



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 206

July 2023

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to July edition of Woodbits.

Whilst the rest of Europe was enjoying a record heat wave during July, here in the UK our club members, under more moderate conditions, we're enjoying the atmosphere of their workshops. The July competition saw an excellent turn out of items at all levels; and the non-competition table also saw several members bringing in their personal projects. Please continue to support the demonstration tables because it does add an interesting dimension to our meetings. The July demonstrator was Darren Breeze who created a truly stunning piece of work in the evening. You can see Tony Taylor's excellent summary in this edition.

Training update

The club ran two training events in July. A Darren Breeze master class and an in house training session, both of which have been reported later in this edition of wood bits.

I previously announced that Phil Scoltock has plans to relocate this year and will no longer be able to plan our training events. Fortunately, two members have stepped forward support the training schedule. Mel Williams has offered to continue the in-house training sessions and Paul Roland has agreed to combine the role of demonstrator organiser with master class training. My thanks go to these two and if you can spare some time to assist Mel and Paul with future training events, please do talk to them, as I'm sure they would welcome any help you can offer.

August meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for the 8th of August.

Martin Saban Smith will be the demonstrator. For a preview of the evening, you could search YouTube for any one of the hundreds of videos he has there. Martin is also associated with Hampshire Sheen and I'm sure he'll bring some of their products to the meeting for us to purchase. Martin is a very experienced demonstrator, and I am very much looking forward to seeing him and you at our next meeting.

Adam Blackie - Chairman

Chairman and Treasurer: Adam Blackie treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk
Club Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Allen Kaye secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

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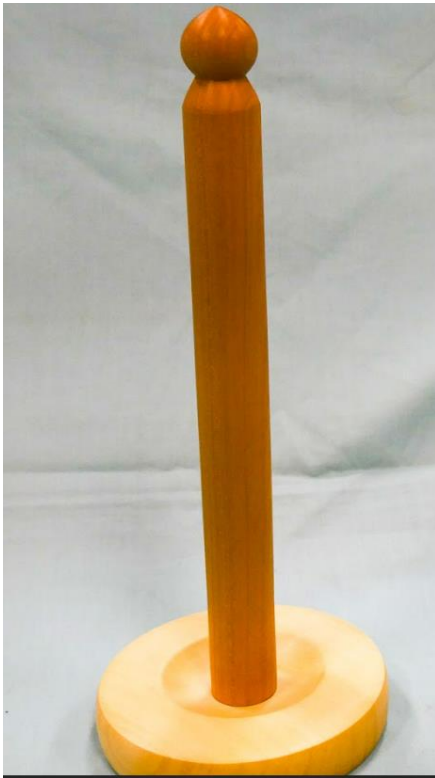
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Club News

July Competition

Beginners

1st Phil Walters



2nd Mel Williams



3rd Pete Pocock

Advanced



1st Tony Taylor



2nd Brian Stanton



3rd Adam Blackie

Open



1st Tony Taylor



2nd Phil Walters

3rd Harvey Alison



Meetings Calendar 2023

2023

| | |
|-------|--------------------|
| Aug. | Martin Saban Smith |
| Sept. | Club night |
| Oct. | Stewart Furini |
| Nov. | Phil Scoltock |
| Dec. | Club night |

Raffle purchase Diary for 2023-24

I am the raffle coordinator for the forthcoming year. Many thanks to those people who responded to my last request and a number of months are now sorted but I have three months remaining as below:

January, February and April 2024

If you need to swap dates please contact me so that cover can be maintained. As a guide we have increased the spend on prizes to £ 60 .00 per month with a maximum number of prizes being 5 in total. 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 2023

| Month | Beginners | Advanced |
|-------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Aug | Coaster | Tankard or mug |
| Sept | Dice shaker | Piece using two or more woods |
| Oct | Apple | Pen |
| Nov | Plate | Natural edge bowl |
| Dec | Christmas tree | Puzzle or game |

Demonstration by Darren Breeze - Review by Tony Taylor.

