

Forest of Bere Woodturners Association



Summer 2005 Edition

Quarterly Magazine

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Summer Quarter

June 2005

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Editorial

We are into June already?

It does not seem possible that we are into June already. I expect like me most of you have had a forage or two into the workshop, shed or garage. It is nice to get down to some comfortable turning without having to wear a coat and thick boots eh? Have any of you made anything that you would like to tell us all about? If so don't be shy send it in to me for inclusion in the next Magazine.



As the sharp eyed amongst you will have noticed, I have changed my mug shot (photo) at the top of the page. This new one was taken at my Son's Wedding recently. (Any adverse comments on this photo?)

As this is the last edition of the magazine before the AGM, I would like to take this opportunity to again remind you all that we need new officers for the committee. Especially a Chairperson and a Vice Chairperson, we also need new blood in the other officer's category too. Please do not be shy, and come and talk to some of us old hands to find out how you could fill one of these posts. *It really is important for the survival of the club as it stands you know.*

I would also like to say thanks to all who have helped me to keep the magazine going over the last year. Without your input this task would have been unbearable. **Thanks guys!**

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, DVD or Email me direct.

Derek Blake, - Editor.

Don't forget to visit the website "forestofberewoodturners.org.uk"

Email To derek.blake57@ntlworld.com

A Message from the Chairman



This is my penultimate report to what has been quite a challenging four years, I think it is now time to make way for some new blood, to inject some new ideas on the way forward. Since my last report we have had three good evenings, and a Masterclass. March saw the visit of Chestnut Products; we are certainly spoilt for the choice when it comes to deciding what is best for the task in hand. April was one of our regular Turn-ins.

Thanks to all who helped the evening run smoothly in my absence. We would still like to see new faces amongst the volunteer demonstrators. May saw the visit of Les Thorne, who was his usual buoyant self, giving us plenty to think about with a very good demonstration, coupled with sound advice. Lastly, our Masterclass was equally as instructive, given by Mark Hancock, backed up by the usual good mid-day lunch and sweet.

It was encouraging at the last meeting to see we can still attract new members, but we need your input as to what turners you wish to see in the club in the future. As a committee we have tried to attract some of the top turners for our Masterclasses but struggle to get support to make the events viable. I would like to know what is the missing ingredient?

Once again my thanks go to all those who contribute in any way to help the club tick, it does not go unrecognised.

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
Chairman

Question: - What is a Woodturning Masterclass?

Answer: - It is a one-day special function made up of members from the club who pay to come along to see and hear a Professional Woodturner showing us his techniques and specialities. (Which in this case was Mark Hancock).

When these professional turners come along to show us their particular forte it is usually a very good programme with projects, ideas and methods for some very unusual pieces.

Mark was no exception and you can read more about his day with us within this magazine.

The main purpose for writing this piece is to say that when the programme co-ordinator arranges his programme usually 12 to 18 months ahead he is in-uncharted territory as to regarding the number of members who may (when the time arrives) book for the Masterclass.

When he makes contact with the demonstrator he has to first of all find out the cost of him coming down for the day plus mileage and any other unforeseen expenses, then bearing this in mind he has to decide whether to book the turner there and then.

He then takes these costs, adds them to the hall charges plus the caterers costs to come up with a total cost.

Now comes the hard part how many members will be required to book seats for the Masterclass to break even and invariably the number is around 28 to 30.

So what happened to this event when only 23 members booked? This means that the revenue fell well short to cover its overall costs, and therefore a raffle was held to try and help fill the coffers.

So I say to all the members if you still wish the masterclasses to continue please give more support or that small band of permanent members who do book on a regular basis will find the cost escalating or the masterclasses being discontinued all together.

For those members who have never booked into a Masterclass I would say that if you enjoy seeing the maestro's at work on a club night, when they can only show a small part of their repertoire and you wish to see more, I would suggest when the next one is arranged that you consider booking your place and come and find out how much you can learn from these function. With more members taking part it would give the organizer more confidence in creating the programme. It would also encourage those members who give up their time collecting all the necessary gear from our club premises and taking it to the St John Hall, and setting it all up the day before, so that when the members arrive for the demo the hall is all nicely prepared. It then usually falls back on the same members to return all the said gear back to club HQ at the end of the day.

