



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 221

October 2024

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the OCTOBER 2024 newsletter.

Steve Heeley's demonstration at our October meeting was well received, for more details see Tony Taylor's report in this edition. Our next club meeting is on 12 th November and Mick Hanbury is our demonstrator. Mick has built a great reputation as an artistic turner and here is a preview of what inspiration we might expect: <http://www.mickhanbury.co.uk/>

TRAINING NEWS. We are delighted to report that Dave Washer has agreed to take up the role of training officer. Dave will take over from Mel Williams in the New Year and the handover has already begun. If you want to talk about any level of training contact Dave via training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Our thanks to Mel for all her hard work in running the club's recent training programme.

COMPETITION TABLES .November's Advanced competition is a Pen/Pencil/Brush Holder, whilst Beginners are asked to make a Bud Vase. The contributions last month were again excellent, and I continue to be impressed by both the quality and quantity of what is submitted.

100th MEMBERSHIP MILESTONE. I am very happy to report that in October we signed up several new members, including our 100th individual. This is a well-deserved testament to the efforts made by the Committee in providing Communications, Content, Competitions, Training (organising and delivering), Raffles, Sales Table, Refreshments and much more. I know that we have a great team to run the club.

COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS Part of belonging to any club is a sense of being in a community of like-minded folks and I know that this is highly valued by many members. In this newsletter we include news of a collaboration with FOUR other organisations. Its early days for this new project, but if it goes well, we will plan a repeat in the new year.

That's enough from me for now - I look forward to seeing you again in November.

Adam Blackie

Chairman

CONTENTS

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN	1
Club News	3
SEPTEMBER Competition	3
Meetings Calendar	6
Competition Subjects.....	6
Why have Club Competitions?.....	7
Raffle purchase Diary for 2024-25	7
Ray Key – a note from Stephen Madden	8
Demonstration by Steve Heeley – Review by Tony Taylor	9
Training	11
Club Training Update – Mel Williams	11
Beginners.....	11
AWGB Training.....	11
Report from recent club training event – Allen Kaye.	12
Men’s Shed Update 26 th Oct 2024.....	13
CLUB COLLABORATIONS	14
Projects	15
Tazza – Peter Kemp.....	15
Herts & Beds Woodturners: Wood Lathe Safety	16
For Sale and Wanted.....	19
For Sale – lathe and tools.....	19
Woodturning from a different angle	20
Laughter corner.....	22
Tool Definitions	22
Poetry Corner	23

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Club News

SEPTEMBER Competition

Beginners



1st Nick Peace

..



2nd Melvyn Hogg



3rd Andy Mackness

Advanced



1st Harvey Alison



2nd Tony Taylor



3rd Peter Kemp

Open

1st Harvey Alison



2nd Peter Hoare



3rd Alan Lewis

Meetings Calendar

2024

Nov	12th	Mick Hanbury
Dec	10th	Christmas Social

2025

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

Competition Subjects

2024

Beginners

Nov	Bud Vase
Dec	Xmas tree decoration

Advanced

Pen/Pencil/Brush Holder
Pair Candle Holders

2025

Beginners

Jan	Ring Bowl (6-7cm dia)
Feb	Two Woods
Mar	Bud Vase
Apr	Egg
May	Pair of light pulls
June	Platter
July	Tool Handle
Aug	Pair of coasters
Sept	An Apple
Oct	Spinning top
Nov	Kitchen Roll holder
Dec	Dice shaker

Advanced

Natural Edged Hollow form *
Decorated platter
Coloured ball
Pair of egg cups
String box
Lidded bowl
Hollow form
Natural edged vase
Box with finial
Pair of goblets
Mug
Winged bowl

* No finishing process – straight from tool

Why have Club Competitions?

Our Club has a wide range of members, from beginners to professionals, but all, presumably, with an interest in woodturning, but why have competitions? The simple answer is, I believe, to improve. We all get better by making things. Practicing the various skills that together enable us to make objects that others can appreciate and admire.

We can disagree about the way the competition is run; that it could be better done this way or that, but the general idea is what matters. Make something and compare it to other turners' work.

What makes one object better than another? The idea, design, finish, difficulty, size (large or small), novelty or just the wood "figure". Well, some or possibly all these.

You can't learn or improve unless you try to make something. An idea won't always work, but you have to try it to find out. You can always try an idea on a smaller piece of cheap wood.

Some "makers" can envisage an object and how to make it, some (me included) have to think, sketch and even write out a process. It doesn't matter how you arrive at the finished object, it's the journey that matters.

