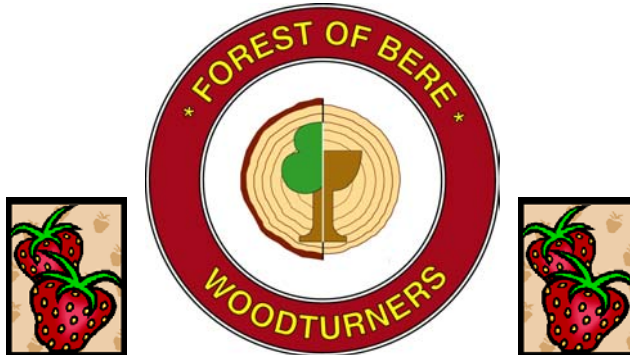


# Forest of Bere Woodturners Association



**SPRING 2006 Edition**

## Quarterly Magazine

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Spring Quarter



March 2006

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## **Editorial**

### **WOW! What a busy year this has turned out to be so far.**

There has been so much activity within the club these last few months that I have not had time to enjoy my woodturning. (Oh Dear). The move to new premises went without a hitch I am reliably informed. **Thank you to all who helped in the move.** I think the move will create a whole new club atmosphere, and possibly some new FRESH Ideas. **And maybe even a new CHAIRPERSON** perhaps. So Don can let the reigns go!



As you will see this quarter, there has been some new talent submitting reports and projects for this issue. Thank you all for your sterling efforts, and PLEASE, PLEASE keep it coming!

**The forth coming open weekend and exhibition is going to be a real boost to our club, if all the effort and enthusiasm being generated by Mick Giles is anything to go by! My is this man a dynamo or what? All of the sub-committee under Mick's guidance have been working flat out to make this a success. I am feeling rather miffed, because I will not be here to support everyone on the weekend due to a prior arrangement with my wife. We will be on holiday. Sorry! A hand out is on page 19 for you to pass on.**

**I hope ALL THE MEMBERS will attend this event, and where ever possible lend a hand too! Also if possible bring along their friends as well.**

There are two woodworking shows coming up soon, which some of the club will be involved with I am sure. They are the W.L.West Show, Friday/Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> May 2006. And The Yandles Spring Show Friday/Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> April 2006. You may remember that our club was well represented at last years first W.L.West show. We all wish them luck with this years offering.

The mag may be upgraded to 28 pages so please keep the input coming

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

**Derek Blake, - Editor.**

***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.Or even Hand Written copy.***

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

## **A Message from the Chairman**



Well here we are 3 months into 2006 and 6 months from when I was re-elected and still we do not have a Vice Chairman. Therefore at our last committee meeting it was decided to instruct Ken White our programme coordinator not to proceed beyond December 2006 until such times as a candidate had come forward. Every month that goes by will make it more and more difficult to arrange good speakers, as they would have been booked up way in advance of Ken contacting them.

There must be someone within our club willing to take on the **CHAIR** even if it was just for one year, you would have a very sound committee and if they are all willing to stand for re-election in September your job would be made very easy.

December social evening was a great success and my thanks to all those who helped in making it so.

January we were entertained by Chris Pouncy from Sorby Tools it was a very interesting evening.

The main purpose of an open evening on February 7<sup>th</sup> was to view the facilities that are on offer since the building works had been finished at St John Ambulance Hall. I was delighted to see so many of you there and I thank you all for coming I believe the numbers were between 40 & 50.

February was a turn-in evening when the volunteers who demonstrated were Robin Lacy using the Ring Tool, whilst John Hilton turned a Tear Drop Bowl and Brian Mitchell demonstrated Gold Waxing on textured backgrounds my thanks to you all it was a great evening. It was also the evening when we took a vote on changing venues and it was unanimously decided for us to take up the offer of St Johns.

