



# WOODBITS

## NEWSLETTER

### Issue 211

### December 2023

### Welcome

## SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello

Some sad news to start – I am sorry to report the death of Mike Sheaf. A stalwart of the club, Mike organised the production of the club polo and T-Shirts. Over the years money collected by him went to the Rennie Hospice. Later we will find out further details so members who knew him can send cards to the family if they wish.

Club night was well attended in November and we had some interesting demonstrations. We are always on the lookout for more members to contribute to club nights so if you would be willing to organise a short demo or talk please get in contact with any one of the committee members.

The competition table was heaving with entries this month and the quality of the work submitted was high – many thanks to all those who brought items. There is still time to start work on projects for the new year and it is also useful to look ahead and plan submissions for the next few months.

As we are starting a new year, it is time to renew your membership. Steve Hart has sent out renewal letters.

Many thanks to our committee – we meet quite regularly and if you wish to add an item with material to the agenda for us to discuss please contact the secretary Allen Kaye. In particular at the moment my thanks go to Paul Rowland who has finished the demonstrator bookings for next year and also through into 2025. Our own Gary Rance is demonstrating in January and we know from past times that he always gives us an interesting and professional session. I am looking forward to it. Also to thank Mel for planning our training programme.

So, it just remains for me to wish you all a very happy New Year and for us all to look forward to making lots of creative shavings in 2024.

Adam Blackie

Chairman

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# Club News

## December Competition

### Beginners

1<sup>st</sup> Mel Williams



2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Wigginton

3<sup>rd</sup> Pete Pocock



Advanced



1<sup>st</sup> Geoff Selley

2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Walters



3<sup>rd</sup> Peter Hoare



Open



1<sup>st</sup> Peter Kemp



2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Scotock



3<sup>rd</sup>= David Gebler



3<sup>rd</sup>= Tony Taylor

## Meetings Calendar

### 2024

Jan	9th	Gary Rance	<a href="http://www.garyrance.co.uk/">www.garyrance.co.uk/</a>
Feb	13th	Emma Cook	<a href="http://www.thetinyturner.co.uk/">www.thetinyturner.co.uk/</a>
Mar	12th	Terry Vaughan	<a href="http://turnedwoodenbowls.co.uk/">turnedwoodenbowls.co.uk/</a>
Apr	9th	AGM + Demos	
May	14th	Terry Smart	
Jun	11th	Club Night	
Jul	9th	Simon Hope	
Aug	13th	Anna- Marie	
Sep	10th	Club Night	
Oct	8th	Steve Heeley	
Nov	12th	Mick Hanbury ?	
Dec	10th	Christmas Social	

### 2025

Jan	14th	Gary Rance?
Feb	11th	Steven Kearvell
Mar	11th	Stewart Furini

## Beer themed items

Many thanks to the kind and generous club members who created and donated turned items on the theme of beer for the December meeting.

After the meeting, we delivered the donated items to the lady in Tring who kindly gave her husband's lathe to the club in the summer. She was very touched and pleasantly surprised by the gifts, the more so as her house is in some disorder with building work, and is spending Christmas with friends. She has asked that we convey her thanks and best wishes for the festive season to everyone in the club. A good deed is never lost!

Harvey



## Raffle purchase Diary for 2024

I am the raffle coordinator for the forthcoming year. Many thanks to those people who responded to my last request.

If you think you can help for future months, then please contact me. Each month I give £60 to buy about 5 prizes which are then raffled off at a meeting. There is some flexibility as it is offered as a guide. Full receipts are required for each spend made. If you need to discuss any of this information with me, feel free to do so.

Steve Beadle Herts and Beds Raffle Coordinator Tel 07720 677456

## Competition Subjects

### 2024

Jan	20 to 30cm Long Spurtle	Natural edge vase
Feb	12 to 15cm Dia. Bowl	Wool Bowl
Mar	Ring Finger	Something Offset
Apr	Egg Cup	Egg Shaped Box
May	Dibber	Goblet With One or More Rings
Jun	Candle Holder	Lidded Box
Jul	Plate or Platter	Something Stained or Painted
Aug	Any Style of Rolling Pin	Bowl on Feet
Sep	An Apple or Pear	Hollow Form
Oct	Paper Weight	Two or More Woods
Nov	Bud Vase	Pen/Pencil/Brush Holder
Dec	Xmas tree decoration	Pair Candle Holders

## Club Night.

A flavour of the night via some photos by Andrew Street



# Training support from the AWGB

As a member of the AWGB, everyone has access to the support they offer.