Participation has been improving in recent months, which is very encouraging. Please keep it up. If you still don't feel like making something, then please at least look at the competition submissions and vote. You just need to choose the items you like (for whatever reason). You have one vote in each section (Beginner, Advanced and Open). The more members that vote, the more representative the results will be.

Finally, if anyone has any suggestions about the way the competitions are structured, how we vote or how we celebrate the annual winners, please let me or any other Committee Member know.

Peter Hoare – Competition Coordinator

Raffle purchase Diary for 2024-25

I am the raffle coordinator for the forthcoming year and need to fill the diary for the purchase of prizes. To ensure we get a selection of prizes we ask different members of the membership to the club to buy the raffle prizes. This ensures we have a variation every month.

As a guide we have increased to spend on prizes to £ 80 - £100 per month with a maximum number of 5 prizes in total. There is some flexibility as this is offered as a guide.

I need 2 volunteers to buy the Raffle prizes for January 14th and March 11th 2025.

Full receipts are required for each spend made.

If you wish to discuss any of this information with me then feel free to do so at the next meeting or email/phone,

Steve Beadle

Tel 07720 677456

Email Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk

Ray Key – a note from Stephen Madden

After the passing of Ray Key some of his unfinished work (Blanks) were sent to turners from around the world to finish and then on completion a book was compiled before they were auctioned.

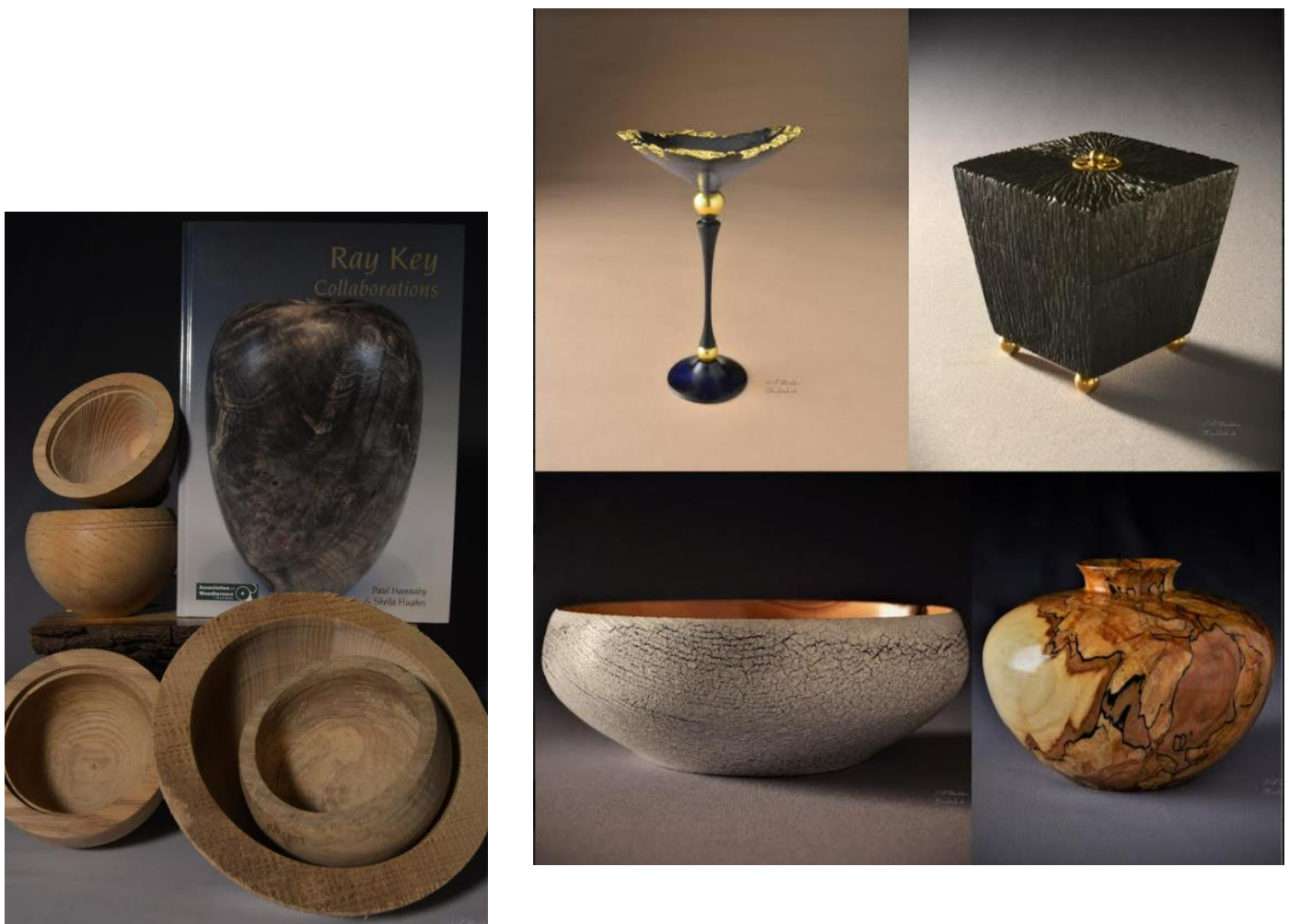
Paul Hannaby and Sheila Hughes who produced the book have kindly sent me five of Ray's blanks and the book which are in the photograph below to finish/embellish as I please and then these will be auctioned with proceeds going to the "Emerging Turners Programme".

