

SOUTHERN FELLOWSHIP OF WOODWORKERS

Newsletter

March 2007

Issue 1/07



For Sale and Wanted Ads

Shows and exhibitions to visit

Useful design/woodworking sources; magazines, websites, retail

Officers and Committee Members

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Editor/Secretary's Bit

Hello , I'm Stuart Austin , new Editor of the Fellowship Newsletter. At the AGM Mike Pattinson stood down from the committee and also as editor of the Fellowship newsletter. Mike has done an excellent job of producing the newsletter for the past 3 years and we thank him very much for doing so. With no volunteers for the job, I thought I ought to have a go. Roger has Microsoft Publisher on his computer and he agreed to produce the newsletter. This software is designed for newsletters and sets the layout with the correct page numbering for you. I hope you like the format. Roger has also been able to download free software to convert it to a .pdf file, so it can be emailed. This means you don't need MS Publisher to read it but open it in Adobe. Most PC's will have this software and if you don't, it is available as a free download from the adobe website.

This is not to say that we no longer require someone to take on the editorial role. WE DO. Once we have an established format then the hardest part of being editor is bullying people to write articles for it. So give me a call, email or talk to me at the next meeting if you feel you could take this on.

2007 has got off to a very good start with the excellent talk by Chris Howkins. It was also the highest attendance we have had for a very long time. Chris is very passionate about his subject and it very much came across in his talk. You will see two reports on this talk. One from myself and one from Roger's wife Wendy. Prior to the talk, having looked at Chris's website Wendy expressed an interest in attending the meeting. She's not into woodwork but is interested in trees and history. I hope you like it as it's from a non woodworkers perspective.

We are looking for copy for these Newsletters over and above the usual commentary on each Meeting held .

Would Members like to write a piece on :--

A woodwork event attended .

A tool you have bought .

Parts bought (blades , biscuits , drills etc.)

Lighting or heating .

A timber supplier .

Sharpen your keyboard and get writing.

There is a lot in this first addition and I do hope you will take the time to read it. The list of committee members will always be on the inside of the front cover and the Fellowship programme will always be on the back page for easy reference, so there will be no excuse for missing a meeting.

We will also try to keep up a list of shows and exhibitions that are taking place throughout the year. Some of which may be part of the summer programme.

To put anything in the Newsletter contact Stuart or Roger. Details on the inside page.

Deadline for next Newsletter is 30th June, 2007.

Email to:- sfwoodworkers@btinternet.com

NEW MEMBERS

I would like to welcome the following members that have joined during the last few months. Please, talk to them at Fellowship meetings and make them feel welcome.

Charles Aldridge of Shackleford,
Martin Cheung of London,
David Ward of Eastleigh
Colin Water of Fleet.
Bob Alexander of Woking
Clive Murphy of Woking.

Also, one member has decided not to renew his membership. If you are acquainted with him tell him we would like to see him back.
David M Smith.

Member's Welfare

Do you know of any members that are not well and unable to attend our meetings. Let the editor know so we can inform the membership.

I know Eric has been diagnosed with a brain tumour & it is very unlikely he will be attending any woodworking meetings in the near future.
David Walker has had two strokes and doesn't get out much now.
Les Broomfield has had a hernia operation and I believe is waiting to go into hospital again.
We wish them all a speedy recovery.

FOR SALE AND WANTS:

If you want to sell any woodworking items or are looking for one then this is the place to advertise. Adds are Free so take advantage of it. I promise not to bag all the best bargains before they go to print.

FOR SALE: MULTICO PM12 bench top Morticer. Comes with floor stand with casters. 1/4", 3/8" and 1/2" chisels included. Offers around £55.00
Contact Mark Ripley 01256 880533. Mark is doing the talk at the March Fellowship meeting so if interested ring him and he will bring it along.

WANTED: Vacuum pump and Bag for moulding and veneering,
Airpress or similar in good condition.
Please contact David Allaway on 0118 9693229 or djallaway@tiscali.co.uk.

MEMBERS ITEMS

TEA & BISCUITS— a beginner's tool

No tea but plenty of biscuits. At 67 I have just started into woodworking proper and I have found a super tool; the Biscuit Jointer! It is safe, it is labour saving; add to that you do not need too much skill. It must be good!