There is a letter of welcome from St John on the next page of this magazine.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February was the day that we moved all our equipment from Denmead to Bedhampton and I would like to thank all those members who with their cars and trailers came and made the transition run so smoothly **THANK YOU ALL**.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March we are holding a 2 day open work shop where there will be hands on Tuition and demonstrations dealing with all the different aspects of turning, there will also be on offer the chance to learn about Pyrography (the burning of pictures on wood).

There will be refreshments on sale plus two types of raffles and various competitions.

**Please remember that this is a club occasion and not just for those who are running it so please do turn up and make it a great success.**

The club owes a big vote of thanks to Mick Giles for organizing this event by selecting a committee and really enthusing each and every one of those committee members of which I was one. We will also owe a big vote of thanks to all the wives and members who have come along to help make this a great success.

I would also like to thank the following firms for sponsoring the club with such wonderful prizes for the raffles and they are: - C.R.M.Saws, Robert Sorby, Mylands Polishes, Homebase Havant, Asda Walmart with a special thank you to those club members who also donated prizes.

Have a wonderful weekend on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> March and we will see you all in April.

**Don Smith**

\_Chairman



Priory of England  
and the Islands

**To all members of the  
Forest of Bere Woodturners Association**

16/02/06



**Caring  
for Life**

**Hampshire**  
Havant Quadrilateral Division  
Divisional Superintendent

Please Reply to:

Ms Mandy Smith-Wise  
27 Hazelwood Avenue  
Bedhampton  
Havant  
Hampshire  
PO9 3RE

Tel: 023 9245 2697  
Mobile 07977 714462

e-mail [havant@hampshire.sja.org.uk](mailto:havant@hampshire.sja.org.uk)

Dear Woodturners,

Welcome and thank you for deciding to move to Havant St. John Ambulance HQ.

The garage has now been sorted so that you are able to build cupboards to house your two lathes, for which you are covering the cost. Don Smith has marked the floor for the two cupboards. As I understand it you may build a ramp so that the lathes can be wheeled into the passageway and into the hall.

If the two vehicles are in the way then Don has a garage key to unlock the big blue door by your cupboards so that you can wheel them onto the road and in to the building through the front doors.

You also have a storage cupboard in the storeroom, which is on the left hand side near the wire door. Please feel free to use this cupboard and to keep the keys with you.

You will be welcomed at Havant St. John Ambulance for as long as you wish to use it as your home.

Yours sincerely

Mandy Smith-Wise  
Divisional Superintendent

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## **F.O.B.W.A. Library Review.**

Being a new member and a beginner, I feel that I barely know one end of a tool from the other. Wanting to learn as much as I can about my new hobby, I was delighted to discover we have such a huge and varied book and video library available to us. Just looking through titles is like being a kid in a sweet shop – so much choice. The library in Waterlooville does have a couple of books and once I found a very well used copy of a video on routing, but nothing compares to what we have available to us as members on a club night.

Looking at the titles there must be something in there for everyone so why not have a look. There can't be any better way to learn than watching other people in action and as I don't get to see other turners actually working as often as I like, I intend to work my way through the videos and maybe the odd book or two.

Being unable to get to the last monthly meeting Boots offered to pick up my choices and having now seen them I have written a personal review of these the first three I have loaned.

### **Woodturning A Foundation Course with Keith Rowley**

Being a beginner and not really knowing much, I was very keen to get my hands on a copy of this video as lately I have read a number of very complementary reviews on Keith's book of the same name and hoped that the video was just as good.

The video is only 88 minutes long which although sounds a lot, actually goes very quickly especially if you ignore the beginning section on general lathe terminology. It covers timber and tools, turning between centres, faceplate turning, copy turning sanding and the dreaded grinding of tools.

After watching the video for the first time I was left slightly disappointed and wanting more. I think this is because the other videos I borrowed at the same time are a lot longer and spend large amounts of that time just showing the same cut time and time again where as this does not do so to anywhere near the same extent.

However, on viewing again I began to realise just how much information is in there and how much I had missed the first time. I felt that this is a video that has to be watched, studied, thought about and watched again. This may be because I am a beginner and need to keep going back over what I am being told.

