# Forest of Bere Woodturners Association



# Spring 2010 Edition

# **Quarterly Magazine**

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Spring Quarter March 2010



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#### **Editorial**

Welcome to the Spring issue of our Magazine. As it starts to get warmer, the workshop and the garden both become more appealing. Serious home decorating work over the winter has cluttered the workshop such that a computer style defragment is now required. I look forward to it.

I hope you enjoy the selection of practical articles in this issue.

Thank you to John Webb for his profile article, John currently arranges the programme. He would like someone to work along side him with a view to taking over this post. Please give it some thought and speak to John for more information.



Tool sharpening is such an important part of woodturning, there are many tools available with differing profiles requiring various techniques to keep them sharp and working. Three of our members show us how they have set up their grinding machines. I hope to feature more articles on grinding techniques in future issues. Would you like to help?

Bowl making is John Hilton's topic and he masterfully takes us through this lathe staple, Peter Withers describes a different aspect of the bowl making experience. We have Pewter Candle Sticks from David Comley and off-centre Decorated Plaques from Don Smith, I hope you are inspired to give them a try. I am contemplating a fusion of the two.

Thank you to Mick Giles for his account of the January Turn in. I thought this was an exceptional evening, well done to all the demonstrators and to all the members for being there. The Photo Gallery features some of the work brought to the meeting, I would like to be able to show everything but space does not permit.

The Open Weekend is approaching, look again at last month's news letter to see if you can help with the setting up, or contact Don Smith. Also, in April, the Masterclass with Bob Neill, take a look at his website and be amazed. We have two Charity Boxes to keep topped up and the competition pieces will be announced monthly, I for one need to get defragmenting and get working!

#### **Rick Smith**

To contribute material for the magazine, A5 page format, 9 or 10 point, with a 1cm margin all around is helpful but not essential.

E-mail: rickfsmith@tiscali.co.uk

## A Message from the Chairman

**Hello everybody**, I think you'll agree we have had a good start to the year.

Dave Reeks gave us an excellent insight into bowl saving and box making at the February meeting and the January Turn in had a brilliant atmosphere, thank you to the demonstrators for your efforts.

The club open weekend will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> - 28th of March.



Colin Holman is collecting for the in-house Members Raffle....anything, turning related please, you can give him would be very much appreciated.

Don Smith is collecting the Tombola prizes. All donations welcome thank you.

**WLWests Wood Show** will be held 7-8th May 2010. We have a stand with Don Smith, Mel Turner, Robin Lacy, Derek Blake, Dave Jenkins and myself, and Mick Giles with the junior club.

Our Charities this year are Macmillan Cancer Support (www.macmillan.org.uk) and The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance (www.hiowairambulance.org.uk). They will each be given a box of turnings to sell and we will replenish them as required.

PLEASE KEEP THE ITEMS COMING TO ME

Regards

Your Chairman Bill

Please bring your work for the Charities Boxes to the monthly meetings. Dave Jenkins, Brian Mitchell, Peter Withers or Ken White will be pleased to advise on production issues, labelling your work and popular items that are in demand.

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# Profile John Webb

I was born in Easthampstead, Berkshire, just a mile from Bracknell. We moved to Bracknell when I was 2 years old and I went on to attend the local Junior and then Grammar Schools until, having passed the entrance exam in September 1951, I joined the Royal Navy at Torpoint in Cornwall. I was 2 months short of my 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

After 4 years apprenticeship, which was completed at Rosyth, Scotland it was off to sea in HMS Bulwark. During my first spell at sea, we were present at Suez in 1956, and after visits to the West Indies and the Far East, we were diverted on our homeward journey east of Suez, transporting troops from Mombasa up the Gulf of Aqaba, during the 1958 troubles in Jordan. I was due to be married in the September, so this was delayed until November when the ship eventually arrived home.

After spells ashore, at HMS Collingwood twice and HMS Dolphin twice, and drafts to HM ships Plymouth, Protector, Albion and finally Tiger I left the Navy in October 1980. One of the memorable occasions of my career was, whilst serving on HMS Protector, witnessing Sir Francis Chichester rounding Cape Horn in Gypsy Moth.

My civilian career has been varied, mainly in the construction industry, both self employed and working for a couple of firms.

In 1992, during a short spell of redundancy I started working for a Funeral Director in Fareham as a pallbearer, work that I am still doing, although now with a firm in Gosport.



John and his wife Joy with Jimmy Clewes at Jimmy's workshop

My woodturning started in a small way when I was at HMS Collingwood, we had an old lathe in the machine shop which I used to play about with when the time allowed. My first lathe was a Tyme Cub, which I had for a long time, before upgrading to a Record Variable Speed a couple of years ago.

