



WOODBITS NEWSLETTER

Issue 242

July 2026

Shavings from the Chairman

Welcome to this month's newsletter.

It's lovely to see the club continuing to grow, with four new members joining us this month, and so much going on across our activities. With so much to choose from for Shavings, I thought this month I'd return to the basics.

In June, we were lucky to enjoy a demonstration from Liz Pearson, who took us through bowl basics before showing a traditional method for ebonising work before finishing. Patrick Styleman has kindly written up the demonstration for us this month, and Liz has also shared some helpful hints and tips on making your own ebonising fluid.

In August, we have something a little different to look forward to, while still keeping with the theme of returning to basics. Geoff Hannis will be our guest demonstrator, bringing along his pole lathe to show us how woodturners worked before industrialisation. The club has hosted pole lathe turners from time to time, but it's still a rare treat for us—and one not to be missed.

You can find out more about Geoff's work on his website: <https://treetotreen.com/>

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll find updates on Letchworth Men in Sheds, Horatio's Garden, Aylesbury training events, additions to our [lending library](#) and a **final call for candlestick contributions** to our AWGB competition entry in October.

I hope you've been enjoying some time in your workshop and that the warm weather hasn't kept you away from the lathe for too long. If you have managed some turning time, I'm looking forward to seeing your competition entries this month: a Ball and Cup for beginners and a Hollow Form for advanced turners. And, as always, please do bring along anything else you've made in your workshop, especially candlesticks, we'd love to see it.

That's all from me for now. I look forward to seeing you all again on 11 August.

Adam Blackie

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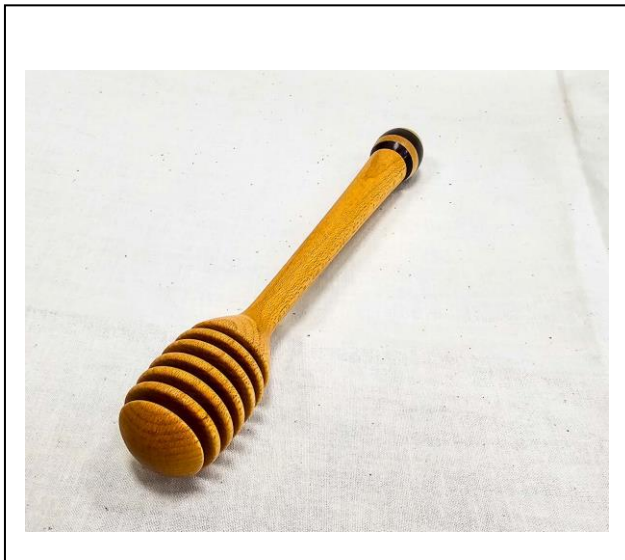
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Club News

July Competition

BEGINNERS



1st Gary Atkins



2nd Guy Ickless



3rd Peter Clark

ADVANCED



1st Peter Kemp



2nd James Blackie

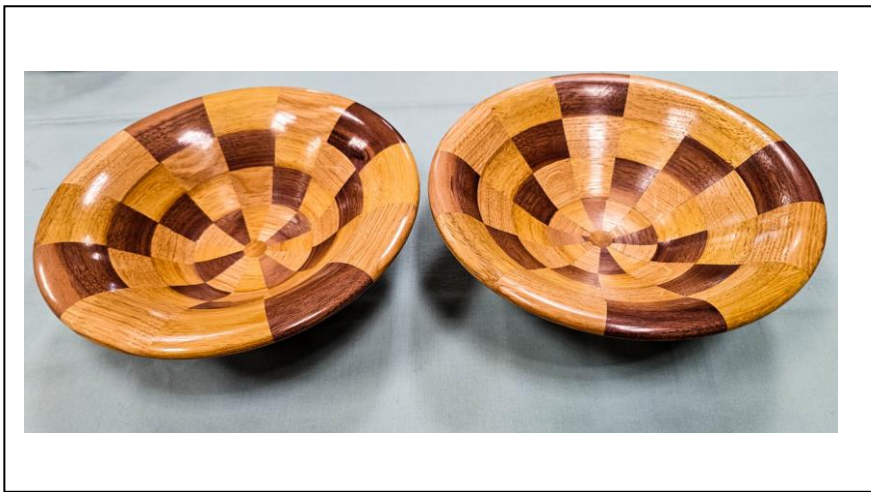


3rd Andrew Holwerda

OPEN



1st James Blackie



2nd Tony Taylor

3rd Graham Tomkins



Meetings Calendar

2026		
August	11	Geoff Hannis (Pole Lathe)
September	8	Club Night
October	13	Steven Kearvell
November	10	Richard Peers
December	14	Club Night
January '27	11	Gary Rance
February	9	Andy James
March	9	Steven Gordon
April	12	AGM+
May	11	Ian Ethel
June	8	Club Night
July	13	Frans Brown