Keith demonstrates that he is a true master of turning and had a way of explaining and demonstrating techniques and practices that are a joy to watch. He flows through the exercises with such ease that it is very difficult not to be impressed. It is not until near the end that he says he has slowed down for the filming!

This is a brilliant video full of good advice and is an excellent introduction to turning. Beginners cannot help but improve after watching this and I am sure some of the more experienced turners would find points of interest. Of special note are his 6 laws and his own design of jig for grinding.



## **Bowl Turning. By. John Jordan**

Turning Bowls is what I would love to do but not having the basics under my belt, this video was borrowed for pure entertainment.

John Jordan has examples of his work in permanent museums collections around the world and has received numerous awards.

This video is made by GMC Publications and is 120 minutes long and covers:

- Basic and advanced cuts with deep fluted bowl gouges
- Natural edge bowls
- Dry versus green wood
- Why green wood does not crack
- Power sanding and finishing
- Problems and how to solve them
- Sharpening

Although this video is labelled Guide of Master Craftsman it is an American production.

I feel this video is excellent for beginners as the majority of time is spent demonstrating just one simple bowl. The advantage of this is that you see that same cut time and time again, which is just what you need. He will also frequently stop and sharpen his gouges.

## **Bowl Turning. By Del Stubbs**

Del makes his living by turning everything from spindle work and classic vases to miniatures and translucently thin bowls.

This video is from the publishers of Fine Woodworking magazine, is 120 minutes long and includes sections on:

- How to use different tools from gouges to flat scrapers
- His one modification to his lathe so you can slow it down
- How to sharpen the tools
- Thin wall bowls
- Bark edge bowls
- End grain bowls

This video does not concentrate on one design and I feel at times jumps from one thing to another without really spending the time to adequately cover the topic. At one point near the end, it has the feeling of bits stuck together rather than one single production. The thing I personally found hard to ignore was the constant use of the phrase "ladyfinger" for some reason it became a large barrier to my enjoyment.

All this aside, it is a good video for the more experienced turner as he shows both the basic cuts and variations of that cut that at first appear to break the rules.

## **To Conclude**

Next club night, take a look through the books and video's and hire one for a month, they are next to nothing to hire and it helps the clubs funds. The entire list of both books and video's are on the web site and a number of reviews can be found there to, with more to follow. If any of you have any useful remarks or a complete review we can use then please contact either Derek Blake our magazine editor or Mick the web.

**Steve B 19.12.05**

### **Masterclass with REG SHERWIN**

**SATURDAY 20<sup>th</sup>. MAY 2006**

**On Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>. MAY 2006 The "REG SHERWIN" 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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An ARUNDEL 7speed lathe with 4FT bed. An Outboard Toolrest for the lathe.

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An ELECTRA BECKHAM bandsaw with 10"Depth of cut and 18" throat

A DRAPER Linisher

A HEGNER scroll saw

A Router lathe

A 10" hand held circular saw

Contact David Comley

(7<sup>th</sup>.November 2005)