There are various threads to this support – at one level they provide member training workshops for individuals who wish to develop their own skills further. They also offer demonstrator training and ‘training the trainer’ opportunities for those who want to hone their skills at teaching others.

## Member Training Workshops

Already planned by the AWGB the following is a list of opportunities in the new year. If you are interested then follow the link below to see the application process.

### [Member Training Workshops – AWGB](#)

2024				
8 March	Beginner - Intermediate	Small plate / Apple / Pear	Gary Rance	Wendover, Buckinghamshire
9 April	Intermediate	Thread Chasing	Simon Hope	Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TR
18 May	Beginner	Basic bowl	Les Thorne	The Woodturning Shop, Four marks, Hampshire
18 May	Beginner - Intermediate	Improving tool techniques	Darren Crisp	Shaws Burn Woodturning Studio, Ashgill, Scotland
1 June	Intermediate	Table Lamp	Dennis Wake	Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, County Durham
11 July	Beginner - Intermediate	Novelty animals	Kate Kitchin	Tingley, Wakefield
7 September	Intermediate	Platter	Dennis Wake	Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, County Durham
1 October	Intermediate - Advanced	Bowl & colour	Mick Hanbury	Turners Retreat
11 October	Beginner - Intermediate	Humming Top	Gary Rance	Wendover, Buckinghamshire
6 November	Beginner - Intermediate	Texture and colour	Chris Parker	Leyland, Lancashire



## Training the Trainers

The AWGB also support individuals who want to improve their training skills or maybe want to start to train others by offering support and a process that can lead to a recognition by the AWGB as a trainer.

We have already arranged for one session to take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February at Adeyfield. If you want to attend to be certified as a trainer then there are expectations in terms of lesson plans– it involves things like basic health and safety in the use of the lathe, relating to the trainee as an individual, working to a plan, understanding the trainees needs and existing level of competence as well as obviously being able to communicate sensitively and being competent woodturner yourself but you do not need to be an expert woodturner to take part.

The AWGB assessor will be observing a short segment about 45 minutes of a training session for each person who wants to become an accredited trainer. If you are interested in attending that day, then let me know soon please.

We also need members who will act as trainees for the sessions.

Allen Kaye [allen.kaye@bath.edu](mailto:allen.kaye@bath.edu)

There are more opportunities available - if you want to read more about this – take a look at the main page on the AWGB website.

### [Training – AWGB](#)

To give you a flavour, I have captured the front screen to the right from their website.

### Training

The AWGB offers training programmes in six specific areas.

- [Member Training Workshops](#)
- [Masterclasses](#)
- [Certificate in Woodturning](#)
- [Demonstrator Training](#)
- [Tutor Training](#)
- [Youth Training](#)
- [Ray Key Bursary Award](#)

## Chestnut weekender

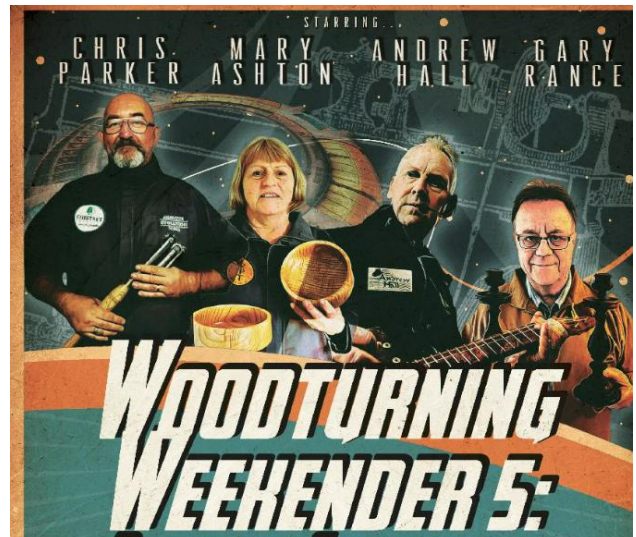
Also to check out is the link to the Chestnut Products Woodturning Weekender next year.