Competition Subjects

2026		
	Beginners	Advanced
August	Ball and Cup	Hollow Form
September	Small AWGB festival competition candlestick	Medium or large AWGB festival competition candlestick
October	Platter	Bowl on Feet
November	Xmas Decoration	Wall Plaque
December	20 to 30cm Long Spurtle	Textured Platter
January	Paper Weight	Offset Goblet
February	Ring Finger	Wool Bowl
March	12 to 15cm Dia. Bowl	Natural Edged Vase

Demo Report

This month the club was treated to a demonstration by Liz Pearson, professional woodturning tutor of Love Heartwood Turning School in Berkshire.

Liz started by telling us that she was going to walk us through the process of making a bowl, as she would with her students. Her bowl design has a thin edge, an ogee outer profile, a detail inside the rim, and is finished with homemade ebonising liquid.

Liz's style was very relaxed and she clearly explained how to hold, present and move tools to achieve the desired shapes and finishes. She talked through how she trues up the blank by 'floating the bevel', how the handle should be kept low when pull cutting, and that pressure should be kept on the bevel tip to stop bouncing.

Having made a tenon at the base, Liz showed us how she creates an ogee shape by starting with a pull cut from the base to create a convex shape, then switching to a push cut away from the body for the concave section. These are initially cut separately, then finished with a single flowing movement to create a smooth ogee profile. She showed how imperfections can be removed with a scraping cut in which both edges of the bowl gouge are in contact with the wood, in a closed position.



Liz then described how to make ebonising liquid using an improbable-sounding technique of dissolving steel wool in vinegar over a period of 2-3 days. The liquid created then reacts to the tannin in wood (and is particularly effective in tannic-rich wood such as oak and sweet chestnut) to create a black stain. She wet-sanded the outer bowl profile to remove end-grain roughness before applying the ebonising solution, turning the wood instantly black where it was applied.



After the break Liz worked on the inside of the bowl and showed us how she marks it to help guide the cuts. Having created the rim and detail she showed how she scoops out the central bowl shape in a series of cuts, clearly explaining how to present and move the gouge.



Liz is clearly an effective tutor and although there was not enough demonstration time available for her to fully complete the bowl, the techniques that she showed us were very helpful, and I have taken much away from it, with new things to try.

Patrick Stileman

Ebonising Wood: A Traditional Black Finish

Handout – from Liz Pearson at Love Heartwood

What is Ebonising?

Ebonising is a chemical process that turns wood black using a reaction between iron acetate (from vinegar and steel wool) and the natural tannins found in many hardwoods. It's a traditional and eco-friendly alternative to black stains or dyes.

Best Woods for Ebonising

These woods naturally contain high tannin levels, which give the best results:

- Oak (especially English/European oak)
- Walnut
- Mahogany
- Chestnut
- Cherry
- Elm

🟠 *Lower tannin woods* (like ash, beech, sycamore, or maple) can still be ebonised if pre-treated with a black tea or tannin solution.

Materials

- Steel wool (or rusty nails)
 - White vinegar or apple cider vinegar
 - Glass jar (non-metal) with a loose lid
 - Optional: strong black tea (for pale woods)
 - Clean cloth or soft brush
 - Gloves (to protect hands)
 - Sandpaper (120 to 220 grit)
 - Finishing oil or wax (to seal)
-

Process

1 Prepare the Iron Solution

1. Place a handful of steel wool in a glass jar.
2. Fill with white vinegar until covered.
3. Leave uncovered (or loosely lidded) for 3–7 days to react.
4. The solution will turn grey or brown.

Once the steel wool has dissolved and the solution is ready, you can strain it to remove any debris.

💡 Tip: How to Strain the Solution

Suitable filters could be coffee filter, muslin or cheesecloth, paper towel, fine mesh sieve, Paint strainer bag, old nylon tights.

Use a non-metal container and strain directly into your clean working jar.

