

Forest of Bere Woodturners Association



Spring 2005 Edition

Quarterly Magazine

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Spring Quarter



March 2005

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Editorial

Well Spring is here at last.

Although the weather of late would have you believe otherwise, spring is upon us. So forget about all that snow stuff and start thinking about getting down to the shed or garage, and get those creative juices flowing. Make the most of the better weather and see if you can make some entries for our competitions, new entrants are badly needed.



Our Club is in dire need of a volunteer for the post of Vice Chairperson ***right now!*** As you will all be aware, John Webb our current chairman is definitely standing down at this year's AGM. For us to have a successor for John, we need to get a Vice Chairperson installed ***NOW,*** to give them a chance to pick up the reins before taking on the Chairperson's mantle in September. The person can be male or female to fill this post. The future of the club is in the balance, don't worry the rest of the committee are there to help so why not give it a try?

I would like, if you will bear with me for a moment, to say a few words about the late payment of, and in some cases the not paying of, the annual subscriptions. I am sure that you will all appreciate that for every person not paying this year, the committee will have to reduce the money available for booking quality demonstrators. Because 20 people have not paid this year, the budget has been cut by ***£500.*** So if you have ***"FORGOTTEN"*** to pay, please do so at the next meeting. ***Thank you.***

Don't forget to visit the website "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.

Email To derek.blake57@ntlworld.com

A Message from the Chairman



It is half term for me in my last year in office and looking back to the Quarterly Magazine of March 2001, it was about this time in February when I came forward to fill the vacant post of Vice – Chairman, to then succeed Don Smith in the chair. Looking back, time has passed quite quickly, but it seemed a daunting task in 2001. Now we must seriously think of my successor, and hopefully an assistant, to provide continuity.

A couple of events worth mentioning is the forth coming Masterclass with Mark Hancock, which is being held locally at Bedhampton St. John's Ambulance Hall on Sunday May 22nd. Also in May over the weekend 7th / 8th is the annual Ripon Symposium.

After the Boxing Day Tsunami Disaster it was decided to try and help this very worthy cause with voluntary donations in January and February, and the final total donated was £50.00. Thank you all for your efforts.

Last month a couple of us braved the weather and the M25 to spend the day at The Woodworking Show at Alexandra Palace. It was the usual trade stands, plus a few non wood stands, and several well known demonstrators, who we managed to have a chat, with these included Jimmy Clewes, Stuart Mortimer, Stuart King, Dave Reeks, Gary Rance, Ray Jones and Mark Baker, Also pyrographer Bob Neill. There is a possibility we might have the services of John Berkeley, who specializes in boxes and puzzles, and has recently had a book on his puzzles published.

These shows are ideal opportunities for discussing possible future visitors for us knowing their plans for the coming months, and trying to catch some of them when they are in our area, as we are already working on next years' programme.

Despite recent decline in club members, we seem to be attracting a few new faces, so if you see someone who looks a little bit lost, please give them a few minutes of your time.

My thanks go to all who help this club tick from the committee to the helpers at the end of each meeting.

Best wishes to you all.

John Webb

**Another good club
night - January 2005**

Dave Reeks

I arrive at a hall buzzing with activity, people everywhere and for any first time visitors to our club it must be difficult to know what to do first. Competition table all set out and Gallery pieces on show with the usual comments from guys, Tea and coffee table pretty much set up, minus of course the biscuits. The raffle prizes set out with the addition of a wrapped mystery prize for the last drawn ticket. There was the latest edition of the club magazine for members to take. Tonight's demonstrator all set up with the usual bits and pieces about and an air of mystery as to what he is going to show us. Committee members were frantically trying to get business out of the way before the 1930 start. The finding of a seat to put your coat and paperwork on whilst chatting to others. The club librarian was sorting the coming and going of books and videos. The clubs two monitors and camera's getting their last minute adjustments (hi Peter) and just in time before the start I purchased some 600-grit paper. Now that's what I call busy.