I have just built a mobile workshop cabinet with a work top, using a Performance Pro biscuit jointer (I got mine from B & Q for between £30 and £40 a year ago). Ninety nine percent of the joints Nine percent of the joints on the cabinet were done with biscuits.

This includes shelves, corners, mitres, you name it — biscuits.

I did a lot of practice with assemblies held together dry, so a thorough inspection could be made and corrections done. However, there are a couple of tips I learnt from experience;

- a)I found that by setting the jointer for the next size larger than the biscuit to be used i.e. set the jointer for a No 20 biscuit but use a No. 10 biscuit, it gave a better tolerance along the line of cut but a tighter connection between the two faces to be joined. The biscuit is firmly held and the glue eventually locks it;
- b)When you use the angle plate, check after each plunge that it has not moved. The Performance Pro stop mechanism was very poor.

I can recommend a biscuit jointer as a “must have power tool” almost alongside the inevitable cordless drill.

David Lane.

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Talk by Chris Howkins 25th January 2007

“Trees, Timber and it's uses”

Chris is a researcher and writer, specialising in British Ethno botany. He was clearly enthusiastic about his subject and the enthusiasm was infectious.

The Euro definition for a tree is “a plant with a single woody stem, which has to exceed 5cm in diameter at breast height (DBH)” – one metre from ground level.

Chris stated that there are 32 – 37 native trees within the UK and a large number of introduced trees. The Roman introductions were the most important for amenity value (with the exception of conifers).

Trees have been used in practical ways for centuries (trade and industry was extremely important). Stone age man was observant and was able to distinguish uses. Few wooden artefacts have survived but a spear has been found, made of Ash, the length of a modern javelin and weighted in a similar fashion. In the iron age there was coppice work, which was probably also in operation in the bronze age. Causeways have been found laid out with Ash poles.

The Romans introduced Walnut primarily for food. It was not recorded until the 1580s for furniture making.

The talk was entertaining and informative- predominantly about the Holly (a native tree) and the Sweet Chestnut (a Roman introduction) and the amazing number of

uses for both. There are Holly trees in the Forest of Dean as old as 800 years although it is not generally known as a forest tree. It has many practical uses and is recorded in Mr. Johnson's 1862 edition of "The Useful Plants of Gt. Britain". Holly was used as whip stock for horse riders and, in the first century, Pliny the Elder suggested that if was possible to calm a horse if holly was carried.

The wool industry depended upon holly. It is an incredibly smooth wood and was used for shuttles and was heavy enough for them to shoot 40 inches – being smooth there was no snagging. The holly was layered in order to make the shuttles.

In the 1600s the wool industry declined and cotton took over. However, holly was still required – this time as bobbins. During the industrial revolution banks of looms were introduced and because holly was heavy the bobbins worked smoothly and there was less likely to be a chance of the thread splitting. In 1809 (in Derbyshire alone) 159,000 holly trees were felled.

When Textile printing came to the fore, holly was used to make the printing blocks; again its heaviness was important. It was also used to make the blocks for book and wallpaper printing.

Holly was also important for religious rituals, both Christian and pagan.

Sweet Chestnut is primarily a timber tree; the fruit has not really been important in the UK since the Romans left. In 1664 John Evelyn wrote that the Sweet Chestnut was "for pigs and peasants" and the idea of eating them was not popular – they were also said to cause flatulence. In France the Sweet Chestnut was used for structural timbers. After the 1987 hurricane, in the south of England, a number of fallen Sweet Chestnut trees were examined and it was found that they had a mosaic of various shakes within their timber. It seems that a tree being between 60 and 85 years old will start to develop shakes.

The Sweet Chestnut is the only tree in Britain to have spiral bark although one tree in 13 will have straight bark. There is one of each in Saville Garden as a comparison. It starts to appear in the South East after about 80 years but certainly develops by 120 years. The timber is spiralled underneath also. The tree contains no sapwood as such. It is in about three rings just inside the bark but it soon dries out and shrinking sets in. It is not recommended to be used in an open fire as it tends to explode.

Internet searches show that 58 occupations still use Sweet Chestnut. (16% of timber, together with rhododendron, is used in corrugated cardboard). Sweet Chestnut was used to make Hop poles. 1878 saw the peak consumption of hops (the tax was taken off them to undermine the gin industry). There was inevitably an enormous demand for hop poles. The tree was exploited in the second world war.