2 Prepare the Wood

1. Sand the wood smoothly up to 180 or 220 grit.
2. Wipe clean to remove all dust.
3. Optional: Raise the grain slightly and re-sand for a finer finish.

Why Not Sand Higher Than 220 Grit? Sanding above 220 grit can burnish and close the grain, especially in dense hardwoods. This prevents the ebonising solution from soaking in properly, resulting in a patchy or weak black finish.

Keep the surface slightly porous by stopping at 180–220 grit. Once ebonised and dry, you can sand more finely before finishing if needed.

3 Optional: Add Tannins (for pale woods)

- Brew strong black tea (2–4 bags per cup).
- Brush the tea over the wood and allow to dry fully.

This boosts tannin content to help the ebonising work.

4 Apply the Iron Solution

1. Brush or wipe the iron solution onto the wood.
 2. Wait 15–30 minutes for the colour to darken.
 3. Apply a second coat if deeper black is desired.
 4. Let dry thoroughly.
-

5 Finishing

Lightly sand with fine grit (220+) if rough.

Apply a finish such as:

- Wax (for a matte finish)
 - Danish or tung oil (for natural sheen)
 - Shellac or polyurethane (for protection)
-

Safety Tips

- Work in a well-ventilated area.
 - Wear gloves – vinegar and metal can be messy.
 - Avoid metal containers or brushes (they can interfere with the reaction).
 - Keep the solution away from children and pets.
-

Bursary Training Day Report

Harvey Alison and Stuart Mortimer

As part of the 2026 Worshipful Company of Turners Yeomen programme, I spent a day with Stuart Mortimer at his workshop in Grateley, Hampshire. The aim of the day was to learn advanced hollow form and twist techniques, in both of which Stuart is a universally admired master.

The day started with some deep hollowing of a few green blanks that I had brought with me, from a black poplar that had shed a large limb recently. As this was personalised training and I am already a fairly experienced turner, we quickly moved beyond the basics into a wealth of those small details make all the difference between average and great results.

We used the Stuart Mortimer signature tools (<https://henrytaylortools.co.uk/hamlet-signature-tools/>) which my good friend Tony Taylor had recently kindly passed on, and gave them a re-profile to make them work effectively.



Stuart advocates a design-lead approach. Tooling starts on the outside of the form, and moves to the inside. Stuart insists on a clean finish on the inside, critical if you are going on to make an open twisted form, where the interior of the vessel will be visible, but also important for the true craftsman taking a pride in the quality of their work. We looked at tool presentation and rotation, moving the tool and the turner's body in a coordinated way that maximises control and quality of cut. We also used the tools to remove waste rapidly from the form, dramatically speeding up the process – no stopping and fiddling around with a coat hanger or an air-line today!

For an ultra-thin wall, which is needed particularly for pierced designs, tooling then returns to the outside of the vessel, using light transmission from a tailstock supported light to assess thinness. At this point in the process, traditional full bevel contact from the gouge becomes problematic due to the extreme weakness of the material, so Stuart showed me the use of a 'micro-bevel', which allows minimal force to be applied when performing those final refining cuts to get down to a couple of millimetre thickness.



Picture: LED inspection light mounted to the tailstock, with a sliding cover. Action shot cribbed from Oliver's woodturning video, as I didn't take one!)

There are different approaches to hollowing out a green form. Whichever you choose, Stuart recommends drilling a central hole to the final depth, using either a spindle gouge or a drill bit mounted in a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock. If you are using a spindle gouge, a quick forceful in and out movement while slightly oscillating the tool up and down drills very efficiently. Turners are often taught to hollow the form from the opening, working towards the headstock in stages. This has the advantage of maintaining strength in the areas still to be cut, but it does have the down side that shavings tend to collect in the 'shoulder' of the form, necessitating frequent stops to empty them out. A much faster alternative, if you have a sufficient feel and are confident, is to hollow from the headstock end, using quick rotating 'in and out' cuts with a strong spindle gouge as the turner moves his body to create the inside profile. The tool goes in with the flute closed, gradually opening as you go. After each cut, the tool is fully withdrawn, scooping the shavings out and allowing the next cut to proceed immediately without stopping the lathe. In this way, we were able to complete the hollowing of several forms in minutes.

Training Update - Dave Washer

Once again, a very successful Training Day for 6 members of our club who attended Queens Park Arts Centre for a Bowl hollowing/ hollow form course hosted by Chris Bentley and Harvey Alison.