It will be a slow process for me as I've many projects/commissions to complete, but I'll keep a photo diary and I'll show the results of my work in upcoming newsletters. As for upcoming events I participate in the annual "Chiltern Made" Craft Fair on 30th November at the Elgiva Theatre Chesham

Link: <https://elgiva.com/craft-fair/>

Stephen Madden.

wooddude.uk



Demonstration by Steve Heeley – Review by Tony Taylor

Steve gave us the choice between a lidded box or a candlestick and there was a clear majority in favour of the box.

He took a 3 inch square of Oak and started to round it between centres, but some serious cracks appeared, so a fresh start was made with a piece of Elm. The right hand end was trimmed with the parting tool and a chucking tenon formed.

After reversing in the chuck, the work was slightly tapered down to the right (the lid end) and a second chucking tenon cut.

The lid portion was parted off, allowing enough length to provide for a finial. The lid was now mounted and hollowed using a spindle gouge. This was first pushed in as a drill to define the depth and then used to hollow with the flute at 10 o'clock.



The entrance of the lid was carefully trimmed parallel. Next, the inside was sanded (avoiding the entry region) and waxed with a stick of 50:50 carnauba and beeswax. Buffing has to be with enough speed and pressure to melt the wax.



The lid was then removed and the base chucked. The spigot was formed to fit the lid tightly and the base hollowed, first with the spindle gouge and then with the Hope carbide tool.

Steve pointed out that he would normally allow the wood to settle for a few days before making the final fit. He made a special point of explaining how to get the best “air fit”.

The spigot is given a very slight leading chamfer and is slightly cut back at the base.

Also, for least chance of movement it is best to use quarter sawn wood. The inside was then sanded with wax and

polished as with the lid. The lid was then fitted and secured with the tail stock and the two halves blended together.

The lid was completed by carefully forming a finial, finally cutting away carefully with the skew to separate from the tail stock.

For decoration, cuts were made with the skew on either side of the join and to define a band on either side. The Sorby tool was used to texture within these bands. The finish was with sanding sealer sprayed on, followed by wax.

The final stage was to part off the base and then mount it in a jam chuck in order to trim and finish the bottom.

Members of the club were very appreciative of Steve's well- prepared demonstration and also of his remarking on the club's happy atmosphere and interest. We were all very impressed with the range of nice examples of his work which he displayed.

Tony Taylor



Training

Club Training Update – Mel Williams

Beginners

Mel Williams has arranged one remaining date this year at Aylesbury.

- 9th November.

This date is full.

As noted by Adam earlier – Dave Washer, pictured on the right, is taking over the training role on the committee.



By next month Dave will have begun to develop the club training events for next year. There will be more details in the November newsletter but he is open to be contacted at any time by email or directly on club nights. He can be contacted through the existing club email address below.

training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk).

AWGB Training

I normally provide here details of the training offered by the AWGB. At the moment however none for 2025 are published on their website. If you are interested, then I suggest you bookmark the following link and check directly every so often.

[Training – AWGB](#)

Report from recent club training event – Allen Kaye.

The day was very enjoyable as has been the trademark of these events and trainees reported that they found their time was usefully spent in developing their skills. It is worth noting that the trainers also find such activity enjoyable but also valuable for their own skills as the act of preparing for training forces us to reflect on our own practices and skills to our undoubted benefit.

Thanks again go to Mel for organising the event and also to Philip Francis who arranged the use of his workshop within the Queens Park Arts Centre in Aylesbury.