So come on fellow members and lets see what we can achieve in increasing our numbers next time, which will be held on November 19th 2005 when our mentor will be Tom Kingston who demonstrated on a club night about 3 years ago, you will probably remember him turning Monkey Puzzle Trees or the man who forgot his foot switch for his own lathe.

I am sure that if we can get more numbers for these occasions the officers of the club would be much happier.

To Ken White I say well done for organizing such events and the Annual programme, it is not easy job to do as I am fully aware.

Don Smith

Master Class with
Mark Hancock
May22nd.05

I arrived about 30mins before the 10 am start, got myself a cup of tea and a biscuit, and set myself up at a table to one side at the back, so I had somewhere for my pad and camera. Lots of chat and final bits and pieces being sorted out before the start. As usual everything was taken care of to ensure a good smooth running class, all thanks to the usual hard working team, which is the backbone of the club. I got my raffle tickets just in time for Ken to introduce our demonstrator for the day Mark Hancock.

I set my paper work out in order to record the day's proceedings in a format that would be easy to mould into this report. It was from this point on it all went to pieces. First of all Mark gave us three photo albums to pass around while he explained briefly his style changes over the years and how he came to think the way he does at present. His means of inspiration showed us just how narrow-minded most of us are. So I made various notes further down the page away from my organised-headed sections.

As with most professional turners, Mark made a point of saying, "I'll show you how I do it but you may find it easier another way and that's ok," and that we were to ask questions as we go.

Mark enjoys his master classes because it's a way of imparting knowledge to turners and aspiring us to think beyond basic turning. Things like base, rim, inside, outside, thickness and not necessarily upright, cut part of it away, sit it on another piece. We had about a half an hour of very enlightening thinking that was very new to most of us. My organised-headed sections on my A4 pad by this time were lost in all the hastily scribbled notes never to be seen again.

We were shown what Mark called a leaf; it was a vase in Sycamore with the tall rim cut away to look like a leaf. It was a beautiful piece, beautifully finished. This is what he was going to turn today, on the lathe was a log of Sycamore about 15" long and 7" diameter. It is best from the trunk and not the branch for this piece and usually still very green, about 1 month old. (He gets very wet when turning these) There was a lot of detail explained with many questions and answers.

On a number of occasions he referred back to a question asked previously and he asked us a good many that made us think.



The Leaf Vase



Mark showing how to locate the log.

With details about scrapers and gouges, Mark showed us how he turns the basic shape and hollowing out.

By this time lunch was ready, this was up to the usual high standards and thanks go to Don and his wife and family. During lunch guys took the opportunity to look closely at the tools and albums and generally chat about the demonstration.

After lunch the vase was finished and we were shown how to mark out and cut the shape, various methods of cutting were used and as before there was a lot of detailed explanation.



The wet log being roughed out



The shape after rough cutting

The finished item was passed around accompanied by a warm round of applause. The last part of the class was spent showing us how to think differently and used his own finished pieces to explain it. Mark showed us some extraordinary diverse uses of what is usually a plain turned object.

This was a master class that will forever be an inspiration to me whenever I'm turning, not only for the turned piece but as mark pointed out, where it is displayed is very important as well. I have purposely left out all the detail of the class; the article would be far to long and difficult to keep you on track with specifics. If you haven't yet experienced a master class with Mark then you should.



One of Marks creations, the bowl is free standing in an indentation.



The Form cut from a tube



Marks "Sperm" Form

There wasn't a table set up full of finished works all shiny and detailed from Mark, he waited until the end to introduced us to things one at a time so that he could give,

Intimate details of how it evolved. He is obviously very passionate about his work. Ken thanked Mark for his exciting master class and we showed our appreciation. The raffle was drawn; (I got two tickets come up this time Derek.) I took the finished items to one side for photos as the other guys set to cleaning up the hall. I then helped clear away the dustsheets and put chairs away. In the space of about 10 minutes the hall was clear as if we hadn't been there, as usual it all goes too quick but what a day. There were the usual goodbyes and there goes a brilliant master class.

