

Forest of Bere Woodturners Association



Winter 2008 Edition

Quarterly Magazine

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Winter Quarter

December 2008

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It was a sunny day in mid October, anxious to do something that I started writing this first editorial. Derek Blake's pen turning presentation was fresh in my mind, I thought it overflowing with gadgets and tips and enthusiasm. These same talents have been employed producing our magazines for the last how many years?



I would like to thank Derek, firstly for his coaching in magazine assembly, it has still been a very steep learning curve, **but especially for his sustained effort to keep our quarterly magazine in production.**

Derek features in the first of what I hope will be a series of Profiles of members, long standing and newly joined, to help us appreciate and learn from the talents of fellow woodturners.

To be viable our magazine needs woodturners who can also write!

We have a pool of members who have consistently written material for our consumption, and indeed I thank them for their efforts, but how many more I wonder have almost been motivated to write something.

Why not test the water with a note to the Letters page or Competition Corner? Sharing our woodturning experiences and inspiration can only be good.

In this issue we have reports from Mick Giles in his inimitable style, on the Phil Irons masterclass and the Les Thorne demonstration, and you can visit the club website for the Pen Turning demonstration by Derek Blake at the October meeting.

Make sure to check out page 23. Don Smith has a bottle of wine for someone to take home this evening.

It is now a sunny day in December but my unheated workshop is still rather bleak, requiring extra motivation and a pair of felt gardening gloves with the fingers cut off. Perhaps the challenge of getting this copy to the printers is preferable!

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

Please send as much as you can for the magazine. A5 page format 9 or 10 point, with a 1cm margin all around is helpful but not essential.

E-mail : ricksmith@tiscali.co.uk

A Message from the Chairman

Christmas is just around the corner yet again and I sit back and wonder what has happened to 2008 it feels like only yesterday that we were welcoming it in. Then on November 1st we were entertained by Phil Irons (he of the Wooden Hat fame) this turned out to be a very educational day starting with how to sharpen your tools to turning a Cowboy style hat.

To finish of the year we will be holding our annual Christmas Social evening and this was the first year that we had to limit the numbers wishing to come along due to our very large membership.

Thank you for your understanding of the situation. At this point I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year and look forward meeting up again in January 2009.



I have spoken with Bill Thorne and he has informed me that a committee has been selected to start putting together the programme for the Open Weekend, which is being held over the weekend of 28th/29th March. Thank you to those who volunteered their services to serve on this committee. Once a format has been agreed then I am sure that Bill will put us all in the picture.

I feel that I must make you aware that St John will be fitting a much larger vehicle into the far side of the garage and our lathes will be moved to a different position, as and when this happens Bill and myself will be on hand to help with the move. The other point is that once the new camera system is set up we will be re-organizing our cupboard by disposing of the two Televisions and the three cameras plus a large amount of unwanted pieces of equipment which should give a lot more space.

January club night is a turn-in so this could be the first time that the camera system could be given a trial so that we are ready for the February meeting. However there is no need to panic if it isn't fully installed before January's meeting.

Another point to mention is that we have had an invitation as a club to attend the West Wood Show, which is being held in May 2009, when we have more details Bill Thorne will be organizing the clubs participation to attend.

The junior club is still very healthy and is going from strength to strength due mainly to Mick Giles. I must also mention all those members who turn up on the Friday evening before to help set up, and to all those senior members who come along on the Saturday morning to either teach or just be there to help, thank you all.

Don Smith

Chairman

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One Day Workshop with John Davis

A dozen novices had a brilliant day out at John Davis's work shop on Sunday 16th November, the theme was basic spindle turning, some new members, some on the waiting list and some long serving members, all thought it was very informative and relaxed, everybody really enjoyed their turning.



The tea and coffee was supplied by John and each brought their own lunch. John explained things very well and the students practiced the set pieces on the four available lathes. I already have a growing list to return for the basic bowl day, anybody interested see Mick Giles ASAP, there are 8 places remaining on this course. To date there has been 50 plus placements from this club to John's one day workshops.