Chris gave a very informative introduction to the Hollow form turning process with Harvey providing some in-depth knowledge to the structure of timber and its limitations.

The lathes had been set up with a prepared section of Ash and we broke off into 3 groups of 2, this worked really well with Chris and Harvey circulating between the 3 groups. Once a shape was formed on the outside of the Ash, with the pre drilled hole down the centre we were able to use the vast selection of Hollowing tools available, So thank you to everyone who brought along the various hollowing tools.

With the vastness of this subject, the day was an introduction to this challenging turning process and the group were able to try most of the hollowing tools on the market today



Feedback from members

"Thanks Dave, really appreciated the Hollowing workshop session at Aylesbury, hosted by Chris Bentley and Harvey Alison for our clubs' hollowing "experts". After a safety briefing explaining the hollowing process risks, we were then given the opportunity under the guidance of our tutors to work on our own bowl all under the guidance of our tutors.

With the bonus of using a huge range of tools offered by different manufactures and learning both the techniques and what tools we felt more comfortable with, really useful to try before you buy. The workshop at Aylesbury is also a great venue, well kitted out and tidy, all thanks to Phil Francis' stewardship"

"The hollowing course held at Aylesbury was absolutely superb. After having a near nasty miss experience trying hollowing on my own, I now have the confidence to widen my hollowing journey Massive thanks to Chris, Harvey, Phil and yourself"



More Feedback from members

"Thank you for arranging Saturday's course on hollowing. Chris was, as always, a fantastic tutor. He covered all of the context we needed to know before getting stuck into the nitty gritty and letting us hands on with the tools. We had a brilliant selection of near enough every tool on the market that day so it was a great opportunity to try them all out and see which style works best for us. It was also enlightening to get some tips from Chris on how best to use said tools to minimise catches, build confidence in our tool presentation and refine a good, finished surface. Thanks again and I look forward to the next one!"

"A big thank you to Harvey and Chris our tutors for the day. After the usual 'Meet and Greet' the day started with Harvey and Chris explaining Hollowing, Preparation of Blanks, the tools needed and tips on their use. An impossible task to learn in one day but they gave us a good insight into how and what could be achieved. We were partnered up two people to a lathe with the expertise of a tutor. A variety of Hollowing Tools were at our disposal, and we were encouraged to use them all. A truly great day, good company and expert tuition. I now feel more confident to try Hollowing at home. Many thanks to Dave Washer for organising the course and Phil Francis for the use of the Aylesbury Workshop."

One member had a special hair do for the day!!!!



Future Training Events

A further **Introduction to Multi-Axis Turning** course is planned for later in the year (Date yet to be set) we already have 4 members wishing to go on this course so we only have one or two places left, however if this is something you would like to try, please give me a shout and with a few more interested members I'll be happy to set up another course.

You may also be interested in the excellent training opportunity to the well-attended '**A day in my workshop**' where members can visit one of our members workshops and have a day of one-to-one training, honing your skills and techniques, a small fee is required for the day to cover club insurance and add to the club funds. It's a good way to get to know other club members too!

The club can also offer a discount on all group training delivered by a registered professional turner. This is limited to 50% of the total group cost or a maximum of £70 per person. I can provide further details if you are interested in this option.

Men's Shed Update 9th July 2026

Hello members,

It has been some time since my last Man's Shed (MS) update, so here is a summary of what we have been doing recently.

We have launched a Thursday **WEEKLY WOODTURNING SESSION**, starting when the farm opens at 10:00. The workshop has three bench-mounted lathes suitable for basic work between-centres and bowl turning, making it ideal for beginner and intermediate turners. It also gives aspiring tutors a chance to develop their instruction skills. Basic tools are available, though you may wish to bring your own as you progress.

The workshop is in the beautiful grounds of Standalone Farm, surrounded by acres of countryside with ample parking, a coffee shop and farm buildings, one of which houses the Men's Shed workshop. Originally a piggery, the workshop has lost the smell but kept its thick brick walls, making it easy to heat in winter and pleasantly cool in summer. Shed members have free access to the farm, so they can step outside for a walk, take a break in the shedders' eating area, socialise or simply reflect.

Our Contribution to Men's Shed – Turning Safely

As part of H&BW's proposal to the Man's Shed, we agreed to share our woodworking expertise. H&BW members bring a broad range of experience from using workshops and machinery such as lathes, bandsaws, grinders and, occasionally, table saws.

