuck.



A more useful variation on this straight rod, to my way of thinking, is one with a rebate in the right place to avoid the tool tip from touching the drive centre. The rebate should span the immediate locality of the end of the finished workpiece so that in cutting the end the blade of the chisel does not have to touch the stem of the drive centre. There is such a centre available on the market. It is very easy to make one out of a length of steel rod, which I have done and use for nearly all the larger pulls I make.

I have used a similar idea in the drive I most often use for the smaller light pulls. This is simply a nail with a collar fixed on tightly in the appropriate place. I was lucky enough to find a suitable collar (off an old electrical fitting) that would not go on when cold, but when heated and persuaded, moved into the right place.

On larger pulls I have used an old 60° counter-sink drill, the head of which I have ground down to the right diameter. In my case 8mm.

All of these home made centres rest against the inside end of the larger diameter hole in the light pull. As such they must be a snug fit into the hole to stop the pull from vibrating about. For those centres that have a thinner shaft, the larger hole (that holds the knot in the cord) should be restricted to the shortest length possible. The Wilkie type, counter-bore and ring drives either rest on the end of the workpiece or on the inner end of the larger drilled hole, depending on how they are used and the lengths of the larger hole in the pull.

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**Prevarication**

John Hilton

(or 'A Job for Next Week')

There's a lamp upon the table, there's the legs upon the chair,  
There's the bowl upon the side-board that's holding just a pair  
Of apples and some cherries, and other things as well,  
There's wooden flower clusters, and a broken bell,  
And things upon a cake stand too numerous to tell.

There's bananas gone bananas and cups for lovers too  
And funny little objects that give delight to view;  
There's mushrooms next to acorns, a wonder to behold,  
A square edged bowl lies resting like a sheep within the fold;  
And many flower pots abound, some cracked and looking old.

There's a holder in the small room for paper by the loo,  
Another in the kitchen for kitchen towels too.  
There's bits on cord for pulling, for lights and other things,  
There's roundish bits with spikes on for holding finger rings.  
There's goblets weird and wonderful, some almost fit for kings.

The rooms are full of knick-knacks, there's box fulls in the shed,  
There's thingummies for holding string and boards for cutting bread,  
A box for pills, just two or three, a candle holder fine,  
There's pepper mills and spatulas, and all the work is mine.  
I'll have to clear a lot away – but first a glass of wine.

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## Meetings

The club meets every Third Wednesday of the Month at Denmead Community Centre, School Lane, Denmead.

Denmead Community Centre Manager, Tel: 023 9225 6132

## Disclaimer

Entries in this publication are the opinions of the contributor and are not necessarily approved or endorsed by either the Editor or the Officers of the Club.

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