After the main talk there was a Q&A session, which was also very informative. An enjoyable evening was then over all too quickly.

Wendy Hardwick (guest of the Fellowship Secretary).

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25th January Christopher Hawkins on Trees , Timber and its Uses . Always a tricky Meeting for me to attend living at the very top of the Sussex High Weald. I was in about 3 in. of snow and the prospect of a 140 mile round trip and frozen roads late at night. Julian Hatcliffe persuaded me to drive over to him at East Grinstead. All turned out well. The M25 had light traffic and we were through in a trice. Last year, same Meeting (James Mursell) I had to cancel. Same problem. One of the best Meetings

ever.

Chris gave this evening on native hardwoods. A very simple looking man of slight appearance and clear innate modesty. However, after about 20 minutes, it became clear that we had here a man of considerable technical command and absolute ease with his subject. A practised speaker without so much as a prompt or slip of paper in sight from which to hold forth uninterrupted until 10pm.

To begin we were advised that a tree is defined as a plant with a single woody stem at least 5cm in height. I suppose you have to start with some sort of base. The UK's native trees number 32--37. each specie dating at least to the Stone Age these were kept and propagated essentially for their practical assistance to man . Other trees died out by exploitation and non-husbandry. Hunting spears of Ash , properly front weighted , have been discovered and dated to the Stone age Nowadays we need a nerd and a computer to do the job for an Olympic athlete . Genius is present in all ages.

Holly was important in our Industrial Revolution. Clean, dense heavy and pale it was ideal for shuttles in the cotton and woollen weaving factories in Lancashire and Yorkshire .

Cotton lent itself to printing and again holly being hard and clean and scrub able was ideal for carving into printing blocks. Holly was used for the early wallpaper printing blocks which were square in shape. This was a very similar process to pargetting which you can see on old rendered buildings in Clare, Suffolk or Eridge next to me in Crowborough , Sussex. Wallpaper was seriously expensive, carried a tax, so it became an inspirational home decoration with which to impress the neighbours. Oh! The English and their snobbery. Will we ever learn?

On to Chestnut. Careful on the open fire, it spits aggressively. It's used extensively in France for structural timbers, but not here because the damper climate makes it unreliable. Usually harvested at 60ft. If you go to 80ft a lot of shakes appear making the extra growth years a waste. It is distinguished by bark which winds the tree spirally. Sweet Chestnut has no sapwood and a Chestnut's sapwood is next to the bark. Therefore, the rest of the unrelieved hardwood burns so fiercely it frequently explodes on open grates. Its good in boilers ---nearly as good as Oak.

Chestnut, we were told, is extremely important in modern industry and 58 trades use it particularly in the drilling for water & oil. It is used a lot in the ceramics industry. Its structure has 30% tannins so poles and stakes for hops is another notable employment.

Elder was introduced in a Member's question. It is lightweight and pale softwood. It carves nicely. At the last count it was used in 92 potions for various ailments. Broadly, it has strong anti-viral properties. Intriguing, but not really for us. Remember an OTC medicine "Sambucol ". This is Elder at its best ---Anti-flu & Anti-bugs circulated in the air-conditioning systems in air liners.

During this talk Chris peppered what he said with references to particular buildings in Home Counties towns-- even as to precise directions and which side of the street. Well this floored me. I simply cannot take notes that fast so you can make your way there by memory!! Very impressive though.

Finally Sycamore. Introduced from SE Asia in the 17th Century it is the palest commercial hardwood, held in the greatest respect by makers/designers. Resists warping and twisting so it maintains its shape very well. It is very clean and is the only timber you can fell and use immediately. Chris has such an easy command of all trees

that I'm a little glad no one mentioned Oak else we would have been there till midnight.

Stuart Austin
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Meeting 22nd February--- Members Projects etc.

John Cain--brought along a delightful bow fronted bedside cabinet comprising 2 lower drawers and an upper covered shelf for his whisky nightcap. Executed in Chestnut and brown Oak.

He took us carefully through each making process mentioning the tools he had used. All sounded so easy but you and I well know how difficult and exacting it is when most of us are not as good as him. Particularly he spoke of where spokeshave work was necessary to align the forward face of the cabinet with the bowed draws etc.