To be clear, we are tutoring rather than teaching. The tutoring covers basic machine setup, operation and maintenance, in line with AWGB tutoring. Advanced techniques are outside the scope, as shed projects only require the safe use of basic methods.

Joining the shed is mandatory and costs £18. Membership allows you to use the facilities, including the grounds, workshop and insurance cover, in line with Farm and Shed policies. I manage the Thursday workshop sessions and represent H&BW on the Shed Committee.

H&BW members have recently helped shape the Men's Shed Health & Safety Policy, Handbook, Machine Familiarisation and User Sign-Off process. This work aims to create a safer environment and build a safety-first culture where everyone looks out for one another.

The shed's primary objective is to provide a safe and supportive environment for inexperienced and/or vulnerable people.

Using various sources, including AWGB and manufacturers' guidance, we have created a reusable document that can be adapted for high-risk machines such as bandsaws and lathes. An assessor, such as an AWGB Tutor or other competent person, uses the document to demonstrate the machine, discuss its use and assess a potential user's understanding. The assessment must be signed off by both the assessor and the user. Once passed, the user is authorised to use the machine and accepts responsibility for using it safely or supervising an unauthorised visitor under their direct guidance.

Our First Assessment Session

On Thursday 9th July we trialled both the document and the assessment process with three "potential user" shed members Peter Hill (Chairman), Ian Richards (H & S Lead) and Micheal Chipperfield. H&BW Tutors,/Assessors were Grahame Hill (bandsaw), Adam Blackie (Lathe). We were also supported by Paul Ruck & Dave Washer (HBW training coordinator).



Band Saw Familiarisation & Assessments

Left to Right

Peter Hill (MS Chairman)

Ian Richards (MS),

Paul Ruck (H&BW & MS member)



Lathe Familiarisation & Assessments

Left to right

Grahame Hill (H&BW),

Peter Hill (MS - Chairman)

Adam Blackie (H&BW Chairman)

After a full-day session, all potential users were signed off.

Copies of the bandsaw and lathe documents are available on the H&BW website.

This process is intended to improve safety and basic machine knowledge within the shed; it is not designed to develop tool skills or support advanced machine use.

If you would like to develop your tutoring skills in this area, the MS can offer that opportunity. Please contact me if you are interested.

Workshop information

- Woodturning workshops are held every Thursday.
- A designated workshop supervisor is responsible for the workshop, attendees, projects and who works on them.
- WhatsApp is used to manage workshop arrangements.

Please contact me if you would like more information, have comments, or want to get involved.

Steve

07508 004511

sahart@btinternet.com

AWGB Collaborative Competition. 10/11 October 2026

The club committee is excited to announce that we are currently exploring creative ways to enter the 2026 AWGB Collaborative Competition. This year's theme is Shakespeare in Stratford, and our concept draws inspiration from one of Shakespeare's most powerful tragic plays. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to showcase our talents and come together as a club.

The competition will take place during the October festival, giving us plenty of time to plan and create something truly memorable to represent our club. As one of the largest and most vibrant clubs in the AWGB community, we want to make sure as many of our members as possible are involved in this exciting project. Your creativity and enthusiasm are what make our club special, and together we can achieve something remarkable.



Our concept is straightforward - details will be shared in upcoming newsletters and meetings, so watch this space! For now, we're inviting every member to contribute by making a single candlestick without a base (just a small tenon). The parameters are shown in the sketch on the next page. The candlestick should be a set height, but you're free to choose the style, wood, and finish, allowing your unique artistic touch to shine through. This is a brilliant chance for everyone, whatever your skill level, to get involved and be part of something special.

Harvey Alison will be coordinating our collaborative effort. If you're keen to take part, simply add your name to the list. We'll be in touch soon with further details and guidance. Don't miss out on being part of this inspiring group project—your participation will make all the difference!