Those involved at Aylesbury were Peter Hoare, Mel Williams, Harvey Alison, Bill Montgomery, Andrew Lee and myself. Grahame Hill and Adam Blackie decided to meet in Adam's workshop in St Albans.

A few photos below to give some sense of the day



Men's Shed Update 26th Oct 2024

The workshops at the Men's Shed (MS) on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month are up and running. The workshops are being well attended but we have room for more, so if you want to see what we are up to please drop me a line and come along on one of the Thursdays (I can also arrange for you to see the Mans Shed on a Tuesday or Friday as well). We are still settling in and most of our time is spent either tutoring or being tutored, so everybody is learning from the experience.

We have recognised that these workshops will at this stage be focused on experience building, so all workshops will be supported by Tutors (or experienced turner). When we are in the position too, we can change the focus of each workshop to include "open" sessions.

If you want to develop your tutoring and become a tutor, please contact Adam or me.

All workshops are open to all Man Shed members and visitors (H&B woodturners included), beginners or experienced. Please let me know if you would like to come along, the farm is a great place to socialise, meetup and get to know your fellow turners.

The workshop on these Thursdays is used solely for; For Woodturning, MS members; visitors (H&B Woodturners included).

Whilst room in the workshop is limited there is plenty of outside space to make use of to construct projects as Adam and Alan did, to fabricate a lathe stand for less mobile turners (as mentioned by Adam elsewhere in the newsletter).

Please contact me if you want more information, join the H&B/MS WhatsApp group to comment or get involved.

Regards

Steve

07508004511

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CLUB COLLABORATIONS

Horatio's Garden and RNOH need some help

Club member David Evans has a link with Horatio's Garden, a charity that assists rehabilitation after spinal injuries. They have links with The Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore Spinal Unit. David suggested that we might demonstrate woodturning as a therapy / occupation for spinal injury sufferers.

Middlesex Woodturners get involved

I mentioned this to Gordon Cookson, the chairman of Middlesex Woodturners Association. Gordon loved the idea and contacted a few of his members. A few conversations later and on Wednesday 30 th October, from 12.30 pm both clubs will be collaborating on a demonstration of woodturning at Horatio's Garden. The charity hosts various demonstrations from flower arranging to painting, but they believe an activity such as woodturning would appeal to a different demographic of patient - male patients. As current demonstrations appeal mainly to the female demographic. If successful and club members are willing it could be a regular thing.

The audience will be patients, family members, volunteers and staff. Patients will have had a spinal injury which will have left them with varying degrees of physical ability.

Letchworth Men in Sheds help make a sit-down lathe

The question of sitting whilst woodturning was new to us all, and it turns out that Vicmarc sell a set-up, but at a little over £4000 it was out of reach, so we decided to make one instead.

This is where a fourth collaboration came into play.

Club member Steve Hart has been working with Letchworth Men's Shed, so we asked them to help make a sit-down lathe set-up based on the Vicmarc design. A half day later and this picture below paints a thousand words. Thanks go to Alan from Letchworth Men's Sheds for his expert help.



Projects

Tazza – Peter Kemp

Depending on the subject, I like to turn items with as many pieces of wood as possible. I am in no hurry to complete any project so more pieces can mean more visits to the shed.

As for inspiration I find that Tazzas generally tend to be quite plain so I thought I would add a bit of texture and incorporate a hand turned sphere in the stand (no jig).



The woods used were, ash for the top and base, yew for the spindle uprights and holly for the centre sphere, holly being the palest wood to take the red colour.

A small diameter centre spindle was glued in to hold all the bits together. The textured bands are pyrography dots between turned grooves, colouring is by black and red Sharpie pens. The sphere is Chestnut spirit stain.

The finish is Chestnut lacquer over sanding sealer. Although bits are now creeping in I have never been a fan of colouring as I prefer a natural wood finish.

I prefer to turn English hardwoods.

Peter



Herts & Beds Woodturners: Wood Lathe Safety

Have added this in again this month in case you were thinking and planning new year resolutions!