Written by Boots

Photos by Boots



The hollowing out of the leaf



The hollowing completed



Parting off

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.**

Masterclass with TOM KINGSTON

SATURDAY 19th. NOVEMBER 2005

**On Saturday 19th. November 2005 The "Tom Kingston" 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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**Make me an offer
David Richards**

[19-May-05]

WEB SITE NEWS
Forestofberewoodturners.org.uk

Since the middle of December 04 there has been a programme running to monitor the web site hits. This is proving to be very useful, for example, the individual page hit totals gives me some idea of subjects of interest. This along with visitor's help will keep the site alive and moving. I can't always find time but I try to find something new every week to encourage regular visitors. There are some 18 club night reports, 25 plus articles including things like Dust in the workshop, seasonal thoughts, Master class reports, poems, casual observations and turning issues. Club diary, local events, buy and sell and library plus others help to make what I hope is interesting reading.

I enjoy researching and writing but please don't let that stop any of you offering ideas or articles, I have had a few items of interest from members and I usually get them on the site within a couple of days. I'm quite happy to take photos if required or write something to go with a picture or take the item straight to the web site, all of which is strictly confirmed with the author before going public.

Derek Blake our magazine editor and I share items so yours could be in both. You've probably seen the pair of us with our A4 pads making notes during demonstrations, you have to be careful not to miss something because you've been writing and only got half the information. The benefits of course are that I have all my notes on file so I can refer back to them for either an article or turning tip.

The first web fun quiz went well with close on 100 answers. It was designed to be both fun and educational and with 40 wrong answers I hope it has been of some help. Our own Dave Hayward was the name picked out of the hat, hopefully I will have a piece with pictures giving us an insight into Dave's association with turning. We all associate him with the well-organised Master class arrangements and tickets and it will be interesting to see another side of him.

There is another fun quiz starting **now** and I'm open to any new ideas on questions. I now have a sponsor "**Chestnut Products**" this time so don't miss it. I can be contacted either through the web site, email or phone. 02392389005

Boots May 05

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 a 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 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

- July. Platter 250mm. Dia. 40mm wide rim, Decoration optional.
Aug. Pair of lace bobbins - ~midlands style
Sept. Lidded box that fits neatly in the 80mm.cube box supplied.

Intermediates/Advanced

- July. 300mm. Platter with at least a 30% pierced area on the rim,
Aug. Turned frame for a mirror, or picture. Mirror/glass/picture, backing and fixing_method to be included for presentation.
Sept. Intermediate. An off-center bowl.
Advanced. 2 or 3 off-center bowls joined or linked in an interesting way. Selected wood should measure 250mm. In one direction, the other dimensions are optional.

Note **Given dimensions +/- 10% all projects at least 80% turned.**

Somebody Cares - Woodturning in the Sudan

Dave Jenkins (a club member) has a friend who is serving with a world investigation team in the Sudan and has sent these pictures. The team is trying to encourage the locals to lead as normal a life as best they can despite the terrible stories we hear and see through the media. It's a comforting thought that they are receiving help and that somebody cares hence the woodturning and shop. It would be nice to think that some of the old tools collected in the UK have found their way there.



The turning method 1



The turning method 2



Items for sale



Items for sale



The Shop

A Gift for the Children

A teacher from the Queens Enclosure School, who was leaving to take up another post, approached me to make a gift that she could present to the children. This school is on the edge of the Forest of Bere, the children, as a result do a number of projects and learn about how the forest is managed and how wood has been used over the years and its importance economically.

After a discussion with the teacher I made notes of her suggestions. I pondered over this for a while and felt I had to use my imagination for this project. Thinking of trees and shapes, I then thought of the forest floor with its wide variety of fungi. This seemed to offer the possibility of creating an original gift. I communicated my proposal to the teacher who agreed it was exactly what was required.

After further thoughts, my concept became a reality in the form of using half a log mounted on a baseboard with the various shapes of fungi distributed over the bark of the log. The variety of the fungi was reinforced by the choice of Yew, Laburnum, Oak, Pine, Silver Birch and Pear.

After a career in teaching I enjoyed this challenge to make a gift that children could learn from visually and in a tactile way. I applied both oil and wax finishes to add interest to the tactile sense.



I hope the gift will pose the questions e.g. why is there a split in the log? What is the lighter coloured bit? (Pithy) which is a toadstool? Is it a mushroom? Etc. To an inquiring mind, there are many possible questions. For years to come both teachers and classes will have the opportunity to research for the answers.



I hope the children enjoy the gift from their teacher as much as I have enjoyed creating it.