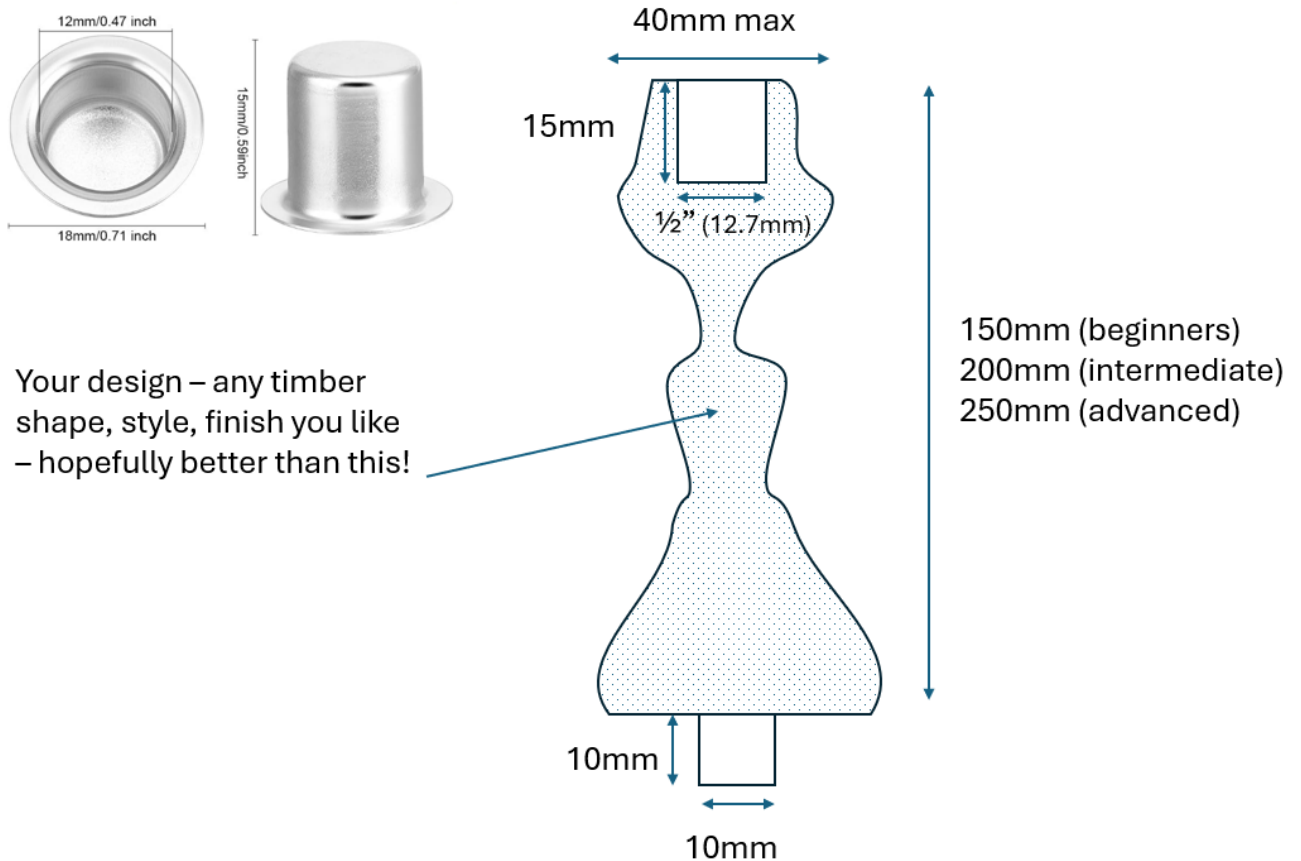
The deadline is mid-September, so time is pressing for this important project for our club. Let's work together to make our entry a real showstopper!

The specification for the candlesticks we need are as follows.

NOTE ON DIMENSIONS: THIS IS THE IMPORTANT BIT THAT MEMBERS HAVE BEEN ASKING ABOUT

The height is a MAXIMUM dimension (they can be smaller) and will vary depending on your own consideration of whether you are a Beginner, Intermediate or Advanced Turner. You decide.

The width is a MAXIMUM dimension (it can be smaller) of 40mm **FOR ALL PARTS OF THE CANDLESTICK – FROM TOP TO BOTTOM.**



INTERESTED?

More than 36 members have already signed up and you have plenty of time left to make your contribution.

Contact Harvey Alison harvey@kimbleturning.co.uk to take part.

Harpenden Art on the Common (AoTC) Craft Fair Update

First, a heartfelt thank you to Phil, Stepan, Peter, Jan, Adrian, Gary and Steve for their tremendous support throughout the weekend. Their efforts helped make the event a real success, and the glorious weather brought out the crowds for a lively and rewarding two days.