The latter, incidentally, looked just perfect to me at half time. Laminated with eight leaves I counted. The tie rails of the piece were very nicely wedge tenoned into the side walls.

John is hesitant and not demonstrative. Never mind. His immaculate work which we have seen before says all that is necessary. Indeed I think he should talking less about the mistakes he made, although I know it can be fun when one thinks up a great wheeze to get out of trouble.

Sorry to write so little. It just looked perfect.

Michael Wakefield --is of the tripartite clan who visit Mytchett from the mystic East! He brought as promised his developed "add - on", for a pillar drill table. For those who don't know, Michael and Peter Guyett had a good deal of input into the design of Trend's Mortise and Tenon jig-- entirely unrewarded but that's another story.

I like American woodwork mags. .They are full of this sort of thing but to Michael's credit , although the execution of his jig is not as flashy as US ones the design of the work holding components is far superior to anything I have seen from them .

Picture if you can a rectangular table, probably 600 x 450 bolted to the drill's own iron table. Laying flat on this table are 2 MDF pieces (fences) about 600x 150 each which advance fore & aft towards and away from each other , secured and guided by small bolts with wing nuts running in slots on each side of these 2 fences .

Normally these fences almost meet directly under the chuck of the drill, a gap being left for the workpiece to be inserted. You then jamb the two fences hard up against the work piece and tighten the wing nuts. Unnecessary I hear you say. You can hold the work steady by hand. Well, no you often can't. Sometimes the left hand has another task and what do you do when you are drilling holes all along a 2.7m. Piece and you have 2.4m hanging over on the RH side where your right hand is operating the plunge levers? However, having a 600mm wide table and the work piece held tightly, you are probably going to manage it.

Also good was the removable tall fence extending between the horizontal fences to the LH side only. Michael had worked out that you can not have a tall fence in the area where the chuck descends on its pillar. A fence to which one can fix work but which is still out of the chuck's way was a nice piece of development. Lastly, there was a work stop fixed to this tall fence, through an adjustable slot with a wing nut and bolt, for repeat work.

He also brought a second table to fit the drill press. Directly under the chuck the table had a square recess for insert pieces matching the diameter of Carroll style drum sanders. Under the hole a small box is fixed to the table underside, into which you insert the tube from your work shop vac. The idea is that you shape your piece against the sander drum whilst yanking on the drill lever to copy a bobbin sander action.

Actually I am currently making a combination of these two tables. Mildly clever as this could be I insist that the really clever bit is Michaels work holding ideas. F&C Magazine thought so and there were copies of an article on this jig for us to take home, which had appeared in a back number.

David Barron---finishes a personal message. David has in a very short time established himself as an all-round good egg. We wheel the poor man on often when we have an unexpected cancellation. He is always helpful and absorbing and no less this evening on the black art of mucking about with finishing potions.

Out of a small cardboard box, he drew a few cans, cotton, cotton-wool, the odd glass jar and 6 or 7 lovely pieces of walnut, sycamore, brown oak, cherry and proceeded to rivet attention.

This was all about his current preferences and learning. So it was personal---not a commentary on all techniques.

Shellac David likes this for its versatility, durability and relative speed of use. He adds a final finish of wax. Shellac is bought in flakes. He prefers methanol to meths for dilution and suggests 100grms.200mls methanol. It can be had in tins which he finds OK despite warnings to the contrary but it will need diluting. Buy a tin from the "back of the shelf" and use in 3---6 months. The solution should be shaken consistently over about 2hrs before use. Use a dedicated brush or make up a "rubber" (30ml. ball of cotton wool wrapped in a piece of cotton screwed round it into a sort of pigtail). Apply lightly and quickly in light parallel strokes. Sand gently after 15mins with 320--400grit paper. Store the "rubber" inside a tight surgical glove --will last 3--4 days. He demonstrated this technique on the Black walnut.

The way he holds and shows the timber explains a lot about him. He mentioned shellac is excellent for sealing blotchy wood--- Cherry for example.

Organoil This is a newish product we have all noticed. David likes it. It is a finishing, "Danish" oil. Actually this Danish word was coined and it stuck. Finishing is actually a varnish. He applies it with a "rubber" and did so for us. You build up coats to the sheen level which pleases you. It's fascinating watching David do it.