It was nice to have to sit quietly and listen to our chairman welcome us all and bring us up to date with various items of interest. It was then over to Ken to introduce our demonstrator for the evening. Our demonstrator Dave Reeks left his home in Kent at 12.00 noon today, and was received with a warm welcoming

round of applause from the 60 or so gathered members.



**Some of the advanced competition
birdhouses**

Dave told us he's been turning for 25 years now totalling about 1000 items a year, recently he has become more specialised and is supplying to such places as Kew Gardens and Wakehurst Place. He also attends most exhibitions to demonstrate his skill and finished items.



One of Dave's Gallery Pieces.

The first item was a natural edge bud vase from kiln dried Yew. Dave is used to making batches as opposed to one off's like us, so for many of these orders time is important. He told us 8 minutes a vase was expected, and 8 minutes was all it took.

The vase was passed around and it was faultless, the shape and finish was first class as you can see by the inset picture.



The Natural Edged Bud Vase

Next was to demonstrate how to get from green log to a bowl blank ready for seasoning. The shavings were travelling some twenty feet from the lathe, that's experience for you. The bowl was turned to about 1" thick and would spend three months in his 7' cube drying room with the dehumidifier on. Well sadly a while before tea break his lathe's electric's packed up, a decision was made and it was tea break.

The usual loads of chat and competition pieces to check out, good to see the novices are still entering and with some nice pieces this month. I got my cup of tea and took some pictures and it was time to start again. . During tea break the club lathe had been set up and Dave carried on as if nothing had happened.



The Roughed out Bowl Blank ready for the kiln

We where shown an easy quick way to set a log on the lathe with the emphasis on the finished article being symmetrical. This method was quickly followed by the suggestion that it is going to oscillate some so it's a good idea to get the wife to hold on to the shed to stop it moving.

We where then shown a blank that had spent three month's in the drying room, it looked rather sorry for its self and distorted in shape. A case of "here's one I did earlier" Again something new to me was how to true up the now distorted spigot using the centre mark put on before seasoning. It was then put in the chuck and worked. The blank had cracked quite badly but was not a lost case, with super glue, accelerator and the relevant coloured sawdust Dave demonstrated how to revive what was nearly fire wood. Finally he went on to explain what people like and expect from turned wood items with regards to embellishments, cracks and knots.

I have been turning, watching and researching for three years now and it still amazes me

how much there is still to learn. Tonight I have seen for the first time, probably half a dozen or more ideas that I have never seen before, or would have thought of. And with that after a few words from Ken Dave received an appreciative round of applause.



The re-turned natural edged bowl



Another angle on the bowl

It is with monotonous regularity that I say again; well done Ken you've done us proud. Once again Ken has provided us with a first class demonstration; Dave made everything interesting and fresh.

After a few more bits of news we had the raffle, I had four numbers come up tonight Derek. The last number drawn was mine and I won the mystery prize, and I'll keep it a mystery for a while longer guys. Watch the Web site. There were the usual chairs away,

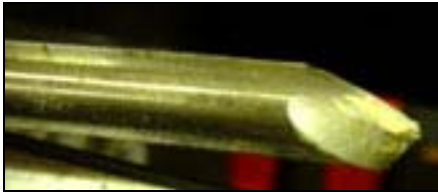
sweeping up, two lathes to put away, Dave's vehicle to load, the goodnights and there goes another good club night.



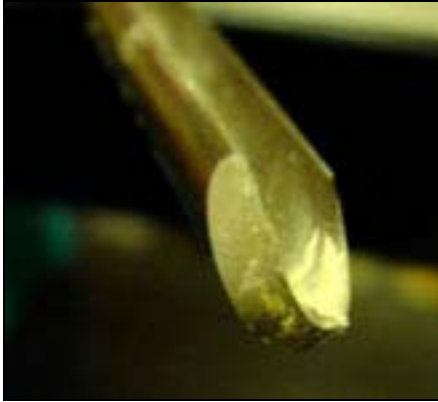
One of the Intermediate competition Birdhouse entries.