Financially, the weekend was a great success. We took £797 over the two days, which was an excellent result given this year's shortage of stock. After expenses, the club added £609 to its funds, helping us subsidise future training events, especially for new turners. **We should now build on this momentum, so I will need more items for the planned Christmas Fair.**

Another highlight was the strong interest from people keen to join the club and begin their woodturning journey. Interest from younger people was especially encouraging and bodes well for the future of the craft. I was also pleased to be approached by the DT tutor at St Albans Boys' School, who is interested in training her staff to use the Union Graduate lathe currently sitting unused in their workshop. I will follow this up closely; if it develops, it could give us a valuable opportunity to visit the school, inspire teenagers to try turning, and create a lasting legacy from a very successful weekend. Since the fair, we have also seen activity on our website registration page and received two serious enquiries about connecting with the club.

If you are planning to attend craft fairs, you may be interested in the following new club facilities.

1. We now have a stock of new club leaflets, designed and printed by Graham Lester, a professional designer who has done a splendid job for the club. **Be warned: if I see you at a craft fair without at least a handful of our leaflets on your stall, there will be consequences!** Leaflets are free and can be collected at the welcome table at our meetings.
2. We also have three new club advertising banners, each measuring 60 x 200 centimetres (approx. 2 x 6.5 feet). **If you can display one at your event, please contact me.** The banners are available as kits, with the right number of bungees to attach them to a table or marquee. They are a simple way to make your stall stand out and look more professional.
3. Speaking of marquees, the club now has a three-metre by three-metre craft fair set-up available – book it through the club library. It comes with everything you'll need for a professional-looking craft fair, including, banners, three sturdy folding tables, table cloths and weights to keep everything secure if the wind becomes a problem. To take advantage of this offer, simply contact me at chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk



Day 1 Stepan and Adrian



Day 2 Peter and Jan too

Members supporting Adeyfield

Next time you are at Adeyfield, you will see two new cabinets on either side of the hall. These will house new display screens connected to the main display and our two usual TVs at the front. This should greatly improve the visual experience during demonstrations and enhance our meetings.

Much effort and planning went into this project, and our thanks go to Chris Bentley for constructing the cabinets and to Paul Boyes for installing them.



I am also delighted with our new bell, which will be used to call meetings to order each month.

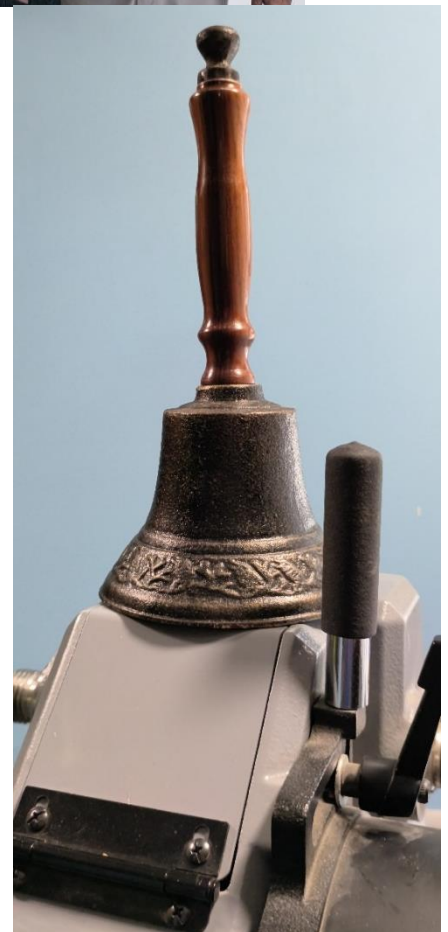
As many of you know, I was unhappy with the previous handle: it was loose and poorly made, and not fitting for a top-flight woodturning club.

My sincere thanks go to club member Brian Stanton, who has made and fitted a much more suitable handle.

Over the years, Brian has quietly contributed several items that help our meetings run more efficiently and generally improve the things we own. Without these thoughtful contributions from club members, our club would be so much less than it is.

While I am expressing thanks, I would also like to offer my sincere appreciation to everyone who gives their time and effort to support the club. Some help regularly, while others quietly step in when something needs doing. As chairman, I feel very fortunate to be surrounded by so many generous people—far too many to name individually.

Adam



Horatio's Garden update

Mark Aizikowicz and I spent another delightful afternoon at Horatio's Garden on 1 July. We worked with four participants, including one long-term patient who returned this month for another woodturning session.

We arrived at midday, moved the lathes from storage to the workroom, and set up for a 1:00 pm start. Mark's first participant made a dibber, while mine chose a walnut blank and made a pen. The second pair made a bud vase and another pen, this time a multi-layered Harlequin design.