Photos by Andrew Street

Darren claimed to be the Eastern-most woodturner in the UK, living as he does in Lowestoft, where he has his shop, workshop, gallery and home. He set out to demonstrate how he makes one of his successful signature pieces the Sunrise Bowl, a shallow bowl decorated with a half sun and striking ray design.

He started with a 2.5 x 12 inch disc of dry Sycamore mounted on a screw chuck. He showed how to make a draw cut to flatten the face using a 3/8 long grind bowl gouge and then trued up the edge. The edge was then marked with pencil to define the rim of the bowl (or platter) and the top surface trimmed to this mark.

He explained his preference for a mounting recess rather than a tenon in that, provided that it was made neatly, it could be left on the finished piece as an acceptable feature. To mark the recess, he used compasses on the centre point, rather than the usual dividers, which can be hazardous if the far point touches the surface.

Care was taken to finish the recess and he explained how to present the gouge to precisely remove the central bump without tear-out. The size of the foot was defined and formed slightly concave.

The next step was to remove wood between foot and rim in a gentle Ogee shape, slightly undercutting the rim. The cuts must be made downhill, finishing cuts being made with a small gouge with the bevel floating, rather than rubbing. Darren then explained the use of the negative-rake scraper. He prefers an included angle of 75 degrees, lightly grinding the upper surface first then the lower, in order to leave a fine burr. The scraper is presented horizontally and if properly sharpened will produce very fine shavings and so is cutting rather than scraping.

A bead was cut at the rim with the use of a modified point tool, rather than a gouge. The tool was ground in the normal way on the upper surface, but the other two faces were ground with the tool at right angles to the wheel, thus providing two very sharp cutting edges. Sanding was carried out using a paste wax homemade from purified beeswax and medicinal paraffin. The residual wax was buffed off and the foot decorated with a spiralling tool.



The piece was next reversed in the chuck and the surface flattened. The division between bowl and rim was marked with pencil and another line drawn to divide the border one third out from the bowl. By cutting downhill on either side of this line an asymmetrical curved rim was formed, which looks better than an even one. After achieving a really good surface, the decorating could begin. One needs a good quality masking tape. From one piece a semi-circle was marked and cut out to give two masks. First, the outer mask was applied near one edge of the rim and the enclosed area painted red with spirit stain.

When this was dry the outer mask was removed and the 'sun' semi-circle masked. Darren then used simple mouth-blown sprays to make broad horizontal stripes of yellow, red, light blue and dark blue ascending across the platter. Long strips of masking tape were then cut diagonally and applied radiating out from the sun, before spraying overall with black and finally removing the strips of tape before the stain dried. Drying was speeded with a hair dryer and a coat of melamine lacquer applied. The platter was completed by hollowing the bowl and cutting a bead at the rim.



Throughout the demonstration, Darren maintained a lively commentary, full of useful hints and tips on technique. The audience was very appreciative of the well-prepared presentation and would be ready for more in the future.

Darren Breeze Master Class – Review by Gordon Cookson.

Square Wall Plaque

TURNING STEPS

I was lucky to get a place on this course with Darren Breeze, although embarrassingly my satnav couldn't quite find Chris Bentley's workshop so I arrived at the end of the welcoming coffee!

Before we started Phil reminded us to wear stout shoes or steel toe caps and that visors should be down whenever our lathe was spinning. Darren said he would show us the stages in the process as the day went on.

1 Having marked the centre of the beautiful walnut 10" square pieces, they were mounted between a steady centre and the tailstock centre with the top side nearest the tailstock. A recess was made to fit our respective chuck sizes. A pull cut was used to ensure that the surface would be flat being very careful to keep your arm and hand away from the spinning corners. Moving shavings from the rest should be done with the lathe stopped, otherwise fingers could easily be caught between the rest and a corner of the plaque.

2. Re-chuck the wood on the recess and with the tailstock in place, form a dovetail recess on the back of the plaque about 4-5mm deep so it can be hung on a nail in the wall. Using light pull cuts, remove some of the back so that there will be a shadow line on the wall rather than it looking like a thick piece of wood. I used too heavy a cut to start with and produced ridges and was in danger of causing damage to the corner edges. Fortunately, Chris heard the rough noise of what I was doing and quickly showed me a lighter cut with a sharper swept back gouge.