Dave Reeks Textured and coloured bowl.



Close up of one of Dave's gouges.

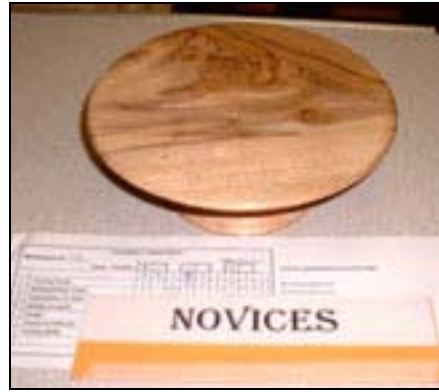


Another close up of the gouge.



Dave's Multi-Centre Burl Platter.

Written by Boots
Photos by Ray Mathews
And Boots.



One of the Novice entries.



Dave Reeks Truing up a blank.



Dave demonstrating how to get the best from a log.

Would you like to receive your own personal email FULL COLOUR copy of the magazine?

Or would you like to down load a copy from our website?

Contact me at the next meeting or drop me a letter on the email if you would like to try either of these options.

UPDATE

Our Friends In Canada have very kindly put our magazine on their newsletter downloading website.

To download it all you need to do is enter the following web address exactly

www3.simpatico.ca/frank.luet/GHWG

You then right click on the item FBWA Dec 05 Newsletter, it will then automatically download the colour magazine in A5 format to any folder you choose on your computer. You will then be able to read it or print it from Adobe Acrobat.

Derek Blake Ed.

Competition Projects for the next 3 months

Beginners

- | | |
|-------|--|
| April | Take the design of the turned bottle (Sept '04) and use the same shape to make a box. Scale maybe different. |
| May | Mug tree <u>for</u> 6 mugs. |
| June | Giant decorated egg. Major axis 120mm. |

Intermediates/Advanced

- | | |
|-------|---|
| April | Bowl 3 any form of drilled decoration, compatible with the form of the bowl. Bring bowls 1,2 and 3. |
| May | Driftwood or weathered fence posts sourced timber. Spindle turned Object. Beware metallic inclusions. |
| June | A box within a box within a box, <u>plus a surprise.</u> |

MACHINE MOBILITY

Not being privileged in having a separate workshop and garage I have to make do with being able to transform the garage into workshop when necessary and vice versa. With this in mind all machinery has to be able to be moved from its storage position when required. The solution, I have to thank a Mr. A W Bovill for his retractable undercarriage article, which appeared in the Practical Woodworking magazine of May 1969. The design has been well proved by me for many years on my equipment. The design also lends itself to those of you that keep things 'as it may come in handy one day' as you may find very little expense! Of course you can always go out and buy lockable castors but where is the satisfaction in that.

The undercarriages (2 off) are fitted to the bottom of a purpose made wooden cabinet for a particular tool e.g. lathe, bandsaw, router, pillar drill etc. The cabinets are made with draws, cupboards etc. for storage of associated tool equipment. Figure 1 and 2 give the principle design of an undercarriage and parts required. There are no given dimensions as it can be adapted as necessary to personal requirements.

The principle of the undercarriage is as follows:

1. A plywood base board (1) is connected to a plywood or block board rear support (2) with two hinges. The baseboard has a slot cut into the forward end. Either side of the slot are mounted two reinforcing strips glued and screwed to the base board. On the bottom of the base board the swivel castors are mounted near the outer forward end (make sure there is clearance between leg and castor when base board retracted).
2. A plywood flap (4) is mounted on the cross member (3) of the cabinet with two hinges. The hinges are to be recessed sufficiently not to take any load when the flap is in the vertical position. The flap must have sufficient clearance on the sides of the slot in the baseboard to give a smooth operation of the flap into the slot.
3. A steel angle bracket is mounted to the inner topside of the flap and a fixing point secured behind the baseboard slot to mount a spring assembly (5). A suitable spring assembly can be made using two or three springs from an old folding garden chair or bed but don't tell your partner. The spring tension is only necessary to pull the flap to the vertical position when the baseboard is pushed down by your foot.