Written by Peter Hallam
March 05

When turning a thin rod, say 3mm diameter, support may be needed if the length is more than about 150mm.

This support may be either by hand, keeping the free length short or by use of a steady.

The hand method involves supporting the turning piece with the left hand, which is itself supported by the toolrest, and holding the cutting tool with the right hand only. If the wood is gripped too tightly the flesh will bum, hold it too loosely and the work will not be held true enough. Experience only will tell you how tight the piece needs to be gripped.

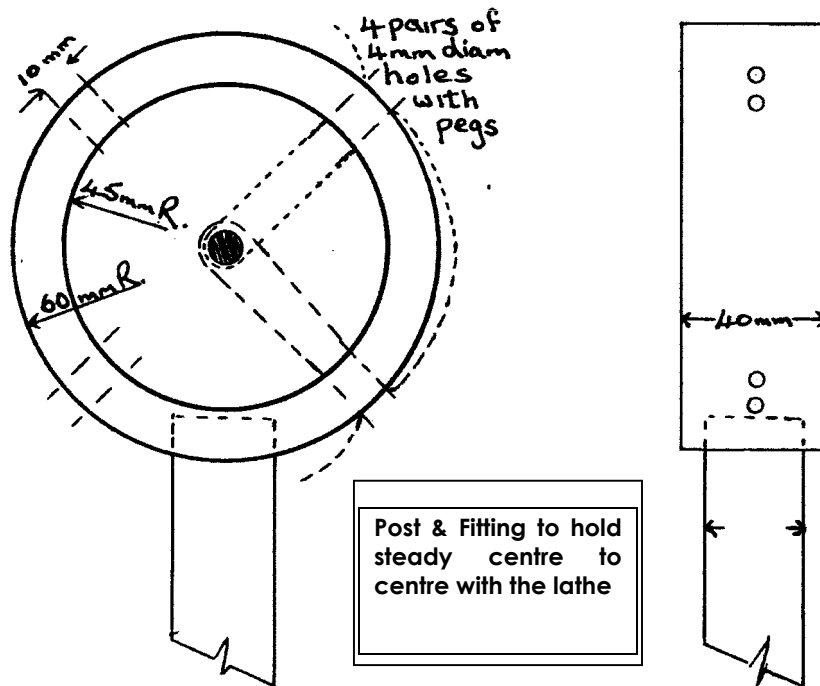
The wood is generally held between the fingers and thumb while part of the palm, and maybe part of the thumb, are resting on the toolrest. Take a grip with which you feel comfortable and which will control the wood. Practice will be needed - starting with too loose a grip. If controlling the tool with one hand has not been tried before it is suggested you practice on a larger piece of wood that does not need hand support.

If the lathe you are using has a hollow spindle on the headstock as well as on the tailstock then it is possible to keep the free length of wood short enough not to need middle support. A chuck is needed that will allow the wood to pass through the middle, for this the wood may have to be turned down first to make it small enough. The wood is passed through the headstock spindle so a very short length is showing at the working end, and then held firmly by the chuck. Into the tailstock spindle is inserted a cork with a hole drilled through it the size of the finished rod. Now turn the first 5mm or so of the rod, held only by the chuck, to fit into the hole in the cork, that is to say to the correct size. Now hold the wood so that a 150mm to 200mm length is showing between the chuck and the cork. With one end held by the chuck and the other end held by the cork, this length may now be turned to size, and as this is done, working from the left to right, the wood may be passed through the cork so maintaining a short length exposed for more turning. It helps if wax is applied to the bored hole in the cork to help the wood slip round. This may be done by a few applications of wax to the first few mms. of the rod during the process of turning the first proper length. The first short length of rod will come out of the cork a bit polished so allow for this. Alternatively wax the cork by using a short piece of suitable material that has been rubbed with wax. Woodturners wax stick is fine for doing this; beeswax is a bit soft and sticky but will work.

If you do not wish to use either of the above two methods then use of a steady is recommended. As this is light work only a lightweight steady will do the job. A useful one may be made out of a 40mm thick piece of wood about 120mm in diameter, some waxed thread and enough materials to make a base plate to support the device off the bed bars of the lathe. I append a sketch of one I made, which seems to work well with work turned down to 5mm and below. I haven't used it on larger diameter turnings. The steady must be in contact with work that has already been turned, to the round be it the final diameter or larger, and the center point of the steady must be at, or very close to, the center line of the lathe or the threads will not be giving a straight pull to the work.