3 Remove tailstock and flatten the dovetail recess. Then maybe decorate the recess with a micro spiralling tool or a knurling wheel. Then outline each type of detail with a point tool.

4 Remount wood on the dovetail recess and use light pull cuts with a bowl gouge so that the top and bottom sides of the outside straight edges of the plaque look balanced. Pencil mark out the size of the central boss and the valley between the area of the beautiful walnut to be shown undecorated and then another valley before the outside part, which is to be heavily decorated with grooves.

5 While there is strength in the centre of the wood, turn the outside wide valley and then the inner one while refining the shape of the central boss.

6 All the pieces were sprayed with black lacquer in the workshop to provide a base colour for colouring later, with each of the lathes protected by a bin bag from overspray. We all left the workshop to escape from the fumes in time for our well needed picnic.



Darren flattening the top surface with a very organised tool racking in the background in Chris's workshop.

DECORATING

7 It was time to mark the groove lines on the outer corners and narrow edge of the plaque. Darren thinks it looks better with the lines pointing as an arc to the edge of the central boss rather than to the middle of the boss. Mark where the grooves are to be using a piece of wood on the tool rest to give the higher position or indeed the side of a smartphone ! (photo right)

8 The grooves were made with either the old small round Arbortech chainsaw tooth cutter that probably made deeper less defined grooves or the modern small round two tooth cutter , which was probably a bit easier to control and could produce more even grooves .

When using either tool Darren stressed the need for a visor, both hands on the tool at all times and ensuring that the cutter wheel had stopped running before putting the tool down for any reason, such as changing the position of the wood to get a more comfortable cutting angle.

I was fortunate to have a spindle lock on the lathe I was using. For the other lathes either Phil or Chris stood as far back as possible and held the wheel on the other side of the headstock while one of the participants made the grooves. (photo left)



The small Arbortech chainsaw tooth disc is no longer available because they were considered dangerous. Very probably as a result of stupid unthinking dangerous use of them !

9 Darren then showed us a variety of colouring techniques and encouraged us to play with ideas. If we didn't like the results we could always either turn it off or colour over the part we didn't like . A popular combination was verdigris wax in the grooves and gold gilt cream on the high points.

Note: Darren usually finishes his pieces with a melamine or non acrylic lacquer.



Tips that I intend to use are to put colour into the grooves or indents first using small amounts ideally on your gloved finger or small stiff brush and wipe off surplus with an old piece of cloth, rather than a paper towel that breaks up easily. Do this quickly before it dries, which was happening fast due to the hot weather. Consider the taste of buyers - a difficult one to predict!



Chris and Mark discussing the next stage.

10 Colour

I decided to use the limited number of colouring pots that I could find easily - my workshop needs a very thorough declutter! This was brought home strongly to me surrounded by Chris's well arranged workshop. Putting the silver embellishing wax and Rust-it into the grooves was quite easy using a small cheap brush with hardened wax tips. However taking off the surplus along the top points with a piece of old jeans proved more difficult as both products were too thin and had sunk into the wood easily.

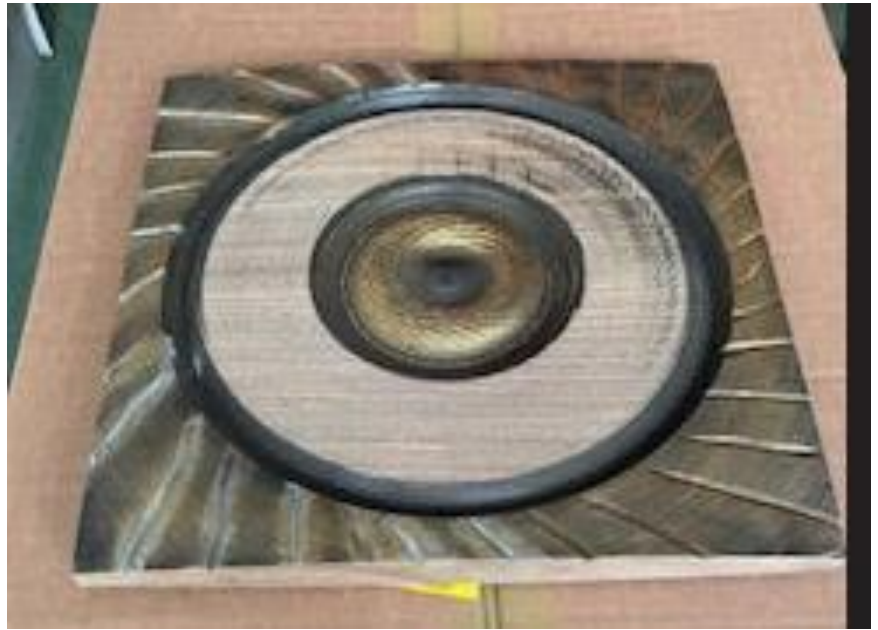
I should have stirred them up first! By holding the cloth against the wood while the lathe was running didn't really work either.