Operation

To lower the undercarriage to allow the castors to operate on the floor, lift the end of the cabinet slightly and push the forward end of the base board down with your foot, the flap should spring to the vertical position. This action allows the flap to take the load of the unit from the baseboard to the cabinet cross member when the cabinet is lowered to the floor.

To raise the undercarriage where the cabinet is to be positioned, lift the cabinet slightly at the forward end and push the flap into the baseboard slot with your foot then lower the cabinet to the ground. If the design and dimensions are correct the castors will clear the ground allowing the cabinet to be positioned securely on the floor.

Note As garage floors are not always level it is suggested as an optional-extra, that an adjustable foot is put on one leg of the cabinet. The adjustable foot is made by recessing and securing a suitable nut (6) with Araldite in the end of one shortened cabinet leg. Turn a wooden foot (7) and fit matching bolt (8) recessed in the foot, secured with Araldite and a screwed metal cover plate (large metal penny washer with two holes drilled for screws works well for this) (9) to prevent bolt coming out of the foot. /

When dry the foot can be screwed into cabinet leg and adjusted to take up any irregular floor surface.

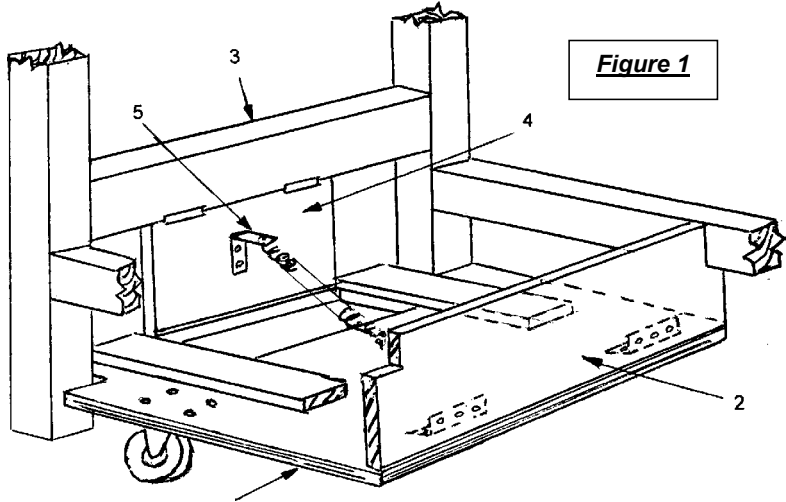


Figure 1

KEY

- (1) Base board (2) Rear support (3) Cross member (4) Flap (5) Spring assembly
- (6) Nut (7) Foot (8) Bolt (9) Screwed metal cover plate

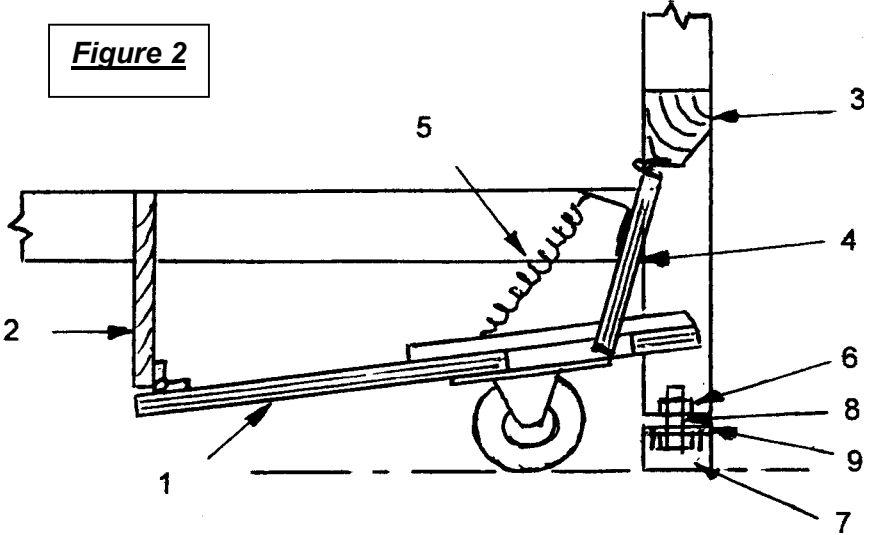


Figure 2

BY TREVOR DOBBS

"Hello From"
The Golden Horseshoe Woodturners Guild,
Burlington, Ontario, Canada.