I have been on a couple of Woodturning courses, the first with Jamie Wallwin at Craft Supplies, and more recently with Jimmy Clewes, when my wife Joy accompanied me. In 2004 and 2008 we went on the Norwegian Woodturning Cruise, and have recently booked for the 2011 trip.

I am a founder member of the Forest of Bere Woodturners, having previously been a member of the Hampshire Woodturners.

Although I have 3 sons, none seem to be interested in woodturning, it seems to have jumped a generation and looks as though my grandson James will be taking up the mantle. He has been a member of our Junior Club, and spent three spells with Young Woodturners held at Stuart Mortimer's workshop at Grately, Hants.

At the moment I am responsible for organising the programme until someone else feels they would like to have a go!!! Please.

#### John Webb

# **Tool Sharpening**

A point of view...

The arguments about methods of tool sharpening still go on, and probably always will. A lot of mis-statements are made and sometimes accepted as the truth. Those who have spent money on the purchase of a sharpening jig are unlikely to say it was not necessary and those who can sharpen tool by hand to their own satisfaction are unlikely to argue for the need of a jig.

Turners will take the trouble to practice their lathe work to get the best results, but seem reluctant to learn and practice tool sharpening. There is nothing difficult in this but, as with most things, it is best to have instruction. After this, acceptable results should come with a little practice and determination. Do not be too ready to blame bad lathe work on the tool sharpening, look at your lathe techniques to check they are up to standard.

Choices have to be made right from the start. The first lathe and basic tools are relatively easy. Later on, a better lathe may prove more difficult. There is a need to think about what you want to achieve and how you wish to do it. Much fun and satisfaction may be had using a simple lathe and basic tools. Some turners prefer to make use of special tools, of which there are now quite a few. Different jigs and other aids to turning are now available and are made use of by many. To use the available help depends upon your point of view.

I look upon the use of jigs to help sharpen tools in the same way. There is a satisfaction by sharpening with a hand hold. Those who use a jig, I understand, get a different sort of satisfaction. It is up to the sharpener which line to take.

While sharpening tools I remain conscious of the fact that the longer the grind the sharper the edge, but the weaker it is and the sooner it will need to be resharpened. A shorter bevel (within reason) will usually cut as well, be stronger and last longer before re-sharpening.

A lot is heard about the relative costs, the speed of operation and the advantage of a standard bevel as ground by a jig. These discussions will probably continue for ever, but I can see no real advantage in either way, or any disadvantage either. They are different methods of sharpening, as there are different methods of turning. Compare the finished articles from top turners to see all methods are equally effective.

#### John Hilton

#### The photos opposite show the grinding stations for three of our members.

### Top left and right

**Mick Giles** has constructed a steel table to provide a stable, easily adjustable surface, allowing good support, in this case for the full length of the tool, and therefore good control whilst sharpening.

### **Centre left**

**John Hilton** has a steel plate arranged in front of the wheel to give good support. John says "The adjustable rest is used only as a good and substantial hand rest. Generally, the hand can take up all the required adjustment.

The tool is held firm by supporting it against the hip. The angle is controlled by movement of the body forward or back, together with the hold by the left hand.

First get the central part of the gouge sharp by rolling it round (keeping the left hand still). Following this, the wings may be ground as required."

### Centre right

**Mike Haselden** uses a variety of sharpening systems. In this arrangement the tool handle is supported against a preset stop so that the cutting edge can be repeatedly and accurately presented to the wheel.

# **Bottom left**

A pivot bar is clamped to the tool and supported in the socket under Mike's hand; it allows the grind to be accurately extended along the side of the gouge.

**<u>Bottom right</u>** Mike also uses a large, easily adjustable steel plate which can be quickly located and secured.

# **Grinding Stations**













# **Bowls**



Starting with a half log, prepare it for the lathe by scribing the diameter of the bowl onto the log in a position to get the best result. Here one end of the log was considerably better than the other. If the face is flat then there is the choice of faceplate, screw chuck or pin jaws. The pin jaws will also work if the face is not so flat. Here I have chosen the 1 inch short pin jaws for convenience as they grip well enough for a small log.

Remove as much of the waste wood as reasonable with a saw and mount the wood for turning. If starting with a prepared blank, remember that the first mounting has the top of the bowl next to the headstock. The work begins on the underside dovetail and shaping of the outside, usually from the centre towards the edge. I generally go for an external dovetail that I can remove at the end of the work.