Using the Robert Sorby spiralling tool on opposite angles produced a cross over pattern on the boss. Incidentally I have seen a very similar spiralling tool in an 1890s book at The SOT (Society of Ornamental Turners) - so what is new!

I used gold gilt cream on the spiralling effect on the boss and this was more successful and used a beading tool with a rocking motion to delineate the boss. However I pressed a bit too hard and some of the top of the bead was roughed up. Another lesson learnt!

I then sanded with 120 grit held on a foam pad with velcro over the walnut that was to be shown in all its glory to remove the black lacquer and a bit of light texturing marks from the big spiralling tool.

Some of the texturing is still showing as the wood seems to have moved slightly when rechucking – see photo on right.



RESULT & FUTURE

So what do I think of the result so far? On the next evening I thought it looked rather sombre, perhaps because I was tired and had been talking about funerals on Tuesday . However on Friday while writing up the day, I thought maybe rather sophisticated ! Moods and lighting changes things.

11 What to do it to make a saleable piece ?

It certainly needs the walnut to show clearly with a soft wax finish , otherwise I feel it would be a waste of such a beautiful timber. I took it to the North London Club for my Critique Discussion session but we didn't have time to discuss it.

12 Will I make more textured and coloured pieces ?

Yes , using the spiralling tool and embellishing wax or gilt cream on small pieces or as a small part of a bowl or platter .Before tackling a wall plaque or display dish where colour and texture are a major part of the piece, I want to experiment with various texturing ideas and colour combinations on some waste wood of differing colours.

I think this would give me more confidence of a result that I would be happy with. I think I will record on the wood what technique and colouring I used for future reference. This is similar to potters when they fire test pieces with different glazes.

However I do remember my experiment on a sycamore dish with a freehand not very cleanly cut spiral groove with a bright pink finish that sold very quickly !

I am not sure I like the very deep texturing grooves and I can't help but thinking some house proud person is going to say that it is a right old dust trap !

Mel's virtually finished piece shows her definite choice of colours and the decoration on the base (photos below)



At the end of a great day, Mel reminded us all by wearing her respirator helmet while bagging up all the shavings as so much dust then flies into the air.

In summary, it was a highly successful, interesting day, which happened through the combined varied efforts of Darren Breeze, our tutor with an inspiring life story, Chris Bentley for the use of his wonderful workshop and Phil Scoltock, Training Co-Ordinator of the Herts & Beds Club. Many, many thanks to them all.