In terms of news from the GHWG, I guess one item might be that one of our members, Al McBurney, had a bowl included in the recent book 500 Wood Bowls. Al is a retired Biology teacher and high school vice principal. He was one of our founding members back in 1993. The bowl was made of big leaf maple burl and fashioned like a horse chestnut leaf. Here is a picture of it. He also made the chestnuts as well. He has done a lot of work using burls and decorating with acrylic paints, dyes and thick acrylics that end up with a surface effect. A very meticulous man! Al has done an instructional night for us on interpretations from nature that was awesome.



At the moment, they do not yet have their website up and running, but it will be later this winter. "WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS WHEN IT IS," Ed.

In the meantime you can down load "The Chipflyer" Newsletters from:-

(www3.sympatico.ca/frank.luet/ghwg)

I hope to make this a regular feature page in our magazine, with other items of interest from across the Atlantic Ocean.

Derek Blake **Ed.**

This is the article to accompany the previous page.

Design by Nature Al McBURNEY

And now for something completely different. Or at least somewhat different! Rather than demonstrating another technique on the lathe, Al took a new (direction to providing us with enlightenment at 'the March 04 meeting. The subject of his talk was 'finding inspiration in the world around us and translating it into something exceptional on the lathe with a little help from pyrography, air (brushing, and carving!

The first part of the presentation gave us some useful references that can be used to find out more about the design process. These included:

1. Design Basics by Lauer and Pentain
2. The Nature and Aesthetics of Design by David Pye
3. Wood Turning Design by Mike Darlow (Latest book in a series)
4. Appearance and Reality by Stephen Hogbin

The last of these, Hogbin, is a world famous turner whose hallmark is his unusual creativity and extraordinary technique. He lives near Owen Sound and has demonstrated at the GHWG in the past.

Trees in Canada, by Farrar, will be of assistance to those of us who are either wood identification challenged or want a more extensive description of trees that are either native or currently growing in Canada

The final reference was on Gourd Pyrography, by Jim Widess. Al showed several turned items that were inspired by Gourds. Obviously, gardening is an inspiration for Al.

Al mentioned that all these books were available at "Chipping Away", the carving "super store" in Kitchener. Most of the tools that Al showed us are also available there, so if you go take plenty of cash!

The next part of Al's presentation was on Design, which was defined as "To plan the form and structure", and "the opposite of chance". Some days there is a distinct lack of "design" near my lathe! Al went on to point out that "content" is what we want to say, and "form" is the manipulation of the elements - such as balance, tone, texture, and space. Al's photographic interest was evident here.

You say "So that's fine but how do I do it?" Al's answer: By Thinking, Looking and Doing. And not necessarily in that order. We can "look" at magazines, on the internet, all around in fact. Then "think" about how that could be done with wood? Ask yourself "What ;needs to be done differently?" Other examples that were shown included pictures of non-turned objects such as a Sea Horse. Al also had some objects that could be used for "looking" and "thinking". These included a starfish and sea urchins. Al made his points by showing how these items had been used to create some of the forms that he had brought that evening. The textured surface of the sea urchin must have been a problem on first sight, but Al 'turned (sorry) the problem into an opportunity with some innovative use of thick acrylic paint.

Al pointed out that other examples abound in nature from leaves to the planet Saturn - both of which were on 'display as beautiful turned objects that evening. Al took us through the creation of a turned "turtle" box, where the shell of the turtle Was the lid of the box.