<b>FOREST OF BERE WOODTURNERS COMPETITION PROGRAMME 2005/2006</b>	
<b>BEGINNERS</b>	
Jan.'06	Four individual Napkin holders of equal dimensions
February	Goblet 50mm x 150mm Bowl size not to exceed "One third of total height"
March	Combined Project - <b>See April</b> Bowl 70mm x 150mm Bring bowl only
April	Lid in contrasting wood ( <b>to fit March Bowl</b> ) With a 50mm high finial
May	Pair of Carrier Bag Handles. Bring with carrier bag
June	Ball finial turned to measurements. In supplied drawing
July	Off centre spindle turned object 200mm min. length
August	Pestle and Mortar
September	A turned Garden Feature that combines wood with other materials. i.e. Rope, Metal, Glass etc.
<b>INTERMEDIATE/ADVANCED</b>	
Jan'06	<u>Intermediate</u> A Stave constructed Container <u>Advanced</u> A Stave constructed Lidded Container with Veneer inserts. Internal size 120 x 90mm
Feb	A turning which exploits the qualities of Crotchwood
Mar	Accurately turn the form shown in the measured drawing supplied. 4 Coffee Table Legs
Apr	Select, interpret and enlarge a piece of Jewellery to make a wall feature. Bring Jewellery or Photocopy with turning. Shortest dimension 400mm
May	Tubular Lidded box 120mm min. length. Displayed in horizontal plane
June	A Wind Operated Musical Tube
July	A turned and decorated Obelisk from 100mm sq. section off-cuts. Total lengths of off-cuts 1m. Height of Obelisk between 600 – 900 mm
Aug	A Broad Rimmed Bowl with circular inserts
Sept	A turned Garden Feature that combines wood with other materials. i.e. Rope, Metal, Glass etc.
<b>NOTE</b>	<b>Given dimensions plus/minus 10%</b> <b>All projects at least 80% turned</b>

**Notes to Elaborate on the Competition Programme.**  
**Some Thoughts on Forthcoming Competition Pieces**

**Beginners**

- April 06**    A Lid for the “March” Bowl. This lid and finial should be in proportion, and the wood in keeping with the bowl. The decision to be an inside or outside fitting will already have been made, but it should be a neat one handed lift off. Look at good finial design.
- May.**        A Pair of Carrier Bag Handles. Two plastic bags, two handles. These should be comfortable to hold, with good bag holding ability, and be dimensionally similar.
- June.**        Ball Finial. Rick Smith will supply a drawing at the May meeting for this popular “Venetian” classic form, seen on buildings, fence posts and furniture.

**Intermediate and Advanced**

- April 06**    “Jewellery Inspired” Wall Feature. Over the centuries and throughout the world much thought has been given to the design of personal ornament. This should be a great opportunity to select, scale up and interpret a ready-made design of traditional or contemporary origin. The necklace is an obvious candidate, perhaps opened up to form a swag.  
The 400mm “shortest” dimension may be confusing, but the idea is not to make it too small. Please bring either the original or a photograph/photocopy of it.
- May.**        Tubular Lidded Box. This is the smallest of this years pieces, and a challenge to move away from the more usual vertically aligned boxes. Tubes may be tapered or flared but being a box the lid must lift off, pivot, or be hinged. Will the tube be stable and will it have appendages or recesses for parting the lid from its base?
- June.**        Wind Operated Musical Tube. Wind as in woodwind instrument with simple finger holes. (No mechanical valves) Wood selection, accurate long hole boring and position of the holes should give a degree of musicality. Study of a recorder seems like a good starting point.

**I hope that these notes will be of help to you all.**

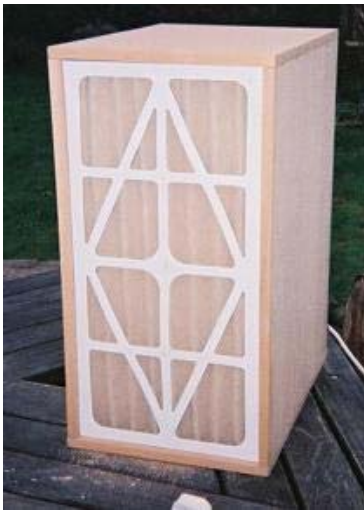
**By Ken Briffett**

## **Axminster, I'm sorry**

You know how it is. There's always more to be had, and less money to have it with (or, with which to have it). You want the all new spindle scraper with built in spiralling, the bowl gouge with the new grind, the other bowl gouge with a more obtuse angle, the new air filter, a digital camera to record your masterpieces, loads of blanks from which to turn those masterpieces, as well as thinking it might be good to pay for some food from time to time...