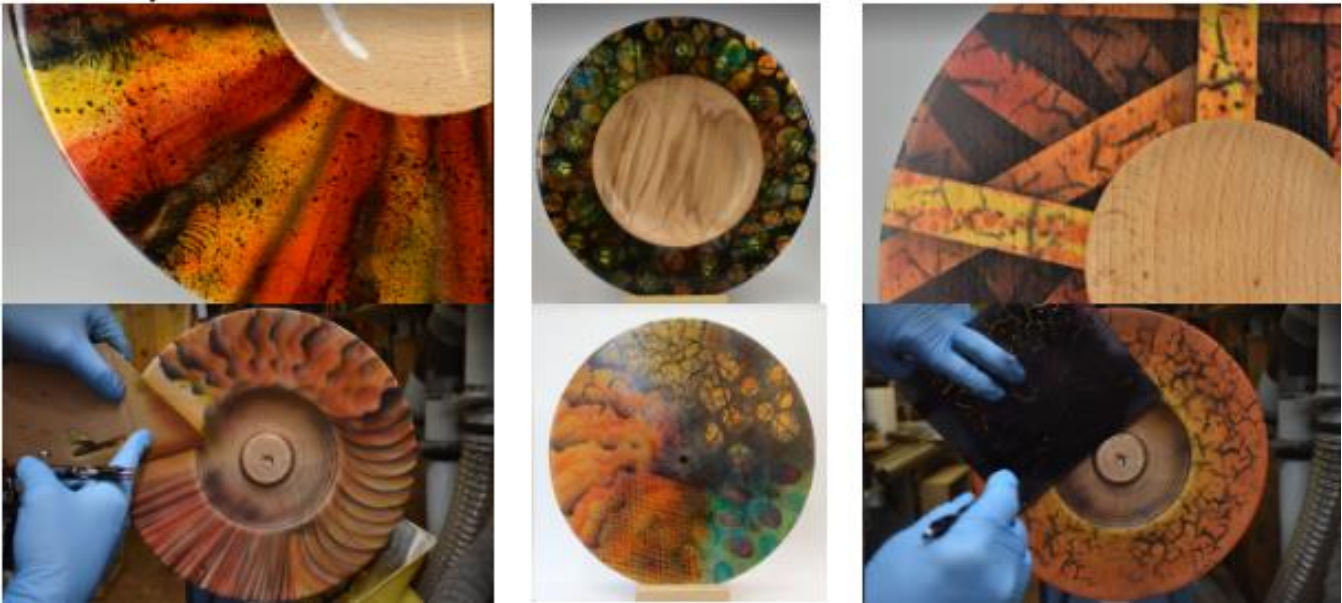


The team photo above shows the pieces at different stages. The first on the left shows deep grooves, the next one shows differing colour ideas and mine on the right shows shallower grooves.

Gordon Cookson
Chairman Middlesex Woodturners

Stewart Furini Master Class – Wednesday October 11th

We now welcome bookings for a hands-on masterclass which will be provided by Stewart Furini on Wednesday October 11th.



It is an all day session in Hemel Hempstead, the main focus of the day will be experimenting with a wide variety of air-brushing techniques.

After turning your bowl blank round and flattening its face; then Stewart will demonstrate a variety of air-brushing techniques prior to you having a go on your own blank. Then you'll clean the face off your blank and repeat after Stewart has demonstrated another different technique.

Through the day you'll cover air-brushing around shaped templates, using stencils, splattering and creating patterns using masking tape etc. By the end of the day you'll finish the rear of your shallow bowl, then decorate the wide rim of your shallow bowl using your choice of the techniques you have practised.

The session will be substantially subsidised, the cost per attendee for this full day of group training is £35/person. This session is open to turners who are comfortable with basic bowl turning.

To book: please email <mailto:training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk>

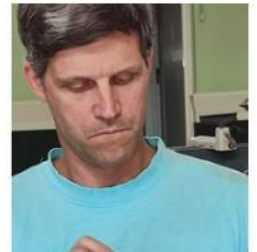
Lathes, bowl blank, air brushes and stains will be provided. Attendees to bring their own gouges, PPE and lunch.

In-House training Session 15/7 – Report by Phil Scoltock

We held another successful in-house training session on Saturday 15th July with 4 attendees. After setting up lathes and a quick safety briefing, Alan Lewis then provided instruction on turning the bowl, including a band ready for decorating.

After lunch, Chris Bentley provided a useful demonstration on sharpening hand carving chisels prior to then demonstrating a variety of carving /textures on the back of a bowl.

The attendees then had a go at hand carving on the band on their own bowls. Then I provided a demo of applying metal flakes gilding and chameleon flakes (which colour shift) to the textured areas of a bowl.



Hopefully an enjoyable session that has wetted the appetite of the attendees to add various textures and decoration to their future projects.