The 2 inch jaws will be used and the dovetail is prepared to suit. The centre is marked with the toe of the skew to help with the last operation, when the dovetail is removed. Cut the plinth (if one is required) and the lower part of the bowl. At this stage I am cutting to get the shape, the final cuts will follow later. My first cuts are not deep enough as there is still some of the natural edge left showing.



Starting again from the plinth, the cut is adjusted to produce a flowing curve. This is not to exclude a few rough cuts first, if necessary, to remove bulk surplus before full length cuts are resumed. Complete shaping and sanding the outside.

If the bowl is to be used for food, then oil it off the lathe and give it at least three coats. I like to rub down lightly with 2x0 or 4x0 steel wool between coats. I think it improves the finish. For other uses, there are a number of choices for the final coat. A wax polish of some form, either directly or over a coat of sealer; a plastic coat, or one of the lacquers (melamine, acrylic or catalyzed). Read the instructions before deciding, they all have their own uses.



Reverse the bowl, holding by the dovetail on the base. Mark and establish the wall thickness, and cut to form the first part of the inside. Make sure the wall thickness does not vary. Leave the central wood on to reduce flexing and vibrating while undertaking this operation. Now form the central part of the bowl. A second gouge with a different bevel angle may be needed to get right into the middle whilst allowing the bevel to rub all the way.

A scraper will come to the rescue if no second gouge is available. The scraper must be sharp and used in the correct manner. Scrapers will produce a reasonable to good finish on most hard woods and it is worth practicing the actions to achieve this. The underside of the bowl is flat in the middle to provide a non-rocking base. The wall thickness cannot therefore remain consistent, but it should be so for most



of the way. When getting near the centre do not be tempted to lift the heel of the bevel off the surface in order to negotiate the curve. This will result in a dimple. Better to leave a pimple, which will soon sand off. Better still to leave it smooth. Sand and treat as necessary.



To remove the dovetail from the underside reverse the work onto a dolly and hold securely with the live centre in the centre mark made when forming the dovetail. Cole jaws may be used for this operation, they grip the outside edge of the rim.

Make sure all is running true and remove the dovetail with a spindle gouge or small bowl gouge.

Do not damage the plinth and make sure to cut a flat base round the rim, slightly undercut toward the centre. The central 3mm to 4mm, where the live centre connects, has to be left intact and sanded off later.



Before oiling off the lathe, make sure the work is free from dust.

To prevent dust settling on the wet oiled surface I stand my bowls on a sheet of plastic and cover with an old seed propagator top. The bowl is standing on top of it in the photo for clarity.

#### John Hilton

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# A Hole Too Far

About three years ago, when we had Paul Nesbitt demonstrating how to make a bowl with holes in the sides, I thought this was a great idea. In my wisdom, I increased the numbers of holes so that there was very little wood between each hole on the edge of the bowl. I had a nice 12 inch blank of oak. I drilled all the holes, put the blank up on the lathe and turned the outside, reversed the bowl and started turning out the inside. When the sides were about half an inch thick I was very pleased, but, thought I will make this just a bit thinner (bad mistake). The next thing I knew there was a great big bang and most of the lights went out. The edge of the bowl had parted company from the rest, one bit going straight up and breaking the striplight above my lathe, the other piece going over my shoulder and breaking the striplight over my workbench.

My wife came rushing into the workshop saying she had heard a bang and was everything alright? My reply to that was, 'I think I need to go to B&Q to buy some new lights'.

The good thing is I finished up with a six-inch small bowl.

#### **Peter Withers**

# **Competition Programme**

Don Smith, David Jenkins and Peter Withers are reviewing the monthly competition program, with the goal encouraging greater participation. They would love to hear your comments and suggestions on all aspects of the competition.

# A Warm Welcome to New Members

On behalf of the club, I would like to welcome four new members who have joined since the Winter 09 issue of the magazine.

# Alan Burges Julian Lloyd Michael Marjoram Ronald Walker

I hope the friendship, the activities and the resources of the club will help you to further enjoy and develop your woodturning. Your feedback on any aspect of the club will be most welcome.

The club membership now stands at 100 out of a possible 110.

# A MasterClass with Bob Neill

Bob Neill is an international demonstrator and teacher of Pyrography. He has taught in the Falkland Islands and is a regular demonstrator on the Norwegian Woodturning Cruises.

# The MasterClass

Will take place at St John Ambulance Hall, Bedhampton on

# Sunday 18th April 2010 please arrive at 09:30 for a 10:00 start.

In the morning Bob will give his normal demonstration and after lunch you will have the opportunity to try pyrographic techniques and produce your own masterpiece.