### [Woodturning Weekender 2024 | Chestnut Products - First for Finishes](#)

One of our members Alan Wiggington is already planning to go and would be happy to find other members interested and arrange a car share – if interested email him on [beechbum@ntlworld.com](mailto:beechbum@ntlworld.com)

PS – Note the famous face on the right of the poster. If you want more info about the Weekender have a word with him at our next meeting as he is our specialist demonstrator!

Allen



# Projects

## Chess set – Geoff Selley

*Geoff rightly earned his first place in the Open competition last month and a number of people commented on the quality of his work. He kindly has sent me some more detailed photos of his pieces and a bit of text to describe how they were made.*

*On the right is a slightly scary photo of Geoff in the kitchen at Xmas so you can talk or ask questions with him next month.*

Allen

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The reason I started the set was because a friend had his father's chess set missing one pawn and asked could I make one? This came out quite well with the help of a club training weekend and Peter's (ex-treasurer) valued advice. Over the next three years I gradually produced the set with many catches and mistakes.

The tools I used were a spindle roughing gouge, and 3/8ths spindle gouge . two skew chisels 1" and 5/8ths various scrapers and a parting tool and for the knights the Dremel was essential.

The light wood was a very old (20 year) pieces of yew and the dark pieces are mahogany which came from 4 table legs from the club wood table – photo attached on my Axminster lathe.





## Penguins – Allen Kaye

I ought to start this by stating that I am tired of Penguins. I make a variety of turned wooden and glass items each year for our local church fairs and over time I guess like others we learn what the punters like and what gets left of the table at the end of the fair.

Last year for the first time I made a few sets of penguins after seeing images of them on the net and they sold well. This year I made more but it became obvious early on that the world has been waiting for them as they all sold out in less than 10 minutes. On the day and since then I have been asked for more and I had thought the last of them had been delivered two nights ago but I had yet one more request last night - sigh.

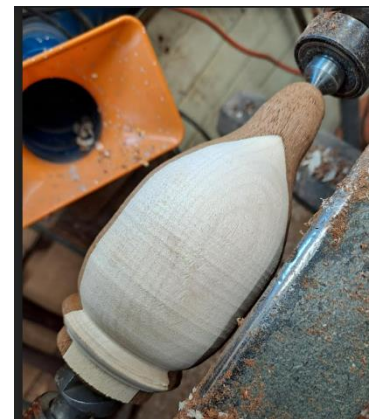
The great thing about them I guess is that they are ever so easy and quick to turn so if you are looking for ideas in the future then I can really recommend them. It is also in my interests for other people to make and sell them so as to reduce the number I might need to make next year.

All you need is some dark wood and some light wood. In my case I used dark oak or sapele with ash or maple but it does not really matter as long as there is a contrast. You need to glue blocks together roughly the dark wood being twice as thick as the light wood.



Once the glue dries you turn it round and hey ho the penguin begins to appear. You do need to turn the head to a smaller diameter and you can be creative as to the nature of the shoulder shape etc.

Sand and finish and finally add a nose. I do find that people like penguins that are well finished so sand steadily on the lathe from 120 through the grits to at least 400 and then three coats of oil and lastly polish with wax (or you own personal choice of finishes).



People also like the wood to have some provenance or meaning for them and in my case mostly I use wood donated from Sherrards Park in Welwyn. The photos show the process and the only other choice you have is whether you turn the head end centrally in the block or use a point which is slightly off centre towards the darker wood which gives a heavier head shape.

# Chestnut Products

For our new members and a reminder to others perhaps I thought we would make mention of the Newsletters from Chestnut Products – especially relevant now I guess because Terry Smart gave us a demo last month.

Terry Smart runs the company and as part of the support he offers to turners, he produces a monthly newsletter. Terry also comes to us each year as a demonstrator.