Phil Scoltock

Come and watch JASON BREACH

I was sent a flyer from the secretary ay East Herts Woodturning club advertising a one day demonstration they have arranged. Please contact Glynn directly if you are interested. The club website is [East Herts Woodturning Association](#)

Jason Breach - Demonstrating in person

at East Herts Woodturning Club on

Sunday 22 October 2023 10 till 4

at Sawbridgeworth, Herts, England

Cost £25 to include sandwiches, tea, coffee and biscuits

Simon Hope and Martin Pidgen will provide retail opportunities

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis

For more information and ticket purchases contact

glynn.goodwin@gmail.com

Record Power on-line Demos

Some of you may remember LockDown and the rush to offer on-line demonstrations. While the need to stay safe at home has relaxed now thankfully, some turners and organisations are continuing to offer such.

I get emails directly from Record Power about their series of free demonstrations and asked them to send me a general statement and link that I could share with members. See below.

The Live Sessions online platform is a free-to-join meeting place, where woodworking enthusiasts from all over the world come together to learn and share ideas.

Join us in an environment where you can interact with others, share your knowledge and enjoy a fun and entertaining demonstration.

Each event is supported by the Live Sessions Turning Team - a panel of accomplished woodturners from around the world to share their knowledge and woodturning know-how.

You will find an excellent learning environment for woodturners of all abilities, with expert advice and tuition!

Register online for the next session at: www.recordpowertv.com

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Library

The full library list can be seen via our website -

If you wish to see the full set of items available for loan then look at the website.

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

Lending Library Process and Rules

This is intended as a lending library of the more esoteric or expensive tools that turners use infrequently. The value to the club is that:

- Club members can try before they buy or
- Club members can borrow a tool for a specific job.

How does this work?

- To borrow a tool, simply contact Adam Blackie who will confirm availability and then arrange for the item to be available for collection.
- Items will be available for collection at the next club meeting, (or in person by arrangement.)

How long can I keep the tools for?

- This depends on the project, but generally we expect the tools to be returned in usable condition at the next available club meeting.
- Longer term loans by negotiation.

How much will it cost?

It's normally free of charge, however:

- If you break it or
- If the tool uses consumable items (inc. sanding pads, grinding belts, stains and polishes, pen kits)

we would expect some contribution towards the replacement.

What else do I need to know?

Once the loan is completed we ask that you share a little about your experience of the tools with the club; eg Show and tell what you made or an article for the monthly newsletter.

Tool Library Contact

Adam Blackie
07941 270640

treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

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For Sale and Wanted

Lathe and Accessories

Last month I included some items for sale by David Vesey in Berkhamsted. I checked with him last week and he has not sold it all. If you are interested in any item, please contact him directly. Allen

FOR SALE

VB 36 lathe with long bed and various accessories, see photos. Motor is 3HP. Bought in 2007 and had amateur use only.

Small and large faceplates, adaptors for m33x3.5 and Myford ML8 threads, pin chuck. Vicmark 120 chuck with box and bowl jaws, Taylor 3 jaw metalwork chuck. Hollowing arm which fixes to the tailstock, long bar rest for hollowing, curved rest.

Price including accessories. £4,950, buyer to arrange collection. Comparable lathes are perhaps the Vicmark VL300, Oneway 2436 or Robust American Beauty. The current VB36 price new from Steinert is c. £16,000 with short tailstock.

Also selling a little used Record Power camvac, £125.

If anyone is interested they would be welcome to visit and inspect in Berkhamsted.

*Kind regards, David Vesey, Berkhamsted. dgvesey@btinternet.com
Some photos below:*



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Poetry Corner

WATERY REFLECTIONS

Now fishing is my favourite book
As pastime of the year
With snaking line and barbless hook
Which my fishy prey won't fear
Be it pike or perch or chub or Rudd
Sometimes golden tench
Leaving them behind is such a bind
Always such a wrench
The waiting game of patience
Knowing when to strike
A wild brown trout or rainbow pout
Or just the wiley pike
The thrill of the chase at the opponents pace
Is ever being sought
But landed at last leaves me aghast
Ends a battle so well fought
Be it off the bank or from the boat
Gives really equal pleasure
A day in nature, to make me gloat
A priceless day of leisure

martin sexton. 13th Oct 2022