Written by Boots

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www.forestofberewoodturners.org.uk

A Day in the company of Phil Irons

It was a cold dry morning and the members were met at the hall with a hot cup of tea or coffee, some were there very early which gave them plenty of time to talk turning, the last few things were done and all was ready. Aline and Nikky were busy preparing the mid day lunch for us all and as we were all there Don welcomed Phil and off we went.

Phil introduced himself and gave us some past history; he went straight into tool sharpening, well if your tools aren't sharp you can't expect to turn can you? He spent quite some time on the subject; the members did seem to need this info, lots of questions and answers and an insight into his method of sharpening, it was an in depth discussion which brought out many things I didn't know, and I'm sure that goes for a good number of other members to, things were explained well with a good number of things passed round.



The turning part of the demo was a small hat, very impressive working to 2mm or less thickness which I think impressed us all, the burning of the hat band was something I've never seen before, but will be doing it now especially with the junior turners. He used a light to judge the wall thickness but it was inside the turning jig/jamb chuck behind the hat, with the cable passing through the headstock!



Now you're guessing, unless of course you've seen this before, but there's more.....

there was the added bonus of having the room lights turned out, now we're talking dramatic, picture the scene if you will.....apart from the light picking up on Phil's hands and arms, all you could see was the light through the wood and the tool cutting away.

The room went quiet for what seemed like ages, just when you thought he'd finished he'd cut some more, the light was getting brighter and brighter and through the mist you could just see the out line of the aliens space ship.....sorry....it just followed on so nicely I couldn't resist it, you can come out from behind the sofa now.

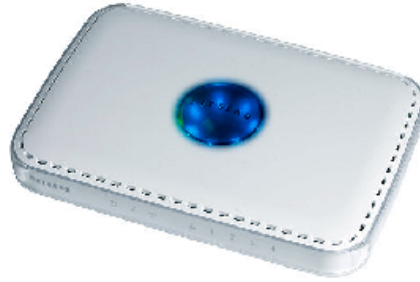
It produced some stunning pictures and it drew the attention of every single person in the room, I haven't seen anything quite like that before. So with the turning completed it was time for some shaping, some elastic bands were stretched round the top and across under the rim to pull it, now it was placed on the lamp to dry it and pull it at the same time. I have to say it was brilliant finally, and quite rightly was rewarded with loud applause. Through out the whole day Phil was explaining things which explained why there wasn't shed full's of shavings on the floor, but that wasn't the objective, to entertain and demonstrate the art of woodturning was the reason and he did that extremely well I thought. Don took the floor and thanked Phil who received another round of applause, which was followed by some more questions and answers.

Half way through the demo we had the usual mid day lunch brilliantly provided by Aline and Nikky, a number of us helped pass the food round and of course the turning talk at the table over the coffee after the desert, and before we returned to the demo the girls were thanked for their efforts.

Written by Boots

Photos by Boots

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Hayling Scarecrow Festival

In the summer of this year Hayling Island held a Scarecrow Festival. Some 350 scarecrows were built by residents, community groups and businesses and displayed. A 'trail booklet' was compiled to assist visitors and children to explore the Island and spot the scarecrows. Details are available at the website: www.haylingscarecrows.co.uk/

Hayling resident Ken Briffett has suggested that we as a club construct a turned scarecrow for the 2009 festival. Ken has offered to co-ordinate the project, details should be available next month.

A DVD recording of the musical introduction to our in house turners on our February 2007 club night, is now available for a donation to the Forest Junior Wood turners. First part is the whole musical introduction and the second is a brief edited version of the introduction and about 10 minutes of the four club members turning. It is an interesting video remembering the camera man only had 24hrs notice and was completely unrehearsed. See Mick Giles for more details.

Please visit the club 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

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

GAFIRS



One of the rescue craft

The Gosport and Fareham Inshore Rescue Service was founded in 1969 and provides free marine rescue cover in the Solent, from Portsmouth Harbour to Titchfield Haven.