"In the end it comes down to looking at what interests each of us", said Al. Al's background in biology was very clear from seeing the types of objects he uses for most of his inspiration.



Al concluded this part of his presentation by showing us some surface finishing using an air-brush. I was a little surprised at the subtle variations in colour that are possible with the correct technique.

The final part of the presentation consisted of a slide show showing the steps in the making of many of the items that Al had just shown us. Just taking the photographs must have been a major piece of work!

From now on, I'll intend to do something completely different.

Peter Wright

PYROGRAPHY

How to start with the basics

1. Pick your object/subject with simplicity foremost in your choice. Too much detail in the beginning will deter you.
2. You only need outline at this stage, with a few details to show emphasis. For example, a flower head with some curved lines for petals, the silhouette of a deer with a single line for the whole outline, then curves to show the thighs and shoulder shapes, the face, ears and eyes, those are all you need to begin with.

3. Check your wood surface on which you want the subject matter to appear. Fine grained sycamore in 3-ply is excellent to start with. The finer the grain and lighter the colour - the better.
4. Copying the design/shape onto the surface. . DO NOT USE CARBON PAPER THAT TYPISTS USE. If you do, the heated tip when you burn the design, will liquefy the carbon mark you traced on which then "bleeds" into the wood surface. Instead, use the old style tracing paper with one side covered with lead pencil, the way you did it at school. When you are finished, an ordinary rubber removes all traces of lead pencil from the surface leaving nothing but your burn marks.
5. Whether or not you have your own machine or borrow one, it is important for the beginner to start with a practice sheet of sycamore.
6. Whichever type of wire tip you have to start with, first try it out with the heat just hot enough to make a burn mark. Then change the angle of contact by lowering your hand, and then try it nearly vertical. Remember that different angles of the tip when you burn will give different results. Now increase the heat and try the same exercise, and notice the difference. Then try again with the tip even hotter.
7. The spoon shaped tip is normally used for shading applications and filling in large areas. However, turn the tip over so the actual point of the spoon shape is vertical and the tip now gives a very fine line, without the need to change it for the fine tip itself.
8. Making your mark. For burning lines, you must "*Keep the tip moving all the time*". If you stop whilst still in contact with the wood, your burn mark will get darker and more intense, and because it is burning you get a hole. It is just like using ink to write a letter. "*Keep the tip moving*". In general, keeping your forearm and wrist resting on something, and the wrist flexible, you will find it easier to work.

Now read para 6 again.

9. I have two books that I use.
 - a. "Pyrography Designs" by Norma Gregory, which covers Birds, mammals, flowers, herbs, plants, water life, farms and cottages as well as abstract articles such as Celtic Knot work. All the usual hints on starting, tracing, adding colour and finishing.
 - b. "The Complete Pyrographer" by Stephen Poole. His book goes into more explicit detail about equipment and many of the items covered by Norma Gregory, but uses step by step diagrams. You should see his "Bob Dylan"!!!!

A really great head and neck portrait of the great musician.

By Robin Lacey



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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 Website is forestofberewoodturners.org.uk

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

**Another Good Club
Night - December
2004**

Good turn out and a dry evening again. Pretty much all set up apart from the odd bit of tweaking, and a good number of members accompanied by their wives were busy chatting, its good to see them as this is an important part of our annual social evening. We had the usual chairman's opening few words followed by an apology from Derek who is the club magazine editor. His computer has been got at and had crashed causing the delay of this quarters issue, he has possible lost vital programmes and data along with the deadline, I know from personal experience what its like to have computer problems so lets hope it gets sorted ASAP. Then it was over to Don to explain the evening proceedings. They're where four lathes in the hall, unfortunately one was minus a chuck so it spent the evening propping up guys, it seemed that every time I looked up there was two different guys leaning on it in deep conversation, perhaps we should set one up every club night!