Osmo Polyx--Oil He has used this too. It's a German product for wood floors. Very durable, repairable, it does not peel or flake. Resist wine, beer, fizz, coffee, tea & juices.

This oil should also be applied with a rubber

Osmo operates from Aylesbury. It starts@ about £9 for 750ml. which goes a long way. Be careful, you can easily end up paying £18 incl. delivery. Arm yourself with advice from David's Allaway or Barron.

Methanol Morrells Tel. 08705 60 61 62

Schoolhouse wax He introduced us to a long lasting tin which he likes. Produced by -Potmolen Paint of Warminster Tel. 01885 213960 ---buffable in 10mins.

Writing up this piece on polish makes me realize that this subject cannot be properly described. Members just needed to be there with him watching the colours and sheens appear. Also the admiration he had for the beauty of the wood and which he transferred to us. The popularity of this slot with Members is a good guide to future

Committee work.

Editors Odds & Ends---Illumination---I tried a Mafell Jigsaw a while back. A rather big Machine but with a brilliant touch --a headlight which surprised me by the help it gave .Gentlemen do what I have done if you are of a mind. Pinch some Velcro from the mending basket. Buy the slimmest pencil torch you can find--they are coming ever smaller with LED bulbs and you can use rechargeable batteries. Fit Velcro male & female as appropriate to your drill, jigsaw, router, circular saw etc. -- & the Pencil torch with Araldite. Experiment positioning where the torch will fix on the tool so to gain the best illumination of the workpiece The best position is not always the obvious one. Surprisingly useful when working in poor light, in a partly assembled carcass.

Jigs Love 'em don't I. Oh dear though, how to store the quirky things. Remember those old Victorian Airers hanging above your head in the kitchen. This is what you hang your jigs from because they just do not suit shelves. For example imagine two boards 1500mm long x 125mm x25 standing on edge running parallel about 800mm apart joined by 8 cross piece 20mm dowels. Hang this contraption above and hang all your jigs from it with meat hooks.

Jigs Book ---Complete Illustrated Guide to Jigs and Fixtures. Taunton Press via GMC.

Whilst on the subject of jigs I received this handsome book for Christmas. There are many but this and Bob Wearing's two books are really the business. The American book is so well illustrated as are all US books. The layout is very well conceived. You just open the book and want to get going. Did you know you can do dovetails on a table saw sled!

Overalls---The only guy I see in our magazines in overalls is James Mursell. Don't we all get messy! I always have a thin covering of dust over me.

Overalls cost £12 - £18 but nowadays at Agricultural Shows there one or two stands with good second hand overalls at £4 each. I buy truck drivers jackets for £3 and trousers for £3.

Stuart Austin

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Useful design/woodworking sources...magazines, websites, retail.

This is not a definitive, nor comprehensive list! It is purely a resource from my own personal experience which could be worth sharing with members!

Some of you will know of my long-standing 40 year interest in Scandinavian design and chairs and much more! Here are some websites which you may find interesting. Many sites have links to other sites - always follow these - it is amazing what you will find...websites beget websites etc.!

Some sites are multi-lingual, and the different language sections sometimes have different images/content. As ever with the internet, click on anything you can and you shouldn't be disappointed. Always look to see if there is an English section to the site, if not just click on everything you can!

(I am sure we all have our favourite websites, I'm happy to co-ordinate a website info. bank if this was felt to be of use to members. Another thought is that a list of books owned by members which could be recommended, either from the design, or the making aspect could be compiled - just with a single line description - with reference to the owner for further information. Again, I would be happy to compile in email form.)

I'm aware that our own books, and access to the internet represent a phenomenal resource which I guess many of us are under using. Computers and fast broadband access are now really cheap. If you're not using it fully, you're missing a real gift!

US woodworking magazines/websites

The UK is well supplied with woodworking books and cds, but the US market is much larger in comparison, and some say that the US Fine Woodworking magazine rivals, if not outranks, Furniture and Cabinetmaking.

Many US magazines have their own websites, with very useful links. They also have email 'Tips of the Week' help pages. Some back numbers of magazines are available, either as bound copies, or on cd. 'Shopnotes' annual bound volumes are very practical and Fine Woodworking have a phenomenal cd resource going way back into their archives. Postage across the Atlantic is not cheap, but in every case where I have bought I have found the charge on top worth paying.

www.taunton.com, their woodworking books are outstanding - hardbacks are good value, I imported 12 a few years ago on a special offer - just don't ask about the postage...it still worked out cheaper than any sourcing in the UK! However, check Amazon and their associate vendors, and also eay...it is amazing what appears.