The thread I used was cotton carpet thread (Shamrock No. 18 to be precise) well waxed with beeswax. Part of the track of the thread is shown, the rest follows the same pattern. I use one long thread and not one for each pair of holes as this gives me less loose ends. In practice one peg of each pair stays firmly in its hole, any adjustment I do on the second thread.

It does not have to be pulled tight in use, just tight enough to stop the work from vibrating, which in practice seems to be just tight enough to make the threads straight. It is important that the thread does not stretch as some of the man made fibres do. The wood pins are used to hold the thread in place, which make it a lot easier to use than those models which do up like a shoelace and get tied in a bow. The thread can mark the wood either if it is pulled too tight or if it is left in one place too long. Once I got used to the working of the steady I had no further trouble with it. There is nothing difficult about the design and I leave you to make one to suit your own purpose with possibly some of your own ideas thrown in as well.



By John Hilton

FIX IT TIP FROM JOHN HILTON

Screws into Hardwood By John Hilton

If you find it hard going to turn screws into hardwood, or even soft wood, try rubbing the screw with candle wax or soap. This will reduce the friction between the wood and the screw as the screw is twisted in. Don't use liquid soap, as this tends to make the wood swell and the job become more difficult.

RIPON SYMPOSIUM
MAY 7TH-8TH

The annual trip to Yorkshire for the Ripon Symposium took place over the first weekend in May, with four of the usual five, plus David Jenkins, on his first trip.

It was a fairly straightforward journey for David and myself, the others had alternative arrangements. With the aid of a borrowed navigation system we set off. I already had the route worked out from several trips I had done previously, but the Routefinder had other ideas, needless to say we ignored it, arriving at our destination without any problems.

After booking in at our hotel, we decided to venture across to the Symposium venue to see how the preparations were going. All the rigging crew were there, under the guidance of Roger Buse, the organiser, as well as all four demonstrators, David Nittman and Cindy Drozda from the U.S.A., Eli Avisera from Israel, and Julie Heryet from England. It was good to chat to them while nobody else was around. Alan Batty was also present; he was to be the M.C. for the weekend.

The actual Symposium followed the format of previous years, four sessions each day, morning and afternoon tea/coffee breaks, and lunch at mid-day, also on the Saturday there was a meal at the end of the afternoon session, because after that there was a question forum with the demonstrators. At the end of the Sunday afternoon session we had the final comments and prize giving for the top three in the delegates gallery (our Ken Briffett was 2nd)

Also over the weekend are sales of wood, turning items and finishes.

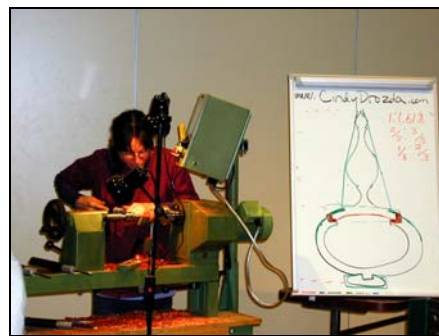
The atmosphere over the two days is a very friendly one, especially as the hotel where we stay is also the one where the demonstrators stay.

There is a possibility that next year there might be a similar event nearer to the south of England, with Bristol being mentioned as a possible venue.

The verdict of the weekend was once again very favourable; we look forward to seeing who will be next year's demonstrators.



Ripon Layout



Cindy Drozda demonstrating

Written by John Webb

Photos by John Webb

More Ripon Photos on Next page



Photos by John Webb and David Jenkins

BOOK REVIEW

John Sainsbury's **TURNING MINIATURES IN WOOD**

ISBN 0.946819-05X

1992 2ND. EDITION

This book is no.34 in the club library book list, and it is currently rated in fifth place of books taken out by our members. It has been out 5 times.

The 144 pages of this book are laid out in 10 sections with 3 appendices.

1. Lathes and attachments.
2. Tools. (GOOD)
3. Lathes and attachments suitable for turning small.
4. Making tools and templates. (GOOD)
5. Homemade equipment, such as special tool rests.
6. Grinding and sharpening.
7. Holding equipment for boring out.
8. Timbers & their properties. i.e. Most white, most attractive, most unusual grain etc. (VERY GOOD)
9. Methods of holding the work.
10. Projects. 27 of them from lace bobbins to offset dish.