If you want to receive them direct then use the Subscribe link on the main newsletter page – see link below:

[Welcome to our Newsletters – Chestnut Products – First for Finishes](#)

## Library

The full library list and the associated rules can be seen via our website -

<https://hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk/>

### Tool Library Contact

Adam Blackie

07941 270640

[treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)

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## Help Needed and for Sale/Wanted

### Lathe help

A recent member Jack Parker has a Arundel J4 Junior lathe. He is looking for any advice and guidance relating to this lathe – such things as Chuck size, model specification. Ideally if anyone has information about where he might find a manual, he would be most appreciative.

If you think you can help, contact Jack at [jack.parker.0394@gmail.com](mailto:jack.parker.0394@gmail.com)

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## Face mask

Pat Fisk has an AIR MASK PRO full face mask and filter that is for sale.

Total cost was £162, its new and boxed he would like £90 for it. If you are interested please email Pat on

[patfitch@hotmail.com](mailto:patfitch@hotmail.com)



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## Small clamps

I make wooden memory box kits for groups of individuals who have dementia. The groups are in Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City and typically organised by the local authority to give the carers of those affected by Dementia a bit of a break for a day.

My input is to organise sessions by which people can over time construct a wooden memory box but as the groups get larger I need lots and lots of small clamps. The next group could be quite large and as they all work together I need dozens and dozens of clamps all at the same time.

So, my request is for anyone who could lend me any sets of clamps for a short time – I would only need them for a week or so and the next session is on the 23rd February. I will label them and keep them safe. If you have some clamps that I could borrow then please contact me.

Allen

[allen.kaye@bath.edu](mailto:allen.kaye@bath.edu)

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## Woodturning Kit wanted

Andrew Lee is a new member to the club and is trying to get a decent set of wood turning tools.

He has a number of cheap gouges but lack a decent half inch, 3/4 inch or 1 inch HSS roughing gouge. If there is any kind soul in the club that has any of these gouges going spare/for sale he would be very interested.

His contact details are:

Andrew Lee

mob 07717760812

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## Wood for sale 1

As noted last month, we were contacted through the website by Geoff Harris – he is a fellow woodturner and has a large stock of hardwood he wants to sell. The wood includes oak, ash, rose woods, sapeles, boxwood, walnut, pear and more, well dried and suitable for turning.

He still has wood for sale and is based Between Royston and Cambridge and contact numbers are 01223208850 or 07971544517

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## Wood for sale 2

I was contacted by Ian Lamb in Chesham who has recently felled a walnut tree which has been cut into discs, longer trunk sections (2 feet) and some round log-length pieces (photos attached)



No prices quoted but if you are interested please contact him on [mrlamineepie@protonmail.com](mailto:mrlamineepie@protonmail.com)

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## Wood for sale 3

Les Kirk, an past member who lives in St Albans, has some substantial pieces of timber for sale. He sent me the following details,

The types are oak, mahogany and elm. The oak was purchased from Timet in Oxford in 1984 and is planned to various thicknesses from 15mm to 45mm and in various lengths and widths. The elm is about 35 years old and 27mm thick in various widths



The mahogany pieces are in various sizes. All this timber has been stored in an integral garage so is very dry



has

If you are interested please contact Les directly on [les.kirkbuildconsult@gmail.com](mailto:les.kirkbuildconsult@gmail.com)

*Note – Les sent me two handwritten pages of each piece of timber with 'starter' prices based on what might be paid if the wood came direct from a commercial woodyard. I would be happy to send a scan of these over to you on request or indeed you can contact Les directly. Allen*

## Wood for sale 4 Lime

We have been contacted by Gilles Sauvestre.

He works for Maydencroft Ltd as a forestry consultant. They are based in Hitchin and manage extensive areas of woodland in southern England.

This winter they are about to harvest 50 m<sup>3</sup> of lime coppice, around 20 to 35 cm diameter, located around Leighton Buzzard. They will cut the trees this winter, but given how wet the woodland is, it is unlikely it will be on the roadside before June.