Fine Woodworking also has an on-line text and video resource - \$15 to Fine Woodworking subscribers, and \$35 to non-subscriber. It has video clips on how to make dovetails and many other things...as well as text entries which makes it really good value.

So, Fine Woodworking, Shopnotes, Popular Woodworking, American Woodworker, Woodsmith, American Woodworking Magazine, Wood Magazine, Amateur

Woodworker, Woodworkers Journal...and others - all of these are excellent magazines, with slightly different perspectives. Look at the websites for each magazine and the links offered. Subscriptions are very cheap, and some offer two years for the price of one! (www.finewoodworking.com , www.shopnotes.com , www.popwood.com, www.americanwoodworker.com, www.woodsmith.com, www.woodworking-magazine.com, www.allwoodwork.com , www.woodmagazine.com, www.womeninwoodworking.com, www.woodworkersjournal.com .

Websites - mostly Danish Furniture Design

It really is worth just entering any possible web search conceivable with designers/ furniture/chairs /Denmark and all sorts appear! If you use the digital version of this document in MS Word and click on a web address, it should speed up your research!

www.danishfurniture.dk gives access to links to Danish designers/manufacturers. Select furniture finder, and select 'Show all companies in the index...gives over 250 manufacturers - possibly the most useful aspect of this list.

www.danish-furniture.com is a virtual exhibition of the most famous Danish (chair) designers

www.ddc.dk - Danish design Center in Copenhagen. - useful web links_

www.design-museum.de The Vitra Design Museum maintains one of the largest collections of modern furniture design in the world.

www.kunstindustrimuseet.dk/en - Furniture and Space exhibition - June to August - Copenhagen-also virtual display

www.designmuseum.org digital display - multi-faceted - London Design Museum - currently showing 'A century of chairs'.

www.illumsbolighus.dk (design store) and www.ingvardchristensen.dk (major upmarket/classic Danish furniture retailer) have websites worth looking at.

www.houseofdesign.dk House of Design in Copenhagen, C20th. items. Restoration with in house cabinet maker - apparently one of the most skilled in Denmark.

www.skandium.com - London - their website has links, not least to Fritz Hansen which also gives links to other useful websites.

www.scandia.co.uk -links to Magnus Olsen, Frederica and One Collection.

www.trapholt.dk Trapholt Museum - Kolding - good bookshop, modern art and national furniture repository...dedicated unique underground display of many C20th. chair icons. Arne Jacobsen's summer house is there, but not open on Tuesdays and Thursday.

www.nanna-ditzel-design.dk Nanna Ditzel Design site has some interesting links - she died a couple of years ago, but created some wonderful furniture - some at Trapholt.

www.danish-design.com - useful links

www.dmk.dk - designer index with some excellent links to sites such as the classic maker, www.fritzhansen.com

www.denmark50.com Californian warehouse with Danish designers' biography and examples of their work.

www.paustian.dk - Showvejen 2 Arhus,- a small, but beautiful furniture shop etc.

<http://www.fritzhansen.com> - leading furniture manufacturer of modern Danish design classics.

<http://www.fredericia.com> - another leading manufacturer

<http://www.magnus-olesen.dk> - O.K.- I do have some of their furniture!

http://www.bbc.co.uk/homes/design/period_scand_mod.shtml - a small contribution from the BBC

Other web sites

Most tooling manufacturers have their own websites - some just promotional, others have far more help, like www.woodrat.com, There are also discussion blogs with lots of more useful information, and other links.

There are also lots of personal, or group woodworking sites, so try 'woodworkers' in any country, e.g. New Zealand - so, 'woodworkers in new Zealand' will take you to... www.dmoz.org/Arts/Crafts/Woodcraft/Woodworking with entries from Allan's Wood Miser's Workshop to zzzzzzz! (Well, no, it stops at 'y'!) with 'You like wood, I like wood!'

www.ncwoodworkers.com - recommended by Peter Guyett. There are many websites - some just take a little more hunting for than others!!! Video clips on the Woodworkers Channel.

DIY / Woodworking Retail Thoughts...