For further info and more details you can refer to the AWGB website – see [Woodturning Safety – AWGB](#)

General Guidelines

- Personal Protective Equipment
 - Eye protection is essential. A dust mask is optional for cutting but essential for dust-creating activities eg scraping, sanding or working with dry wood
 - Gloves should not be worn
- Clothing, Hair and Jewelry
 - Avoid dangling or loose clothing. Don't wear jewellery especially rings and watches. Tie back long hair.
- Ensure your work piece is sound and securely attached. Check frequently.
- Unplug the lathe if changing speed ranges with pulleys
- Ensure all lathe components are secured before turning on: headstock; tailstock; tool rest; workpiece. Prior to starting the lathe – check that the pulley/speed control is set for a slow enough speed. Check that chuck key, spanners, knockout-bar etc have been removed and stowed. Disengage the spindle lock.
- Check / Tighten the chuck regularly – a recently cut tenon may shrink slightly as the newly cut surfaces dry a little and/or the wood fibres become crushed in the chuck jaws. Tighten to ensure the workpiece does not become loose.
- Ensure workpiece is balanced as possible. Extra caution is needed when using wood with voids, bark, inclusions, cracks or checks. Maintain awareness of the profile “ghosting” across the top of the workpiece. Listen to sound of your cutting and sanding. A sudden change in what you can hear is often an early warning when wood has started to split or come loose.
- Start at low speed when turning to round
- Spin the workpiece manually to check balance and check for obstructions
- Be aware of others around you: ensure no-one is in the line of the workpiece, in case it comes loose. 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. See [Wood Allergies and Toxicity](#).

- Spalted wood (with black stains) may have fungus spores in if the wood has not been kiln dried. These can be harmful.
- Cleaning your workshop can kick up a lot of dust – especially with a broom. A dust mask or respirator should be worn during cleaning, and continue to be worn until you leave the work area.

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. Single-use (disposable) masks are not recommended
- Dust collectors and air cleaners help to minimize dust build up in the workshop and they remove larger airborne dust particles.
- Non-powered respirators are the most common choice. Some masks are bulky, and may be difficult to wear with (safety) glasses.
- Powered respirators are expensive but may be useful for the regular turner.

COVID!

- Woodworking masks do not normally filter OUTGOING air. They are not designed to protect others from disease.
- Surgical and cloth masks are not rated for woodworking.

VISOR

- If other people are spectating, consider using a protective screen between lathe and audience – especially across “the firing line”.
- A polycarbonate visor is very useful. Acetate visors are splash-protectors – not suitable for woodturning.

SANDING

- Sanding produces a lot of dust – get the best finish you can off (sharp!) tools
- Extraction is strongly advised – either a main workshop device or vacuum at the machine
- Be aware that dust particles remain airborne for hours after sanding. Wearing a respirator only whilst sanding is not sufficient. It is better to wear it for the remainder of that woodturning session. An air cleaner can help remove larger airborne particles.
- Cutting clean, moist wood with a sharp tool will produce large shavings which are not hazardous. At all other times, use extraction.

WORK AREA

- All equipment to be used should be in good repair, check electrical plugs and cables are not damaged. Equipment (especially lathes and grinders) should be suitably anchored to a bench or floor. Regular PAT testing is a useful check
- Check that the work area is suitable and safe ie well lit, non-slip, no trip hazards and ventilated.
- Ensure that there is a suitable fire extinguisher to hand, consider what the action would be if anyone was injured – how to summon help, emergency first aid.

TOOLS

- Understand the safe usage of each tool when woodturning.
- Keep tools sharp. Don't force a cut with a dull tool.

CONTROLS

- On a new lathe check the position of the power and emergency stop buttons
- Prior to starting the lathe – check that the pulley/speed control is set for a slow enough speed.
- On a lathe electronic variable speed, it is good practice to turn the speed to the lowest setting before turning the lathe on. Similarly, prior to stopping, turn the speed down, then stop the lathe.
- If the lathe can be run in forward or reverse direction:
 - Cutting must only be done when the workpiece is turning downwards towards the toolrest. This is forwards for 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.
- When turning the lathe on, always stand aside – out of the “line of fire”.
- Never adjust or move the tool rest or banjo when the lathe is spinning. Do not leave the lathe unattended, reach over it, or bend down near it when it is spinning

Finishes

- Many finishes can be used for woodturning. Precautions for finishes are varied. 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. Read the tin.
 - Hazardous finishes should not be applied when the lathe is on, eg superglue!

Many finishes give off harmful fumes whilst drying – use a vapour rated face mask

For Sale and Wanted

For Sale – lathe and tools

Vicmarc VL175SH lathe

Several chucks and an extractor are also available separately see images. The current owner also has a number of wood turning tools available.

As a note the lathe is approx 2m in length reasonable size workshop will be required.

The current owner is willing to assist in relocate the lathe using his van



so a

If you are interested in the first instance please contact
Dave Washer Mobile 07546 612450





Off Centre

Woodturning from a different angle

Maintaining interest by David Evans

It's starting to turn colder, and the nights are drawing in. This can only mean one thing; autumn and winter are approaching. I enjoy our changing seasons.