Appendix (A) Making tools for turning miniatures.

Appendix(B) Machine speeds, pulleys, and metric conversion chart.

Appendix (C) Safety when mini-turning.

I found this book to be very easy to follow. The projects had ample B&W photos with close ups, showing tool techniques and work progression.

I felt that this book would be of use to turners at all levels of skill.

I am surprised that the book has only been hired out five times, I am sure that more members could gain a lot of useful information from it.

Derek Blake

Editor

W.L. West's First Big Show

This is undoubtedly the first of many. For me it all started at the beginning of the year with an email from Jo West. Since then, every club night the show was mentioned with the addition of leaflets left all around the club house, and all but a few of them were taken so obviously a lot of interest showed there. I had agreed to lend my lathe to Ted as he'd been asked to demonstrate. Jo also sent out an invitation to our club to turn and Don kindly accepted.



Ted Farrow's stand



Don Smith's stand

I arrived at 8.30am with my lathe and in no time at all both Ted and Don were set up. The large open sided building was alive with demonstrators and stands, and more were arriving all to be ready for the 10.00am opening. My initial thought was to be away by 11.00am having arranged to meet a club member there. As a measure of

how interesting it all was I eventually left just minutes before it closed at 17.00pm. I don't know where the time went; there was so much going on and all the stands and demonstrators more than willing to explain their particular interest. I returned about 10.30am the next day and still kept busy all day. I spoke to all the well-known demonstrators that I'd seen at the club, our own Bill Thorne was there with young Les. Fortunately they had the sense to separate them. Joking aside, it was a pleasure to see all the stands getting on so well together, it's obvious they all enjoy these meetings.



Bill Thorne demonstrating on the Sorby stand

About the show, it's a job to know where to start really with so much going on. There were stands selling tools, chucks and all that side of the lathe stuff. Other stands had ceramic inlays, clock hands and the craft supplies type of things. Apart from the turners there were several carving groups and a chair maker using a completely home made lathe using a Robin Reliant gearbox as the drive between motor and head stock. There was a stand with wooden toys and displaying some beautifully made rocking horses; the guy was carving a head for another horse in between chatting to onlookers.

W L West had large field gates being assembled during the course of the day with guided tours around the sawmill and yard at regular intervals. This was a popular event with many questions and answers on the

way; I used to work in a similar yard and mill many years ago but its incredible the machinery being used today, very much more advanced and very expensive to. I could have watched it for hours. They also had a good display of their own very well designed garden furniture along with a wide range of hardwoods. W L West supply these timbers in any form for joiners, builders and turners all over the world.



W.L. West's Gate maker in action

It was good to see three colleges with their stands. They each showed pictures and items that students of all ages had made. All where a real credit to the tutors and college. I had a good long chat to the tutor from the Crawly College who was only too pleased to explain things. Outside in the brilliant sunshine was a pole lathe turner and it wasn't long before I had a go. Richard set me up to turn beads, big mistake, beads and I don't get on as yet and to stand on one leg and treadle as well it wasn't to good. There was a showroom with a number of items from professional turners and students, the exhibits where stunning, all of them caused long conversations about quality and designs.



Part of the Gallery Display

The W L West's staff where excellent. They were very well organised and smartly dressed in their blue tops with logo's, even the guys making the gates and in the mill. The staff were never to far away and always helpful and keen to answer any question put to them and so to where the members of the West family. They are all obviously very passionate about their business. The whole event had been put together with a lot of thought and effort and I expect this event is going to grow with each additional year. I met a good number of our club members who also seemed to stay for quite a while and had encouraging comments to make.

I saved the highlight of the day for me till last. On the table displaying the carved items was a couple of bookends. Andrew Huebler had made these and I thought they where just perfect in every way and spent quite some time chatting with him. I took many photos throughout the two days including the bookends, they can all be found in the WL West picture gallery. My suggestion is that you regularly log on to our web site for dates to go and see the W L West show for your self next time.



Andrew Huebler's Book Ends

Written by Boots May 2005

Photos By Boots & Ray Mathews

W.L.West & Sons Ltd

Sawmill & Timber Merchants est 1865

**European and other Hardwoods.
Hardwood floors supplied and installed.
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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.