Denmark and Sweden, www.bauhaus.dk, www.clausolsen.dk, and www.haraldnyborg.dk - all have websites and are interesting shops. (All three have shops in both Denmark and Sweden, with different offers, shopping carefully will give good offers!)

France - www.leroymerlin.fr, www.castorama.fr, www.bricolage.fr, www.bricoman.fr etc. - last 3 all part of Kingfisher plc, all carry a broader range of tools/DIY materials than in the UK - much more interesting than a UK DIY shed! And...often quite a bit cheaper! Some stores around Calais. Check websites. When did B & Q sell 6' oak planks?!

Finally

The email links in the list all work, if you would like a digital instead of a hard print copy, please email me.

As you might realise, we've got to know parts of Denmark quite well, it is a recommended holiday destination! I'm quite happy to offer ideas which members might find useful.

Julian Hatcliffe.

j.hatcliffe@tiscali.co.uk

MEMBERS PROJECTS

I would like to use this page for members to tell us about items they are making, be it a large piece of furniture or a small jig. Tell us about it and send in some photos.

Below is a photo of a coffee table made by Mike Wakefield, taken during our visit to his workshop in 2006



Table saw overload.

Over the Christmas period I took annual leave from work in order to make my garage more comfortable to work in. No, I didn't put armchairs in it. The plan was to board out the walls, move equipment and benches around to be more convenient and get the solid fuel cooking range I had working to provide some heat.

I ordered 30 sheets of T&G Flooring grade chipboard, which is moisture resistant and quite dense to provide a good fixing for shelves etc. The internal walls of the garage are 8 feet high, the same as the boards, so little cutting was required. To fix the boards I had some 6"x 1" softwood boards about 7 feet long, which I intended to cut into 3 x 2" strips to use as battens. In October 2006 a friend asked if I could help sell a small table saw. It's a Nutool make with 1500w motor. I thought this would be idea to use to cut the 6" board into 3. My friend saw to try out the saw first, then either buy it or he would have it back.

So, the day after Boxing day, I cleared one wall ready to batten. I had assembled the saw; it comes with a stand, side and back table extensions. I hooked it up to my new CAMVAC dust extraction system, set the fence and commenced cutting. After cutting two boards the saw seemed to be coping well and cutting quite straight. However, having cut about 1 foot into the 3rd board the saw began to smoke and stopped. Oh dear. By now I had enough battens to start on the first wall, so I let the saw cool down over night. Next day, I pressed the reset button on the saw and tried again. It cut about another foot before cutting out again. I let it cool down and later tried again. Still the same. So I moved it to one side and got out my Einhell circular saw. This saw had no problems cutting the rest of the boards. It is fine for rough cuts but the base and fence are very poor for accurate work.

The Nutool table saw has now been returned to it's owner. I didn't really have room for a table saw anyway. It was an inexpensive saw, approx. £120 new, well you know the saying; "you only get what you pay for" and as many of the magazine writers say "buy the best you can afford".

Roger Hardwick
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Notcutts “Wood is Good event”.

I only read about this event for Sunday 28th January, in a local paper 6 days previously. I phoned the manager of Notcutts Garden Centre, Bagshot, to find out more details. It was an event at all the Notcutts garden centres to promote the use of wood. The Surrey Association of Woodturners would be there. Also the PD Turners based near Heathrow, a bug man, a butterfly man and a Trug maker. I then asked if our Fellowship could have a stand. Jim the manager said yes, the more the merrier. So 6 days to pull together a stand!!.

I still had on my computer the slide presentations given at members evenings by Bill Clayden and Peter Guyett.; So hoping they wouldn't mind I merged them into one slide show. I also had a few photos I had taken and some from Robert Hayden. Following the January meeting David Allaway kindly emailed me some more photos. In the end I had a slide show of 55 slides. I set the show to run continuously with 15 seconds on each slide. I have a 19" flat screen so I took that along to improve the display. To fill out the table I took along a few woodworking books and a few hand tools; three hand planes, one an old wooden one, a couple of spokeshaves, a block plane, a brace and bit and a few chisels.

Finally I updated a leaflet from the SAW show to give out to interested visitors. Interestingly the old wooden planes drew the most interest as many visitors commented on the fact they had a number of these in the loft or shed that their fathers or grandfathers had left them. We had quite a bit of interest and I gave out about 30+ leaflets. Time will tell if it was a fruitful event.