Here is a picture of the stand.



Lime is a rather unusual species for them to harvest, and it is a useful wood for turning.

They are asking if any turner might be interested in buying this timber (or part of it)?

If you are interested please contact : [gilles.sauvestre@maydencroft.co.uk](mailto:gilles.sauvestre@maydencroft.co.uk)

Mobile - 0782 431 4258



# Puzzle Corner

## Xmas Quiz

1. 'Rizz' – is 2023 word of the year – what does it mean?
2. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
3. Which of the following is not a hardwood – Yew, Apple, Walnut, Balsa
4. What is the difference between Japanese hand saws and UK/USA ones?
5. How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
6. Which sandpaper grit is the least coarse – 240 or 120?
7. In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play 6 of the characters?
8. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
9. In the movie *Love Actually*, which character sang 'Christmas Is All Around'?
10. The wood of which tree was the most popular choice for water pipes until the 1700s, as unlike other woods it does not decay when kept permanently wet?
11. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
12. If you're born on Christmas day, what's your star sign?
13. What is the best-selling Christmas single of all time?
14. What time is the Queen's speech traditionally broadcast on Christmas Day?
15. What colour are mistletoe berries?
16. In *Home Alone 2*, who does Kevin run into in the hotel lobby?
17. What colour suit did Santa wear until Coca Cola rebranded him in red?
18. What decoration do elves traditionally have on their shoes?
19. *Miracle On 34th Street* centres on what real-life department store?
20. Which Christmassy song plays at the end of the 1988 film *Die Hard*?
21. What is the opening line to Shakin' Stevens' 'Merry Christmas Everyone'?
22. When do the 12 days of Christmas start?
23. What fruit is traditionally put inside a Christmas stocking?
24. According to tradition, when should you have your Christmas decorations down by?
25. Traditionally, when should you start making a Christmas pudding?
26. The bark of which tree is also known as "nature's aspirin"?
27. Which U.S. state was the first to declare Christmas Day an official holiday?
28. What is the only country named after a tree?
29. What's type of tree is most commonly used for Christmas trees?
30. In the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' what was the gift given on the seventh day?
31. Stollen is a traditional fruit cake in which country?
32. How many reindeer drive Santa's sleigh (including Rudolph)?
33. Often used to make walking or riding sticks, what is the more common name for the sloe tree?

Answers on following page

## Answers to Xmas Quiz

1. Internet slang for romantic appeal or charm
2. Four: former business partner Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future.
3. Yew
4. Japanese saws cut on the pull stroke
5. 364
6. 1994
7. *The Polar Express*. He plays Hero Boy, Father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge and Santa Claus.
8. Japan
9. Billy Mack, played by Bill Nighy
10. Elm
11. A coin
12. Capricorn
13. Bing Crosby - 'White Christmas', according to the Guinness Book of World Records.
14. 3pm
15. White
16. Donald Trump
17. Green
18. Bells
19. Macy's
20. Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne - 'Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!'
21. "Snow is falling, all around me"
22. Christmas Day
23. Orange or tangerine
24. January 5th
25. On a Sunday, five weeks before Christmas
26. Willow Tree
27. Oklahoma
28. Brazil Tree
29. Nordmann Fir
30. Seven swans a-swimming
31. Germany
32. Nine
33. The Blackthorn

# Poetry Corner

## CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

In this season of singing and dancing  
Think of the reindeer busily prancing  
Think of Santa with that heavy sack  
Think of pub landlords, shall we be back?  
Think about policemen patrolling the streets  
Think of drummers missing the beats  
What about nurses rushing to work  
And hard pressed doctors, no duty to shirk  
Praise all who serve us in all walks of life  
Keeping us safe from the threatening strife  
Bear in mind bus drivers who need to drive  
Praise all our clerics who help us survive  
Even the plumbers who come to our house  
Or early posties and milkies who never give grouse  
Without these folk we would be so much worse off  
So count our blessings, to them our hats doff  
Enjoy the festivities, but keep within reason  
Share with all, those not mentioned this season  
But they are included they need not doubt  
These sincere great thanks with these words I spout

Martin Sexton