



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 208

September 2023

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I hope that you all enjoyed the summer. As its end is rapidly approaching I will be making sure that my workshop heating is fully functional before the weather starts to get cooler.

Next Meeting

If, like me, you plan to spend more time in your workshop in the next few months, you'll be interested to know that our next meeting is on the 10th of October and will be featuring Stewart Furini- who will also be running a master class session the following day. I'm looking forward to much inspiration from both days.

<https://www.stewartfuriniwoodturning.co.uk>.

Spreading the word During September I had the pleasure to attend a day with five other members of our club at the Berkhamsted cemetery cultural heritage event. Some photographs and a write up are included later in this issue. We met a wide variety of people, many of whom shared their stories. I would like to thank all of those members who took the time to participate. The feedback we received from the organisers and members of the public underlines the value of these events for spreading the word about our craft.

Lending Library

The club lending library continues to be popular, with generally three or four items on loan in any given month. This month we've had the first new request for a library item for some time, and as soon as it is acquired, we will be adding it to the list.

If you have never used the library, or want to make a suggestion for items to add to it, please let me know. You can find the library list on our website.

Can you help with the audio-visual upgrade?

For a couple of months the committee has been considering the options for replacing the visual equipment that we use for club meetings. It has become apparent that the committee doesn't have any real experience in this area. If you as a club member can help, or if you know of somebody who might please contact me.

See you on the 10th October

Adam

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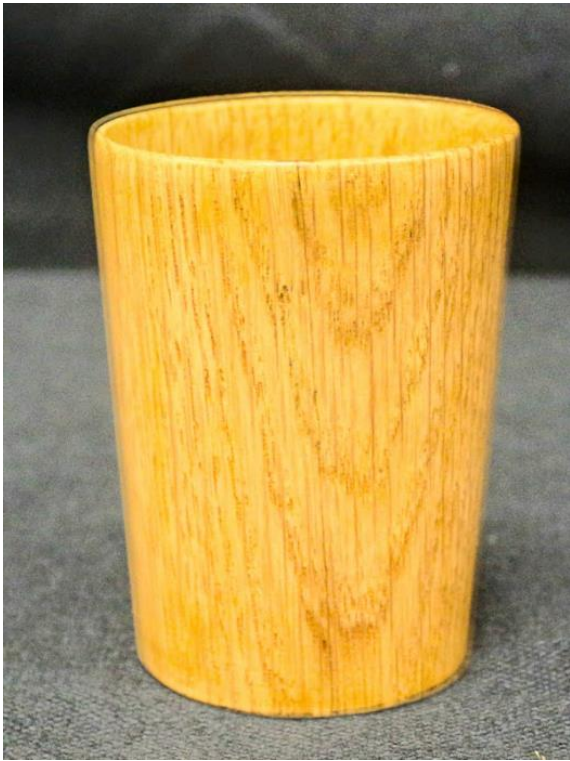
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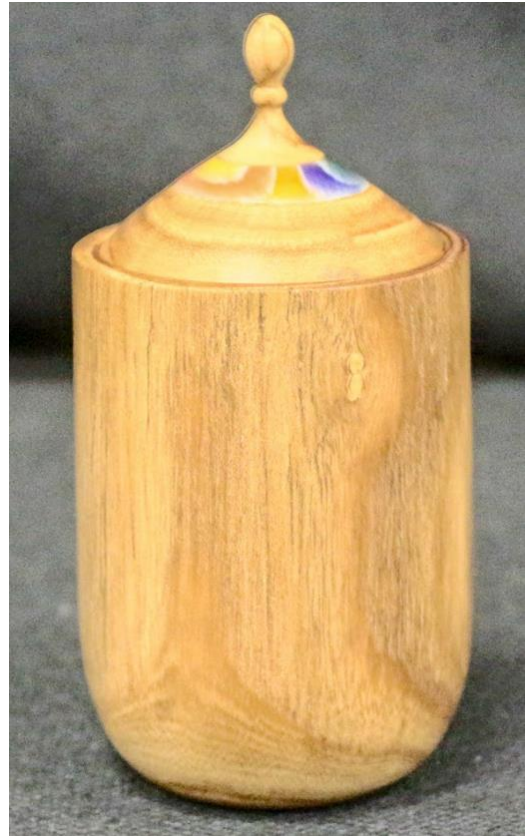
Club News