Well with teams sorted and project explained they were of, I say they because last year I entered and the time went so quick my feet didn't touch the ground. This year I wanted to spend time casually mingling around so I could write most of this article on site as it were, so I blended in with my surroundings and was passed over, how has to remain a secret as I may need to use it again.

As the lathes started to produce shavings the chatting got louder so as to be heard.



Advanced Toy Entry



Intermediate toy entry



Novice copy turning entry

Our chairman had produced a very good paper quiz so everybody was busy doing something, I have to admit I looked at it and couldn't work out what I was supposed to do. This gave me a chance to say hello to some new faces. I asked about the quiz and well, this is easy, I'll have some of that so I took a copy back to my seat and filled in my first answer. That's when it got difficult, more on that one later.

Back to the turning, there were 21 guys split into three teams with each person producing a spinning top. Ken managed to get a couple of guys who had never turned before to have a go, well-done ken. No sooner had it started and it was over and time for our refreshments, nice spread as usual from Don and his good lady wife and this break gave me a chance to chat to a couple of lads about our last Master Class and other turning related issues. It was nice to be going at a slow enough pace to take it all in and be social.



The doers and the watchers

Don announced the winners of the turning competition and the prizes were handed out. Now to our surprise it was announced that there was a prize for the best-turned spinning top of the evening, and would you believe it, it was a new member who has never turned before in his life. Looks like another competitor for the monthly competition has arrived. This coincidentally led onto the results for this month. We have had novices enter every month this year so our efforts are paying off.



Mrs Webb first time with hands on, made one of the best tops of the evening.



Some of the results of all the hard work.

The long awaited paper quiz results was next, I was eager to see if anybody got more than my four right, John read out the answers and when you heard them it was painfully obvious.

Well your be surprised to learn I didn't come first, the team up the other end of the hall did with I think 43 out of the 45. I was close but not close enough but it's given me inspiration for next time. Thanks go to John our chairman who thoughtfully put it together.

There was a round of applause for the caterers followed by the raffle draw, I had a number come up this time Derek when you read this, there was a good number of quality prizes to choose from and I always find it difficult deciding what to have. There was the usual Christmas greetings and bits of info, then its chairs away, vacuuming, sweep up and the goodnights. And there goes another good club night.



A visitor getting a bit carried away as a judge.



Don Smith getting in the Christmas spirit.



A New member putting the old hands to shame, under the tuition of Ken White.

Written by Boots –

Photos by Ray Mathews

Masterclass with MARK HANCOCK

SUNDAY 22nd MAY 2005

On Sunday May 20nd 2004 The "Mark Hancock" Masterclass will be held at The St. John Ambulance Hall, Havant.

Tickets will be available from "Dave Hayward" at a cost of £17.50p which includes lunch.

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

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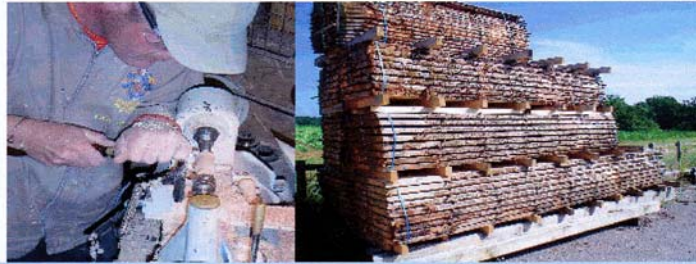
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West's Wood Show

6 & 7 May 2005

10am—5pm

At our site in Selham



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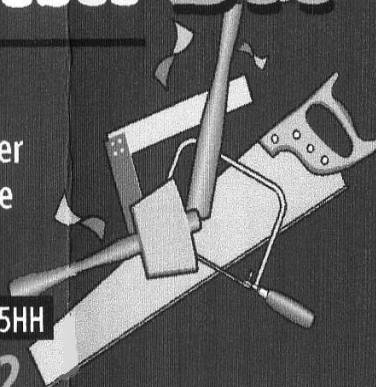
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Club Night Teas	Mick Scott
Raffle	Trevor Dobbs

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.