For the afternoon session you are welcome to bring your spouse / partner who will also be able to try pyrography. Priority will go to those who attend the morning session.

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Contact Tony Skerrett to book your place.
www.bobneillpyrography.co.uk

Visit the Club Website

www.forestofberewoodturners.org.uk
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# ANOTHER GOOD CLUB NIGHT

Cold but dry tonight, Mike Haselden and I had discussed our demo before hand and we both arrived about the same time. The hall was full of active members and as soon as I walked in there was somebody eager to discuss something, took me ages to get settled in and ready, Mike started well before time chatting about bandsaws.

So with everybody here and the lathes ready, Bill welcomed us all with a Happy New Year. A few notices, our new competition set up, a brief mention of the idea to get members together between meetings and help for novices in the monthly competition, that said and done away we went.......

Bill did natural edge work and a few other bits that came up in the conversation. Ted and Eric covered Thread Chasing. Mike and I chatted about bandsaws, well Mike mostly as he has more experience. An encouraging number of members stopped at our table during the evening, I'm pleased to say, it was interesting to hear how they got the most from their saws to.

The help list had a good few names on and I spoke to some novices about coming to my workshop, it will be interesting to see how this works out, knowing our members pretty well, I can see things getting very busy, maybe we'll ask at the next meeting.

As usual everything from sandpaper.....to juniors...... to chainsaws was mentioned tonight, very busy, plus I'm off cutting an apple tree up on Sunday, so what with juniors on Saturday its busy busy for me.....brilliant, I hope it is dry on Sunday.

THANKS FOR DOING THE REFRESHMENTS TONIGHT <u>ANGY AND ARTHUR</u>, ocopps.. my fault, I forgot to pass their names on to Bill so we could all thank them at the meeting.

The time went so quickly, as did the biscuits......before you could say Barley Twist it was time to pack up.....loads of help with this, Angy and I counted £70 collected for the Haiti appeal, well done everybody. Colin will bank that for us. The chairs and tables were put away, the vacuum run round....ran round would have been open for a clever remark so sorry to those clever / smart readers out there for denying you that pleasure.

No raffle prize tonight for me....totally forgot to buy any tickets.....ahh well...next time. Still loads of chat right up to the last minute, and with a check of the lights and doors its lock up and say good night...and there goes another good club night.

**Boots** January 2010

# January Turn in







A selection of the fine work brought to the January meeting.

#### Photos above and anticlockwise

- These bowls are fun to turn and look so appealing.
- David Comley eager to get started...
- A well made cradle but it will spill the wine.
- Derek sharing pen talk

### Opposite, top left and clockwise

- Fascinating
- Delicate and good jointing
- Delightful turned caricatures
- A satisfying stage of the work
- Ken Briffett's Button series, he likes to try out his ideas on paper before going to the lathe.
- A very carefully made piece

### **Photos by Ray Mathews**



# Photo Gallery











# **Pewter Candle Sticks**

First, what went wrong at the January Club Night with the intended demo? Well, it was an object lesson in not saying "Yes" with only a day's notice and other jobs to do! I needed more time to put it all together, especially making sure I had the right drills with me! I also like to make the piece before club night to practice, but there you go! The big issue was drilling the holes in one pass. So, just to show it can be done, I went home, and using the baby lathe (it's man enough for the job), settled down to do it again, properly, here are the results.



Start with a block of MDF – three pieces here – and centre it up.

Bring in the parting tool and cut a groove wide enough for the chuck jaws to get a grip.

Reverse it into the chuck and bring up a large drill, followed by a smaller one, to make a T shaped hole



I used a 1.75" drill for the flange, and 1.25" for the body.

Here's the hole. It is T shaped. So far so good, I suppose!



Remove the chuck and MDF from the lathe and stand it on a firm, level surface.

Melt some pewter in a small saucepan (I used a camping gas stove at the club) and pour it in the hole. Tap the block a couple of times to release any air in it.



While the pewter cools, mount the wood between centres and make a hole using the same drill as the body. (1.25" in this case).

Have a cup of tea or two – the pewter is still hot.



When the pewter is cool enough, mount it again and drill out the centre with progressively larger drills to make the candle cup. The pewter is drilled to suit your chosen candle size. Beware – all the tools (drills, gouges, chisels) get hot when working metal



The completed cup. You need to turn the MDF away from the pewter to release it.

Fit the cup into the wood. At the club I used superglue – at home I drilled the bottom and screwed it in place.



VERY CAREFULLY use a shallow fluted gouge to clean up the top of the pewter and then bring up the tail support.

A push cut may give more control. The swarf tends to get welded back to the surface by the passage of the tool.