September Competition

Beginners



2nd Steve Read



1st Mel Williams

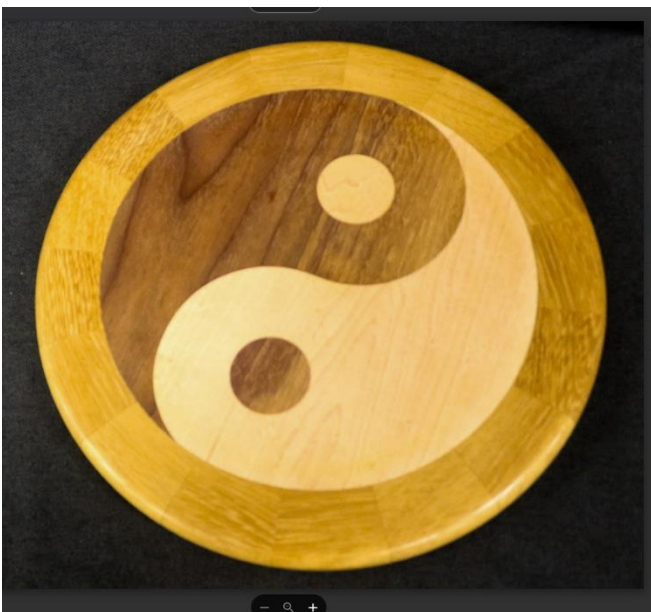
Advanced



1st Peter Kemp



2nd Andrew Holworda



3rd Tony Taylor

Open



1st Peter Hoare

2nd Peter Kemp



3rd Tony Taylor

Meetings Calendar 2023

2023

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.

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

2023	Beginners	Advanced
Oct	Apple	Pen
Nov	Plate	Natural edge bowl
Dec	Christmas tree	Puzzle or game
2024		
Jan	20 to 30cm Long Spurtle	Natural Edged Bowl
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

New Logo

The club logo is now being used in a variety of formats in addition to print and it now has to work in colour as well as black and white - also now for a variety of electronic formats - for the website, different phones, laptops, tablets etc. Andrew Street is leading a review of the logo and is asking for help.

If you have an interest in logo design or would be happy to give him feedback as to new images please contact him.

Craft Fairs.

Many of our members attend Craft Fairs. It can be hard work and is rewarding, both financially and good fun.

This list is for your diaries and calendars. If you are attending, please make sure you visit a fellow members stall.

If you are attending an event this year, please let us know and we will add it to the list.

Contact – Chairman@Hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Date (s)	Event	Link	Club Member
16 Sept - 7 Oct	Buckinghamshire Craft Guild Discover Bucks Museum, Aylesbury	https://www.discoverbucksmuseum.org/getting-here/	Graham Lester
7 Oct – 23 Dec	Oxford Craft Guild, 82 Derngate, Northampton,	https://www.ocg.co.uk/	Graham Lester
7 Oct - 14 Oct	The Wooburn Festival Visual Arts Exhibition Wooburn Green	https://wooburn.com/visual-arts-exhibition/	Graham Lester
19th Oct	The Worshipful Company of Turners TURNING COMPETITIONS 2023 Pewterers' Hall, Oat Lane, London EC2V 7DE	https://turnersco.com/turning-competitions-2023/ Ticket only (free Tickets) – book here - https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/woodturning-connect-2023-tickets-540962211537	Adam Blackie and Bob Marshall
3 - 4 November	Craft Fair Amersham Art Unlocked, Jubilee Hall Amersham	https://2aoh-scouts.org.uk/finding-our-scout-hut/	Graham Lester

Arlesey Fair

Peter Clark attended this fair to sell some of his work. It was his first venture of this kind.

The day went well overall and Peter was offering a variety of items apart from turned articles. See photos below:

A good learning experience he said but the sales didn't cover the costs of booking the pitch, even before forking out for the Public Liability Insurance he said he was required to have! The event was on what was possibly the hottest day of the year and he thought that may have deterred punters from venturing out. However, as always at these events he had some good conversations with several people, one of whom has a husband who is looking for a woodturning club to join.

So, after four hours trying to keep out of the sun, he explained he had interest but a limited number of real customers. Some lessons learned from holders of other craft stalls there, one of which is to be careful where you buy the Public Liability insurance – He said 'because I was inexperienced at this and didn't know it was required until I received the booking form two days before the event.'



Berkhamsted – Report

We had a good turn out for the event in Berkhamsted Heritage Cemetery. Two gazebos were set up -one for a demonstration of turning using a smaller Record lathe and the other one for both a display of items and also a sale. Tony Taylor had a particularly good day for sales and we were rarely quiet as people constantly either watched the turning or looked through the items on the other tables and asked questions about how they were made.