Did I say air filter? This is where I have to apologise to Mr Axminster. Scanning through the catalogue I found the Perform air filter costs £173, and its coarse and fine filters cost £20 and £11 respectively to replace.

The smaller MTM filter costs £151, and the replacement filters cost £19 and £5. Although our professional visitors seem to like their air filters so much, it's a lot of money when there's so much else to be had – all by yesterday as well.



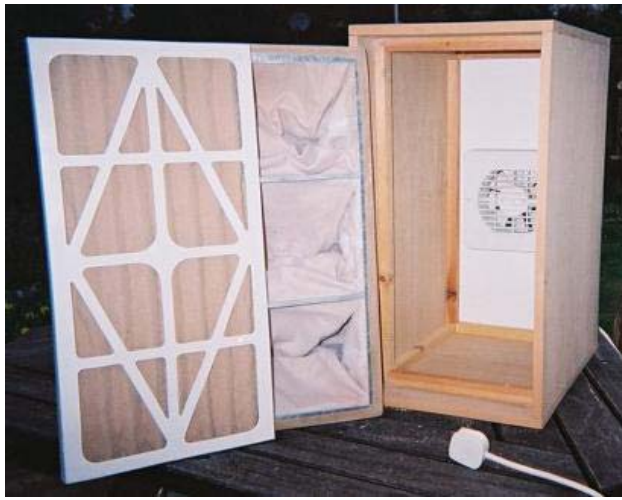
That's when I decided that it might be better to make my own and save some money, rather than go without and risk my health. So here it is. A simple wooden sleeve from a spare piece of Contiboard, the replacement filters that go with Axminster's Perform air filter, and an extractor fan from Screwfix. I could have done better for the fan if I'd found an old cooker hood or something, but the whole job came home at around £50, which was quite a saving.

I notice that Screwfix now have 4 inch extractor fans for less than £10. Wow.

I chose the 6-inch fan to go with the larger (Perform) filters, but the 4-inch fan and the smaller filters would be suitable for most workshop/garage set-ups.

It's an eye opener to see just how much stuff it grabs from the atmosphere. I can fill the outer filter in a week if I try (at which point in time one takes it outside and bangs it against a fencepost to clear the dust). I could even collect the dust, mix it with glue and tart up the splits in some of the old wood I use.

Here's another picture of the filter 'opened up'. I've lined up the course filter (the one with the diagonal braces) and the fine filter in front of the sleeve, showing you inside the battens supporting the corners and the extractor fan.



The fan is mounted on a backboard, and the backboard is held in with some battens. The filters are a push fit from the front (if they'd turned out to be loose I would have used some draught excluder to hold them, but flook of flocks I cut the wood to size!)



The inner fine filter has a metal frame, which has a foam strip round it. This strip kept on catching on the box as I was inserting it, so it has been wrapped with a strip of gaffer tape (watch the club raffle for a good source thereof) which makes it much easier to slide in and out.

The outer coarse filter is in a cardboard 'frame', which needed no special help.

**Written by David Comley**

**A Note from Mick the Web about "Fans."**

**FANS.**

Centrifugal fans will shift more air than the axial type, and the benefit of a filter like this is in the winter, it filters and replaces with the same air in your workshop, so you don't loose any heat. Also you can make it pretty much any size so if you don't have much headroom over your lathe, then make it long and thin and wide.

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

**You can now down load a copy from our website!**

Contact me at the next meeting or drop me a letter on the email if you have any problem obtaining your copy.

**A Warm Welcome to New Members.**

On behalf of the club, I would like to welcome the following new members, who have joined since the December issue of the magazine.

**Mark Humphreys, Angela Richards & Gary Whitear**

I hope that you are finding the club to your liking, and maybe have already made some new friends.

Please feel free to contact any of the committee if you have any questions etc.

The committee contact details are on the back page of this magazine.