Over the past fifteen years the independent service has undertaken 1637 tasks, an average of 109 per year, which makes GAFIRS one of the busiest Stations in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland.

The crews are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, additionally the service is also available to the county emergency services to respond to inland and other incidents.

Prior to the September meeting an email was sent out to club members asking for turned items to stock a craft table at the Alverstoke Village Michaelmas Fair.



Donated turnings at the September Meeting photo by Ray Matthews

The response was spectacular! Bill Thorne catalogued the donated items and priced them 'sensibly' at **£741**, members efforts should not be treated disrespectfully is his approach. The table raised **£347** on that occasion which was donated to GAFIRS.

Mrs Joyce Thomas, the Fundraising Secretary for GAFIRS wrote to Bill to thank him and our club members for their support. Joyce explained that no members of GAFIRS are paid, all give freely of their time to aid the service but nevertheless it costs £35,000 per year to cover the day to day running costs. She added "Whilst we have an abundance of enthusiasm and commitment, we need the support of others to help us to raise funds in order to maintain our Lifeboat service and to enable us to continue training and encouraging our young people to serve the community."



Peter Buckles, Bill Thorne and Brian Mitchell with plenty of stock. Photo by Robin Lacey

Another event is being planned in the New Year,

Can you give some of your time and skill to help restock our table in support of GAFIRS?

Please give your items through Bill Thorne to assist the club effort.

And finally...GAFIRS will again be hosting their annual New Year's Day Charity Swim. Noon at the boathouse names to Bill Thorne....

Visit the GAFIRS website for more information on their service and activities.

www.gafirs.org.uk

Material from the GAFIRS website used with permission

**Would you like to be included
on the club email list?**

Occasional mails on club related subjects are sent as Round Robins.

Contact **Mick Giles** for more information and to have your address included on the list

Profile Derek Blake

I was born in 1949, the sixth child of a carpenter father and an overworked housewife mother. The after war years were very austere and poverty bred the DIY era. I learned a lot about woodwork at my father's bench and was educated in Portsmouth in the normal council run schools system.

When I was about 12 years old my brother bought a "Black & Decker" wood lathe attachment for his electric drill. This was my first experience of seeing wood "Turned". We still have that first lathe in my family, and it is still giving good service, *with the same drill too!*



Derek during his Pen Turning Presentation at the October Meeting

On leaving school, I was lucky enough to secure a place in the Portsmouth Dockyard Apprentices School. Unfortunately the trade that my parents had chosen for me, (Boiler Maker) was one of those trades which suffered from the job cuts and union demarcation of the 1960's, and when only six months into the apprenticeship I was released to find alternative work. This ultimately led to a succession of jobs, from shop work to being a Police Constable in the Admiralty Constabulary. I finally settled to a trade when offered the chance to join Royal Mail as a trainee mechanic.

An older friend, (The Late John Mercer), asked me to go with him on a one day woodturning course about 15years ago. From that day on we were both hooked on woodturning. Attending all the woodworking shows like Wembley and the NEC reinforced our increasing enjoyment of this newfound hobby.

I found FOBWA through one of the members, at a demonstration in Stanstead Park. By attending all the Masterclasses and the Turn-In's as well as watching all the well-known demonstrators, I soon found what I needed to acquire in the way of tools etc. and also developed my own style and way of doing things. Being an active member of the club continually serves to fire up my enthusiasm and set me new challenges.

I think that competitions are an excellent way for members to improve their turning skills. Possibly the most important group is the Novices or Beginners, the competition structure promotes progressive improvement. I enjoy all the competitions that Paul Nesbitt sets us, especially the Woodpecker Door Knocker. I quite often make a sketch or even a full set of working drawings for complicated projects and always for commissioned work. With regard to the magazine I really stepped into the breach when the then editor Grahamme Dubber was about to close it down due to lack of support. I had not done anything like it before and received about 11/2 hours of tuition before going live with the magazine; it was very daunting I can tell you. The format has basically remained unchanged, but it has just evolved over the years. My tip for the new editor is to take it slowly and do things your own way. **For aspiring authors, just have a go and see what develops.**



I started pen turning about 10 years ago in a very modest way, mainly making the "Bic" type pens. I just used to turn and make the slimlines between centres until I could afford to buy my first pen mandrel. I have started my own website now **www.pompeypenmaker.co.uk** and hope that the site will be fully open soon. My "Pompey Colours" football pen seems as though it might take me to new heights, who knows? Watch this space as they say.