A number of people expressed an interest in turning and they had a good chance to talk with us and take away a leaflet about our club.

The organisers thanked us for our presence, and it fitted in well with the rest of the activities running at the same time.

We held a raffle and Tony Taylor donated one of his turned tankards for the first prize – we also had a bottle of wine and a nice pen from Andrew Street as further prizes. Some of the items made by club members were also sold and together we were able to give the Heritage fund a total of £69.00 towards their fund.

I think the best way of representing how the day went is through some photos. The day was fine and thankfully the rain came much later in the evening which helped the close down and tidy up.







Many Thanks to all concerned – Chris Squires, Malcolm Wickers, Graham Hill, Adam and a particular thanks to Malcolm’s wife Maggie who ran the raffle.

Allen



TURNING COMPETITIONS 2023

Held in conjunction with the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain.

Who can enter?

Members of the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain. There are two classes: the **SENIOR** Competition and the **RAY KEY** Competition for those under 21 at the date of the competition. The late Ray Key BEM was President of the AWGB and held the Master in Turning award from the Worshipful Company of Turners.

Theme

For both the SENIOR and RAY KEY competitions, any turned piece with no restriction as to subject, size or style.

Details

Any combination of legally sourced materials may be used. All work to be created by the competitor except for commercially made components such as screws. The piece must be primarily turned on a lathe, there are no restrictions on embellishment however fractal burning may not be used.

Competitors may enter up to two different pieces in either category, none of which should have been entered in any other Company competition.

Piece(s) may be offered for sale at the exhibition.

Prizes

SENIOR Competition: A gold medal and £250 for first, a silver medal and £175 for second, and a bronze Medal and £100 for third.

RAY KEY Competition: A trophy and £150 for first, a silver medal and £100 for second, and a bronze medal and £50 for third.

No competitor will be awarded more than one prize in any one category.

Entry

General Conditions of entry, including times for delivery, judging, prize giving, viewing, and collection of entries after the event can be viewed on the AWGB website

JASON BREACH Demonstration

I was sent a flyer from the secretary at 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

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Health and Safety in the Workshop

One of the leaflets I produced for the Berkhamsted event was about the hazards of woodturning as we wanted to give a realistic picture of the work we do.

I reproduce it here for your information.

Allen

General Guidelines

- Personal Protective Equipment.
 - Eye protection is mandatory.
 - A dust mask is optional for cutting but mandatory for dust-creating activities (scraping / sanding / dry wood etc.)
 - Gloves should not be worn due to risk of entanglement.
- Remove dangling clothing and jewelry. Tie back long hair.
- Ensure your work piece is sound and securely attached. Check frequently.
- Unplug the lathe when changing speed ranges with the pulleys
- Ensure all components are secured before turning on: headstock; tailstock; tool rest; workpiece.
- Ensure workpiece is balanced, start at low speed when turning to round
- Spin the workpiece manually to check balance and check for obstructions
- Be aware of others in the workshop - advise others to put on a dust mask if needed
- Be aware of slip hazards, e.g. wood shavings!



Handling Dust

- Fine dust is possibly the most serious long-term health hazard of woodturning.
- Be aware of the hazards of materials you are using. Dry woods create more dust than green (wet) wood. Some woods are toxic, e.g. Yew and Laburnum. MDF contains toxic glues.
- Also be aware that spalted wood (with black stains) may have fungus spores in if the wood has not been kiln dried. These can be harmful, extraction should be used.

MASKS

- Wood lathe users must have their own dust mask.
- Woodworking masks have different standards (based on percentage and size of particulates filtered). P2 or P3 standard is highly recommended. The mask should be well-fitted to ensure efficacy.

COVID!

- Woodworking masks do not filter OUTGOING air. They are not designed to protect others from disease.
- Surgical and cloth masks are not rated for woodworking, if clogged with dust, they are unlikely to be effective.
- Only a woodworking rated mask is acceptable for using the wood-lathe. You should social-distance appropriately. Advise others to avoid you during woodturning.

MASKS

- Single-use (disposable) masks are not recommended since they often have poor fit, and are expensive.
- Non-powered respirators are the most common choice, e.g.: [Respiratory Protection - Non Powered](#). Consider the cost of replacement filters, and also fit. Some masks are bulky, and may be difficult to wear with (safety) glasses. Full-face respirators include a visor.
- Powered respirators are expensive but may be useful for the regular turner.