Future shows

I personally think having stands at shows is a very good way to promote the Fellowship.

West Timber merchants will be having a show in May and it would be worth asking if the Fellowship can have a stand. To make it worth while though it has to look good. We need to develop a standard type of display. I would like to develop the PowerPoint presentation and to do this I need more photographs of items members have made, preferably with a little description. To enhance the display we need items for the public to look at; like small boxes members have made or jigs made to enable a task to be done quicker or safer. Of course we also need literature for them to take away. Lastly we need members to volunteer to man the stands.

So how can YOU help?

Identify shows that would be worthwhile the Fellowship having a stand at.

Lone, donate or make (perhaps the Fellowship could pay for materials) small items that could be put on display.

Take pictures of items you've made and email them to me. Volunteer to man the stand, if only for an hour or so, to talk to passers by about your passion for woodwork.

If the Fellowship is to grow then we all need to do something to help.

Public Events with Furniture and Woodworking Interest 2005

NB It is advisable to check dates and times with the venue before Travelling

13-14th April **Yandles' Spring Woodworking Show.**
Free admission - free parking. The largest free woodworking show in the Southwest.
Great deals and our usual sale on: Timber, Tools, Machinery and Accessories.
Tel: 01935 822207 www.yandles.co.uk

4/5 May **West's Wood Show** Petworth,
W L West Open Day with trade displays and some demonstrations.
Tel: 01798 861611 www.wlwest.co.uk

19/20 May **Barnsley Workshop Open weekend** Petersfield, Hants
A popular annual event, with high quality furniture and the workshop on display.
Always worth a visit.
Tel: 01730 8272333 www.barnsley-furniture.co.uk

18/20 May **The Craft & Design Experience**
A major craft event which includes furniture makers and Woodturners. Robert Ingham exhibited last year.
Fawley Court, Henley on Thames Fawley Court, designed by Christopher Wrenn is interesting and contains some of Grinling Gibbons finest work. Adults £6.00
Tel: 01622 747 325 More details on www.craftexperience.co.uk

11-16 June **Bucks University College, Faculty of Design, Final Year Show**
Tel: 01494 522141 www.bcuc.ac.uk
General Open Day on 20th June.

16-21st June. **Rycotewood Furniture Centre. Summer Show**
Oxford & Cherwell College
Plenty of good furniture to see produced by new graduates.
Tel: 01865 269269
www.oxford-cherwell.ac.uk/events_artsShow.htm

5—8th July **New Designers Show Part one.**
Business Design Centre, Islington, London. The best furniture and other design exhibits from recent graduates from colleges around the country
Tel: 020 7288 6687 www.newdesigners.com

12-15th July **New Designers Show Part Two.** See above.

19 -22 July **Art in Action**
Waterperry, Wheatley, Nr Oxford. Major Craft Fair with demonstrations
www.artinaction.org.uk

18-26 August **Celebration of Craftsmanship**
Cheltenham College, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
Exclusively furniture c 400 exhibits from c70 of the best designer/makers in the
country.
Tel: 01242 238582
www.celebrationofcraftsmanship.com

17-19th November **D & M Tool Show Kempton Park racecourse**
Free entry and parking.
<http://www.dm-tools.co.uk/kempton.php>

2007 PROGRAMME

All winter programme meetings are held at Mytchett community centre.
Start time 7:30pm.

25th January Talk by Chris Howkins Trees, Timber and its' uses.

22nd February Members Evening .

John Cain - Bow fronted cabinet.

Mike Wakefield – Drill Press

22nd March Talk by Mark Ripley Furniture design and maker
www.mark-ripley.com

26th April Members Evening Neil Hiscox – Making a Rocking chair;
Robert Hayden - tree conversion to planks ;
Chris from Technasales to demonstrate tools.

May 19th West Timber merchant , Selham, Petworth and David Barron's
workshop in Southampton

June 20th Richard Williams at Amersham. Issac Llord

July 11th Geffrye Museum at Shoreditch and Cecil Tyzack's tool
shop.

August 24th Westonburt Arboretum, festival of the tree.

Contact Andrew Swain to express interest in attending summer visits and for
up to date information. See inside cover for details.

27th September Mytchett Centre

25th October Mytchett Centre

22nd November AGM