A Service Pen

I have my workshop pretty much how I need it at the moment, however I think that we all would like more space. I do have trouble getting my car in to the 24ft X 18ft garage when it needs servicing etc, but with a little notice it is just possible. I would like a better bandsaw, as the two that I have at the moment are getting very tired. A new 12inch disc sander is on Santa's list as well. I have always wanted to explore hollow forms, and natural edged turning. I have not been able however to justify the high cost of the special tools needed to do it properly.

Written by Derek Blake in response to questions asked by Rick Smith.

Photos by Ray Matthews

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 September 08 issue of the magazine.

Robert Blythe – John Jenkins - Hugh McPeake - Robert Steel

Peter Shergold - Ian Burrell - Brian Kilby - Geoffrey Osborne

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.

New Members are the lifeblood of our club, do "YOU" know of anyone who might like to come along for a visit?

For Sale

Lathes and various Machine Tools

There are a great number of tools etc for sale at the moment within the club, too many to mention here. Sorry!

Potential buyers please check out the club notice board on club night or visit the club website for a full listing of these tools.

Sellers please pass your listing to Mick Giles to add to the website and put a copy on the notice board (remember to remove when item sold)

Have you tried a visit to the Junior Club Website?

forestofberejuniorwoodturners.org.uk

Forthcoming Competition Programme.

If anyone has a problem with obtaining the wood for these projects, or has difficulty holding the pieces on their lathes, please feel free to contact me on 02392 483625. or any of the competition staff. –Also if anyone is unhappy with the projects set for the competitions, or feels that they are too advanced for the group, please do not keep it to yourself, come and talk to us about your feelings.

Ken Briffett

Competition Program Winter 2009

Beginners / Novices

Jan 09	Turned Key ring board with five turned pegs.
Feb 09	Egg cup to suit a chocolate Easter Egg.
Mar 09	A small bowl or platter that can be inverted to display the eggcup.

Beginner/novice

Jan 09 5 Peg Key ring Board

The pegs could just be simple dowels glued into holes of a similar size. However, as a turning exercise why not turn the pegs from square stock with maybe a small ball end and a shoulder at the board end. The backboard can be circular or linear but should be turned then drilled at the appropriate distances to accommodate the pegs and keys. Consider also the method of fixing the finished unit.

Feb 09 Eggcup to suit a Chocolate Easter Egg

A traditional egg cup with a good shape is required. Try drawing and cutting out a template - this is better than letting the shape 'just happen' on the lathe. Obtain the Easter egg, your choice of size, before starting to gauge the bowl size and proportions. You may wish to think about the eggcup foot shape in conjunction with the March project.

Mar 09 A small Bowl or Platter/Eggcup Stand

The scale and proportions of the inverted bowl / platter should have a relationship with the eggcup. Retaining the eggcup will probably require reversing the bowl / platter on a jamb chuck. Help is available if you are not familiar with the technique.

Bring bowl and eggcup for judging.

Competition Program Winter 2009

Intermediate / Advanced

Jan 09	Select a familiar phrase, saying or name that you can interpret and turn to make a 3D conversation piece.
Feb 09	A fresh cut timber end grain bowl any shape and not thicker than 3mm. Intermediate 150mm minimum dia. Advanced 200mm minimum dia.
Mar 09	A group of 7 or more delicately turned egg cups to suit chocolate mini eggs and arranged on a single block to form a decorative Easter feature.

Intermediate/ Advanced

Jan 09 Familiar phrase, saying or name

A little research, inspiration and latitude will be required to change words into a 3d turned object. You might find a source of ideas at the Christmas party. 'The News' also has a dingbat on the puzzle page.