**Derek Blake Ed.**

**“Computer Hints” from Mick the web.**

***Have you ever wanted to send something by email to a number of contacts without the recipients knowing the others details?***

All you need to do is to click on the box marked “TO” and when the box opens up, put the required contacts in the BCC box. BCC means “BLIND CARBON COPY”. That way only the intended recipients details will show on their own copy, not all the rest. For further information on this, or any other query, you can always click the help icon; don't be afraid, it won't bite, honestly. **Boots (Mick the web)**

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)  
Website is [forestofberewoodturners.org.uk](http://forestofberewoodturners.org.uk)

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



# **Jottings from the Workshop & the Craft fair** **Salesman**

## **THE DESIGN**

A fine piece of turning starts life as just another block of wood. From this the turner creates in his mind's eye some idea of what shape and design this will produce.

## **THE WORKSHOP**

Some things never change, the smell of new turned wood mingling with that of beeswax and other polishes as you open the workshop door at the start of each new day.

A good lathe is a vital necessity for the Woodturner, as are the traditional hand tools for the cabinetmaker, such as chisels, planes, spoke shaves, etc and a good eye, for without them nothing can be produced.

## **THE CRAFT FAIR.**

Here the meeting of customer and turner takes place. The former admires and feels the care and attention put into the piece of work by the latter, who is prepared to pass the time of day and discuss the finer points of the piece, with the hope, of course, of making a sale and if successful, the customer gets as much enjoyment from the finished piece as he the turner got from creating it.

**By Don Smith**

## **ANOTHER GOOD CLUB NIGHT**

Can any of you think of a word to replace Wow, I can't use it for two reports on the trot! So how about...(thinks)...**BRILLIANT!** That will do! I don't know where the time goes. I think somebody has seamlessly knitted 7.30pm and 10.00pm together. It all starts with the usual "I've got plenty of time" thing, and ends with the "where are my keys I'm going to be late" a bit. Anyway, I arrive with the hall full of members all over the place lifting, placing, talking, writing, testing and setting up. I have two boxes of, now this is where I take a moment to check my grammar. (Somebody wrote a couple of sentences using the of and off and the to too in order that I get it right. So I apologise now if I get it wrong as it all looks Greek to me) So where was I. Are yes, I had two boxes to take with bits in, as tonight was going to be busy taking details and chatting about our forth coming open weekend and such.

Mike Scott was taking members names that came forward with varying forms of help for the day at a table half way down the hall, so it was obviously best to set up next to him. Steve saw me and used my empty box to put his coat in so now we are established squatters for the night. The competition pieces had been placed, the lathes all set up and the tea and coffee prepared just in time for Don to call order and we where away. First we had some serious club business to sort out, do we move or do we stay? Don suggested that we think about it through the evening and take a vote later.

So with that one out of the way for a while Don mentioned a couple of other bits then introduced our demonstrators for the evening. Robin Lacy did ring tool work, Brian Mitchell showed us waxing on gold and John Hilton did a teardrop bowl, and very successful he was to, well it was bound to be, he didn't have to use the timber I supplied this time. (You had to be there to appreciate that one) So off or of they went turning and chatting away. I instantly got into discussions about all sorts of things and that's pretty much how it was for me all night, didn't even get chance to take the pictures for this report. The members had a good evening looking at the plans for the new hall, Mike a I measured the hall and calculated the difference in square ft, the new hall is about one third bigger, that surprised most of us, its all to do with ceiling height you know.



**John Hiltons Teardrop Bowl**

The demonstrators where kept busy with questions and some guys had a go, and that's not easy with an audience. Don explained the scaled drawing he had of the other hall to try various ways of seating people. Colin has agreed to run the clubs open day raffle for members and we had a number of prizes donated, our open day is really coming together now.

Arthur and Jo did the teas tonight and as others have it was all cleaned up and tidied away with the money counted and handed in. Its nice to know the Chair and vice chair don't have to do the teas any more.



**Brian Mitchell's Work**

After tea break we had the last brief for the hall relocation and with no more questions Don asked for a vote, the members unanimously voted to move, so more on that one later.