Traditionally autumn and winter are times for reflection as the shorter days curtail many outdoor activities. I have an allotment so now is the time for putting it to bed until Spring. I'll cover the ground with an overwintering green manure, clean and sharpen my tools and peruse the many seed catalogues that start to land on my door mat.

But rather than see this time as the end of a season, I see it as a start. Time to start thinking about what I need to do in preparation for next year. It's a similar story for me when it comes to woodturning. Currently I don't have the luxury of time or space to indulge in as much wood turning as I'd like. During the longer, warmer days I can set a lathe on the patio just outside the kitchen and wile away a summer's evening at the end of my working day practicing my techniques. This is less fun when the temperature drops below twelve degrees and the sun sets at 4pm.



Like my vegetable growing, the winter is a time when I have to put woodturning on ice. Inevitably during the enforced pause, I always start wonder if perhaps I'm losing my woodturning mojo; maybe I'm not as enthusiastic as I was at the start of the year; or if my workshop will eventually get built this winter (it will). That's when I remind myself that autumn and winter is a perfect time to reflect and plan. Like with the allotment, I see it as a start and not an end.

For new turners like me club nights are a great source of motivation. The bright lights of the Adeyfield Community Centre are a welcome sight as I make my way across the car park on a dark damp night. Inside the hall's warm embrace there's a great deal of distraction and inspiration. I suspect for most members, old and new, the sales table is their first stop. Maybe there's a new tool been donated that you've not used before or a hardwood you've not turned. I'd recommend having a leaf through the many magazines and reference books that always occupy one end of the table. These are perfect for a wet Sunday or Monday afternoon. Flick through the pages for inspiration for designs, techniques, tools or finishes. You'll always find something that will have you itching to try out the next time you fire up a lathe.

Next, I'll take a look at what's on offer for that evening's raffle. Similarly to the sales table there's always something to inspire.

The club's main events are always engaging. This year we've had some brilliant demonstrations from many accomplished turners. In addition, the event programme has included interactive club nights such as how to assess turned items, design workshops and photographing designs for our website. These are all great opportunities for turners of all levels to talk to other members and ask questions.

Similarly, the competition table. Something I like to do is look ahead to what's coming and spend time sketching, thinking about technique or deciding on what wood to use. Even if I don't always produce something, this is a perfect example of how to maintain that interest from the comfort of an armchair.

The point is you don't need to be standing in front a lathe to be inspired. There's so much more to woodturning than putting steel to wood. And that's what keeps me interested.

David Evans is a novice woodturner. If you've got an idea for Off Centre come and talk to him on a club night or email info@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Laughter corner

Yes – after a long break this corner has returned ready for the festive season. Gordon Cookson pictured below starts us off with a few tool definitions – more next month... even more if you send some as well..

Tool Definitions



DRILL PRESS: A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat metal bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

WIRE WHEEL: Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench with the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned calluses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'Oh shit!'

DROP SAW: A portable cutting tool used to make studs too short.

PLIERS: Used to round off bolt heads. Sometimes used in the creation of blood-blisters.

BELT SANDER: An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

HACKSAW: One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle... It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

VICE-GRIPS: Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. If nothing else is available, they can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.

OXYACETYLENE TORCH: Used almost entirely for lighting on fire various flammable objects in your shop. Also handy for igniting the grease inside the wheel hub out of which you want to remove a bearing race.

TABLE SAW: A large stationary power tool commonly used to launch wood projectiles for testing wall integrity.

HYDRAULIC FLOOR JACK: Used for lowering an automobile to the ground after you have installed your new brake shoes, trapping the jack handle firmly under the bumper.

BAND SAW: A large stationary power saw primarily used by most shops to cut good aluminium sheet into smaller pieces that more easily fit into the trash can after you cut on the inside of the line instead of the outside edge.

TWO-TON ENGINE HOIST: A tool for testing the maximum tensile strength of everything you forgot to disconnect.

Poetry Corner

ADVICE TO THE MEDIA

So boring, the media's verbal vocabulary
Not always mimicked by the local constabulary
The latest word on the block is 'investing'
Replacing '100 per cent' for digesting
And the superlative word incredible
Used so often has become inedible
Why don't you find original words,
Why must you copy like sheep and the birds
To be original has gone out of fashion
Use of these foresaid words should have ration
Please return to virgin normality
To avoid a stodgy, dodgy reality.

Martin Sexton July 2024