Eg dissected + desiccated = cut and dried = an interesting piece of wet woodturning - possibly!

Or

Trans – it = it fell off the back of a lorry = toy lorry with 'it' object in an appropriate position.

Feb 09 Fresh cut timber end grain bowl

This is a good time of the year to pick up 'wet' timber. Use a clean, close grain log, preferably trunk wood with a centralized pith to avoid too much distortion on drying. Decide if it is to be a flat rimmed or a natural edge and how to avoid too much thickness in the foot, which may lead to radial cracking. Aim for a wall thickness of no more than 3mm.

Intermediate 150 min diam. Advanced 200mm min diam.

Mar 09 Eggcup feature to suit chocolate mini eggs

A group of colourful mass produced, mechanically formed, foil wrapped eggs combined with your thoughts on how they can be displayed. Think beyond conventional egg cups, scaled down. The eggs and the actual cups are mini - like acorns, after that everything else can be stretched and distorted to form a symmetrical or asymmetrical DELICATE flight of fantasy. 7 eggs minimum.

Ken Briffett

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the competition pieces or indeed any other aspects of woodturning please do not hesitate to speak to Ken. **He would love to have your feedback!**

Another Good Club Night January 2008

I arrived as Bill did tonight and only Colin who I'm sure lives there and Don were in the hall already, Bill after some chatting set to getting the Myford lathe from the garage, tonight it seemed loads of members were helping out, speakers, amplifier, monitors, camera and stand and chairs, and of course the first thing I did was to put the kettle on, as you do!

78 members here tonight, brilliant, tea and coffee as they arrived and at the mid way break, John and Arthur managed the kitchen and left it nice and clean, while I'm here that's probably 3 years now its been done by volunteers, can't ask for more than that can you.

At 7.15 Don started the announcements then it was over to Bill, then I said a few words, just after 7.30 Don introduced Les Thorne our demonstrator for the evening who was welcomed with loud applause. Les explained some basic easy to understand tools and specific grinds, he explained the various shapes bowls have taken on over the years and how it might be improved. So now we're all thinking yea right, surely its all been done before.....so the first thing that struck me was the blank on the lathe, 8" dia and 2" thick, where's the bowl in that, now this is where your line of thought plays tricks on you, I'm thinking, 3" thick minimum for a bowl 8" dia, and that's because that's what I used for the last few I turned, it's a sub conscious thing.

Les was careful to explain various cuts and tools to achieve a very good finish; he especially mentioned the torn grain problem and sanding, and even though he was going to texture it there was still the need for a fine finish, easy one to get caught out on that. The Arbortech was used to texture the underside once the foot was turned and the blowlamp was used to round off the sharp edges and burn off the hairy bits. A sanding flap wheel brushed the surface before the paint was applied.

**Les using an
Arbortech to
texture the
underside of
the bowl**

Photo by Ray
Mathews





Somewhere here about we had the mid evening break, the boys were busy and kept the queue down to just a few which is quite an achievement considering 78 people wanted refreshments all at the same time. I got a nice piece of Holly from John to give to Ken, That'll be an interesting piece when it's turned, nice

big lump. I took orders for the Walnut I had and a hundred other things that required attention, it was almost a relief to get back to the demo again. It was a very busy interval for everybody.

Les chucked the bowl on the foot and textured what was to be the wide rim area, once prepared

and painted the centre was removed, now comes the something new bit, he turned a recess on the inside rim of the bowl, which was then removed from the lathe, a screw chuck was mounted and a piece of MDF fitted, this was tooled to create a ring



to fit the recess of the bowl, and fit it did, perfectly, brilliant turner is Les, various methods of painting/treatment were discussed but this piece was just a pale mottled green from the treatment of the MDF, very effective, Les pulled the ring off a number of times and refitted it, as I said, a perfect fit.