**One Of The Gallery Entries.**

It was then back to the demonstrators to wind up their projects and to start clearing up.



**Some Of The competition Goblets**

The raffle was drawn as the lathes and chairs were put away. I got a number come up this time, good job to, I was wondering what was happening, as I hadn't got a draw in months. All the competition items were collected and I sometimes forget the gallery, I'm not sure if anybody else displayed but Steve, John and I had items on the table just for members to see and chat about. John Horn is a regular participant to this and presents us with some original ideas so a big thanks to him. So with the hall all tidy again it was the last bits of chat and names to collect for our move on Saturday and there goes another good club night.

**Written By Boots** Feb 2006

**Photos by Ray Matthews.**

**Please pass this flier onto all your friends and acquaintances to try to get as much support as possible for this open weekend event. Your maximum support is vital to the success of the weekend.**

# **An Exhibition of Woodturning and Pyrography**

**By The Forest Of Bere Woodturners Association**

**Will be held at The St. John Ambulance hall, Fraser Road,  
Bedhampton.(Opposite The Rugby Club)**

**On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> . & Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> . March 2006**

**From 10.00am until 4.00pm.**

Members of the "Forest Of Bere Woodturners Association" will be demonstrating their skills on the lathes and at using Hot Wire Pyrography machines.

You have the opportunity to have a go at woodturning and/or pyrography under supervision.

Club members will be on hand to answer all the questions you may have about woodturning or pyrography.

There will be a dazzling display of member's work as well as competitions for the public to take part in.

Light refreshments will be available for purchase from the on site facilities.

Whether you are already a woodturner or just interested in the hobby, you will be very welcome to come along and socialise with like-minded people.

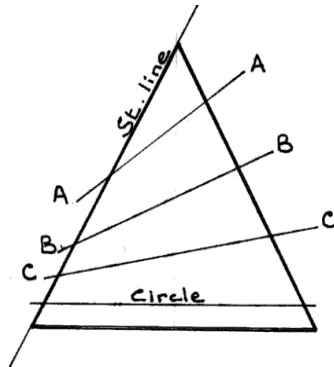
All welcome! Children under 15 yrs MUST be accompanied by an adult.  
Car Parking is available, on site, with disabled access.

**For further details, contact Mick Giles by phone ...02392 389005  
Or by email at .....mickgiles2001@yahoo.co.uk**

Or visit the club website at [www.forestofberewoodturners.org.uk](http://www.forestofberewoodturners.org.uk)

## **THE ELLIPSE. The shape and how to draw it**

The ellipse is a symmetrical, curved figure between a straight line and a circle. It is one of the 'conic sections'. It looks like a circle that has been squashed. It can be made by cutting fully across a circular cone at any angle from horizontally across (when it is a circle), to co-incident with the sloping side, the generator, (when it is a straight line). Examples of ellipses are shown in the sketch at AA, BB and CC. The range of degree of curvature obtainable from ellipses is very wide, so it can be useful to be able to draw its shape.



SECTIONS THROUGH A CONE

The easier way to draw an ellipse is by using three pins, a length of non-stretch thin string and a pencil. If the size and shape of the ellipse is not too critical there is no problem. The problems come when accuracy is demanded.

The first problem is to find thin string, carpet thread or something that will not stretch.

The second is to tie it into a circle of the right size.

The third is to find the right pins, firm enough and thin. The effective centres are on the edge of the pins and will move round the pins as the pencil is rotated. The string goes round the opposite side of the pins from the pencil. This causes an error that gets larger as the diameter of the pins increases.

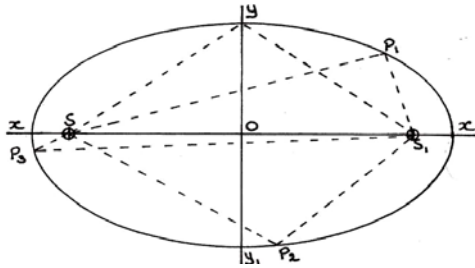


DIAGRAM FOR DRAWING THE ELLIPSE

Before drawing can begin it is necessary to decide on the size of the ellipse, that is to say the two radii to be used, or what is its long dimension and what is its short one.