SANDING

- Sanding produces a lot of dust – get the best finish you can off the (sharp!) tools
- Wear a dust mask while sanding
- Extraction must always be used – either a main workshop device or vacuum at the machine
- A respirator alone is not sufficient, since dust particles can remain in the air for hours, affecting you and other workshop users
- Dust in the air is a hazard to all workshop users, therefore extraction MUST be used whenever you are creating dust, to reduce the levels in the air.
- Cutting clean, moist wood with a sharp tool will produce large shavings which are not hazardous. At all other times, use extraction.
- If in doubt, use extraction.

TOOLS

- Understand the safe usage of each tool when woodturning. The primary risk is what happens if the tool becomes embedded in the workpiece during turning 'catch'.
- Keep tools sharp
- scrapers produce lots of dust. Mask and extraction must be used at all times when using these tools.

CONTROLS

- On a new lathe check the position of the power and emergency stop buttons
- If the lathe can be run in forward or reverse direction., the following must always be observed:
 - Cutting must only be done when the workpiece is turning downwards towards the toolrest. This is forwards for normal right-handed turning.
 - When turning in reverse, the grubscrews on the chuck must be checked for secureness. If these are loose, the chuck may unscrew from the spindle.

Finishes

- Many finishes can be used for woodturning, precautions for finishes are varied and depend on the individual finishes. The following common principles apply:
 - Many finishes are flammable, cloths for application should be disposed of safely (be aware of the possibility of spontaneous combustion for some finishes)
 - Hazardous finishes should not be applied when the lathe is on, e.g. superglue, due to the risk of spray.

Projects

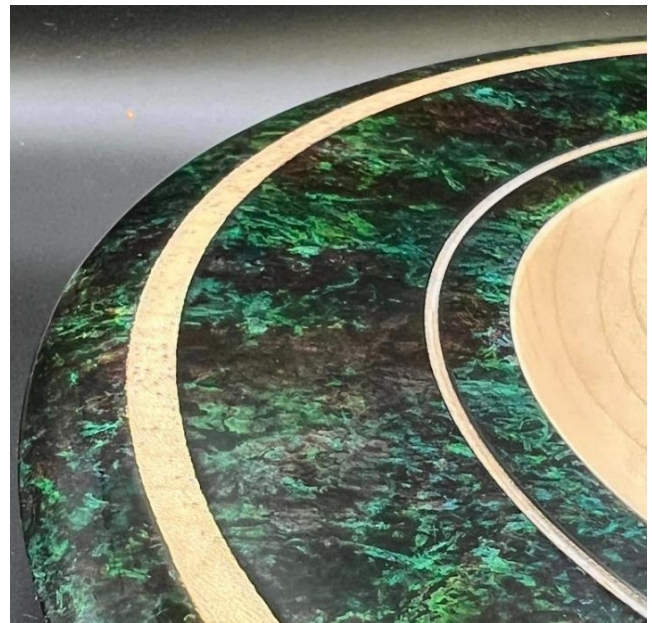
Banneton – Harvey Alison

Banneton, made for my daughter from locally sourced chestnut, to her precise requirements - "about loaf sized" 🤪

In case you are wondering, a banneton is a sourdough bread proving bowl. The beads on the inside make the characteristic rings on the bread. I experimented with light blue chalk paint on the outside, and finished with hard wax oil as it is (hopefully!) going to get a lot of use.



Sycamore Bowl – Andy Fisher



The wood is sycamore, then ebonising lacquer and then green, yellow, blue, red and white spirit stains from chestnut products finished off with six coats of Hampshire Sheen gloss lacquer as I think it gives a better finish.

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

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For Sale and Wanted

Wood for sale

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 is based Between Royston and Cambridge and contact numbers are 01223208850 or 07971544517



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Bandsaw for Sale

Keith Goddard, one of our members is selling a bandsaw. See photos.

Anyone interested please contact Keith directly.

He said *'Most of the proceeds are going to the club. I have just fitted a new blade and there is a new spare blade. It is fitted with wheels and the stand has a very useful cupboard.'*

Price £100

Keith 07740238491



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Poetry Corner

STAYCATION

Staycation is the current word
With such ideas that brings
The chance now has just occurred
To rethink happy things
Trips here and there
In or not in public's stare
Perhaps join the whales for an on beach bask
Relief of fleeting moment's time
No need there to wear the mask
Whilst sampling a summer's tippie flask
Or around the shops again
If that may be your bag
Even enjoy the seasons rain
Nor let your footsteps flag
Happier times have now returned
With pleasure's feast which we all have earned.

Martin Sexton