A pull cut gives a cleaner finish, but one slip and you'll change your name to DC!

Either way, if you get a dig you'll end up re-centring the piece.

With tail support still in place shape the candle stick.

Take care not to cut the outside smaller than the inside of the hole! You can cut the metal and wood as one to get flowing lines.



Sadly the piece I was making has already gone and I forgot to take a picture of the completed item. On the other hand, I have made a few over the months, so here's the one I made to use the cup we cast at the club meeting (it was still useable, of course, even though the yew part was no good).



Here's one I made earlier using Black Palm wood from John Davis, he also stocks pewter. A bar of it is good for perhaps half a dozen candle cups, depending on your design.

Don't forget to clean up before working the pewter, then collect the uncontaminated swarf and melt it again for re-use.

# **David Comley**

# Off Centre Jig



Photo 1 Mark the centre of 240mm x 12mm plywood square. Drill a small hole at the centre point. Find a scrap of wood 25mm thick by 75mm minimum diameter, using the same drill as the baseboard drill through the middle, place between centres on the lathe using the drilled hole as your centre points. Turn it round, true up both faces cut a spigot to suit your chucking system, then glue and screw it to the base.



Photo 2 A blank of soft wood is required to the same dimensions as above, again find the centre, draw a circle to the biggest dimension possible. From the centre point measure50mm up the leg of one of the diagonals mark the centre and draw a circle of 115mm. You will now need to draw a square round the small circle. The best way I found was to take a measurement from the edge of the circle to the top and side then transfer

these dimensions over to make your square. Do not forget to put two witness marks across the cut lines to help in reassembling the jig. Go to the Bandsaw and cut out the square.



**Photo 3** Take your 240mm ply and line up the "L" shaped piece on to the face and screw them together.



<u>Photo 4</u> Use ply or MDF large enough to turn down to 150mm attach a block as in item 1 for a chucking spigot, turn it to size.

Now take the square of wood cut from item 2, with the Hot Glue Gun glue it centrally to the 150mm backing board. (DO NOT CUT OFF THE CORNERS). Mount the whole piece on the lathe and turn a 115mm aperture in the middle of the square piece, with parallel sides. Once you are happy remove it from the Faceplate using a screwdriver.



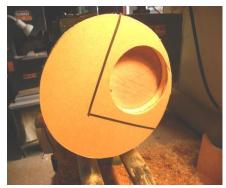






Photo 5 Now take the small square piece and line it up in position on the L shaped jig using your checking points as a guide. Draw a line inside the 115mm hole, remove the piece and decide where to drill three holes for fixing screws. Screw the square in place, cut off the corners and mount on the lathe and turn the outside down to a round. This size is not critical except do not break in to the 115mm circle.

Photo 6 Shows the whole jig turned to size and ready to use for turning the Wall Plaque

Decide on the two types of wood that you will make the plaque from and cut a blank out of the inner piece to 120mm. Glue it onto the face plate as in section 4 and bring it to 115 mm to fit the hole in the small jig putting a slight chamfer on the edge of about 5 degrees. Hot Glue the small blank into the jig, you are now ready to start turning.

Photo 7 shows the complete jig with the small blank in place and the pattern showing after it has been turned and finished. Once you are satisfied that the piece is to your liking remove the small jig by unscrewing it from the main board and then remove the project blank using a flat ended screwdriver to prise it off.

Photo 8 Now take your main body, Hot Glue it to the glue plate as in Item 4, turn a recess in the centre to take the small blank about half way through remember the 5 degree taper. Remove it from the glue base as in Item 7. Using the chucking system shown in photo 9 below turn the front face and add your decoration, sand and finish.



**Photo 9** Shows the soft wood, enlarged jaws that I am using to turn the front of the main body.

When completed, check the grain orientation and fitting before finally gluing the two pieces together.

Re-chuck with the back showing outwards and finish off the piece with decorations.



**Photo 10** Shows the back or underside of the piece.

I screwed a small eye in top and attached a length of gold thread to make the hanger.



**Photo 11** Shows the finished piece, which I call sunrise.

This project was inspired by an article written by David Reed Smith in the

WOODTURNING DESIGN Magazine published in the USA.

# **Don Smith**



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Sat 9.30 am-4.00pm(Summer- April – Oct)

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Selham, Petworth, GU28 0PJ t: 01798 861611 f: 01798 861633

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#### The Forest of Bere Woodturners Association

Committee			<u> 2009 - 2010</u>
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Member	Tony Skerrett	tony.skerrett292@btinternet.com	023 80462570
Member	Peter Withers	peterwithers38@googlemail.com	023 92786130

### **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.