So back to the beginning, quote "and how it might be improved" unquote, (always wanted to write that! probably wrong context but hey, who cares?) well the basic design was improved, and in such a basic why didn't I think of that way, I'm sure its not as easy as Les made it look, and I'm positive I'm going to hear from a good number of members who successfully try this, I may even try it myself, BEWARE THE DUST FROM MDF, always wear a mask and clean off and dust down before removing the mask. So there you have it, a new design to the basic bowl, looked good and felt good to handle to, the members



were impressed and applauded well.

Les finished by answering a number of very good questions, and after Don thanked him for the evening demo the audience applauded well. I have to say it was a refreshingly new concept to probably 99% of us

Wow !

here tonight, that's quite an achievement in its self, plus of course and you've guessed what's coming.....there was the usual banter relaxing the whole affair, well with Les and Bill what do you expect. So with that Don made a few more announcements, read out the competition results and handed over to Trevor for the raffle, no number for me sadly. As the members gathered their things together the hall was cleared and vacuumed, JC on the Dyson, somebody with the broom and before you know it the Lathe, speaker's amp etc are safely packed away. The last few things sorted and its lights out and doors locked, and there goes another brilliant club night.

Boots November 2008

Turn Out Your Feelings

This is your section to let us know your REAL views on any subject

Here is an idea from Mick Giles

The emailing list is crucial to working efficiently and I know there are still some members who's email addresses I haven't got, so asking for them would be helpful.

Something I've been thinking of but not put together yet is this, if any member is travelling to say John Davis or Axminster for example with a couple of days notice or more then perhaps if others need things from the same place then it can be collected by one, each person would need to contact the supplier and discuss and pay for materials so the traveller just has to collect a package, it has to be simple or the traveller wouldn't be interested.

It is just a case of me sending round the name of the member going and when and where, other members wishing to purchase items to phone the supplier, pay for the items and name the collector and date. Members interested contact me and ok me passing on either their phone number or email address to the traveller so he knows how many parcels and who for. Sounds complicated but its not going to be many who take up the offer and also it gets members talking to each other.
Mick~Boots



Please feel free to agree or disagree with any issues. Letters will be published without bias or favour.

The Forest of Bere Woodturners Association committee wishes all members and readers of this magazine a Happy Christmas and Merry New Year and that you continue to enjoy and be challenged by your woodturning during 2009.

One member will receive a complementary bottle of wine this evening.

Sorry! It is not you.

Chucks

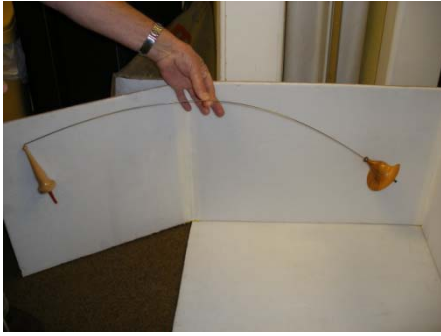
Chucks are used when it is necessary to hold work at one end only – such as for bowls or goblets, otherwise a drive centre and a tailstock centre are sufficient.

With the modern chucks and all their accessories it is possible to hold wood on the lathe in almost any way you would want to. However they are quite expensive and should not be purchased until you are certain which one you want.

Much can be done with faceplate, a home made screw chuck and some odd pieces of wood to make jam chucks. Not so long ago, before modern chucks became generally available, the majority of faceplate work was carried out in this way.

John Hilton

Competition Corner



Here are a selection of the competition pieces from the last quarter, in no particular order as the saying goes.





Photos by
Ray Matthews



If you would like to share any tips or techniques, successful or troublesome, employed in the production of your masterpiece, photos, sketches or comments all welcome, please pass them to the Editor.



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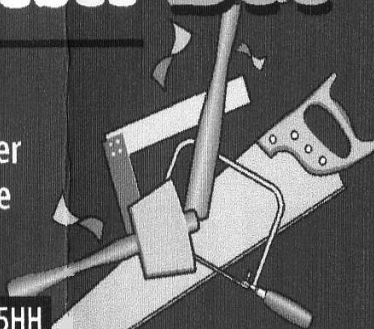
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2008 - 2009

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Helpers

Chief Judge	Eric Warnecke	Helped by Pete Withers
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.