From this, the position of the two centre pins may be calculated. One of the properties of an ellipse is that the distance from one pin ( S ), out to any point 'P' on the circumference and back to the other pin ( S' ), equals the length of the long axis ( x - x' ). S and S' are the focal points of the ellipse and are referred to as the foci (plural of focus). Half the long axis squared (which equals Sy or S'y) minus half the short axis squared is equal to half the distance between the two pins squared. (Sides of a right angled triangle). To take an example:-

Let the long axis ( x - x' ) be 100mm and the short axis ( y - y' ) be 60mm. Referring to the diagram, where S and S' are the points for the pins:-

$$(OS')^2 = 50^2 - 30^2$$

$$OS' = \text{square root of } (50^2 - 30^2) = \text{square root of } (2500 - 900)$$

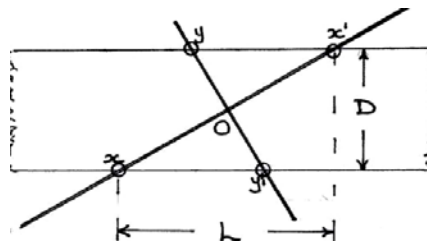
$$OS' = \text{square root of } 1600 = 40$$

With the aid of a calculator this is soon done in one operation.

To draw the ellipse first draw the cross lines representing the two diameters. These are at right angles to each other – lines xx' and yy'. The cross point is referred to as point O and is the middle point of the two diameters. Mark the extent of the diameters. Next set out on the longer diameter the points S and S' and set pins in at these positions.

It is now time to tie the string. To do this set a third pin in at any of the points at the ends of the diameters, say point 'x' for example, and tie the string round these three pins. (I find the string easier to tie when the points are in a straight line). Remove this third pin and place the pencil in its place. Now rotate the pencil round the two pins, keeping the string tight, and an ellipse should be drawn. The ends of the diameters having been marked already, act as a check to the pencil being on the right line.

To produce an ellipse shape out of wood is quite easy. An ellipse, as stated above, is a conic section. A cone of infinite height is, to all practical purposes, a cylinder. So if we turn a cylinder and cut it across at a angle, the cut face is conical in shape. To finish up with the ellipse shape required is also quite easy.



TO CUT AN ELLIPSE FROM A PIECE OF WOOD

Start by drawing two lines at right angles to each other (as we did for the string method) and mark, as before, the ends of the two diameters. Point 'O', the cross point, is the mid position on both diameters. By drawing a line that falls on the 'x' and 'y' points and another that falls on the 'y' and 'x' points we draw the diameter of the cylinder (D) required to give the right result. Furthermore by drawing two lines at right angles to the cylinder, one to pass through point 'x' and the other through point 'x'', we show the length of cylinder to be cut on the diagonal (L) to achieve the desired ellipse.

**By John Hilton.**

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# The Forest of Bere Woodturners Association

## **Committee**

**2005 - 2006**

Chairman	Don Smith	donline2004@yahoo.co.uk	023 92473528
Vice Chairman	<b><u>VACANT</u></b>		
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Member	Ken Briffett	No Email Address	023 9248 3625
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Member	Mike Scott	m.scott757@ntlworld.com	01329 512218
Member	Robin Lacey	robin.lacey1576@ntlworld.com	01329842004

## **Helpers**

Chief Judge	Eric Warnecke
Library and Badges	Jim Morris
Club Night Teas	Volunteers on the night
Raffle	Trevor Dobbs

## **Meetings**

The club meets every Third Wednesday of the Month at The St.John Ambulance Hall, Fraser Road, Bedhampton, Havant, Hants. PO9 3EJ (Opposite the Rugby Club)

## **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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