All four participants seemed transformed by the experience. Tracy, who organises the volunteers at Horatio's Garden, has often commented on this, especially in relation to woodturning. The lathes, the atmosphere, and even the dust help take patients away from their hospital setting, and you can see their energy levels change from the start to the end of each session. One participant captured this perfectly, saying the sessions make it feel more like a holiday resort than a hospital.



Thank you to Allan
for this time showing
me how to turn a pen!!!
M. Jaffe

Thankyou for giving me
the best time. I will
definitely try again.
Loved every minute
Thank You Ruth.

Here are some photos and personal messages from the patients this month.

If you can spare a couple of days a year to help at Horatio's Garden and are happy to support patients with simple lathe projects, we would love to hear from you. Six of us currently volunteer for this activity across Herts and Beds and Middlesex Turners, but a few more volunteers would help us guarantee these monthly sessions, which are so worthwhile for tutors and patients alike.

New Turners in Grandad's workshop

Following on from last month's celebration of young turners, it is a pleasure to share another encouraging story from within the club. This time, our young turner is a grandson who has already turned his first items in his Grandad's workshop — and what a wonderful place to begin.

There is something very special about those early hours spent at the lathe, especially when they are shared across generations. A Grandad's workshop is more than a place of tools, timber, dust and shavings; it is a place where stories are told, patience is learned, and confidence grows one careful cut at a time. For a young person, being trusted to make something with their own hands can be a powerful moment.

His first turned pieces may be small and simple, but they represent something much bigger. They show curiosity, concentration, and the beginning of an understanding that woodturning is not simply about producing an object. It is about learning how the wood behaves, listening to guidance, using tools safely, and discovering the satisfaction that comes from shaping a piece of timber into something finished.

These are the moments that help secure the future of our craft. Every experienced turner will remember someone who first gave them time, encouragement, or the chance to have a go. When that encouragement comes from a family member, it can become a memory that lasts a lifetime. Grandad may have provided the workshop, the tools and the guidance, but this young man has provided the enthusiasm — and that is exactly what woodturning needs.

As a club, we should continue to welcome and encourage young people whenever they show an interest. Whether they are making their first simple item, asking questions, watching a demonstration, or spending time in a family workshop, they are taking the first steps into a craft that has so much to offer. We look forward to hearing what this young turner makes next.

Send your photos to chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk



New Addition to the Club Lending Library - Complete Craft Fair kit

Try Selling at a Craft Fair

If you have never taken part in a craft fair, we encourage you to give it a try. It is a rewarding experience, especially when customers respond so positively to the skill and creativity behind our work.



The initial cost of setting up a professional-looking stand can be significant, particularly when buying the equipment needed for outdoor events. To help members take their first step, the club can offer the following items:

- A 3 metre by 3 metre pop-up gazebo with sides and suitable anchors
- Three sturdy trestle tables
- A Herts and Beds Woodturners banner to advertise your stand, complete with bungee straps for attaching it to the gazebo
- White tablecloths and clips to best present your wares.

Two Way Club Contribution

Several club members have experience of outdoor craft fairs and can offer practical advice. A successful day can generate takings of up to £750. We also encourage members to come along on the day to support you, whether by helping with set-up and breakdown or by assisting with sales.

In return for the use of the club equipment, we ask that you:

contribute a percentage of your takings to club funds

hand out club leaflets (as if they were confetti)

All helping us improve what we offer to all members.

How to Get Involved

If you are interested, please contact the chairman and we will do our best to help make it happen.

Poetry Corner

These were my thoughts from VJ Day of last year which I believe still hold good and reverberate and apply to just now, I would be very pleased to hear people's comments again:

DUAL DATE OF IMPORTANCE

FRIDAY 15 AUG 2025

FIRST AND FOREMOST

VJ REMEMBRANCE DAY.

TALKS IN ALASKA OVER UKRAINE

May we not temper misplaced human ambition

Crush unjust dispute in addition

Momentous meeting in Anchorage's harbour

Prefaced by kingly words spoken in remembrance and ardour

Ease adoption of a new world stance

Never forgetting that world-wide sacrifice perchance

His words, Don't bear arms, instead link them

Noble instincts to deny strife's forum

For the sake of our future, the worldly enigma

Past conflict's influences remain the stigma

May we emerge in a peaceful place

Regardless of colour, culture, creed and race

Martin Sexton 15 Aug 2025