



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 191

April 2022

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello!

First of all very many thanks to all members who were able to attend the AGM on the 12th April. It's not the most popular of occasions for members but I was pleasantly surprised at a good turnout of 37 members and 4 visitors, one of whom took a membership application pack.

Many thanks also to Tony Taylor and Keith Goddard for two very different but interesting presentations on Off Centre Turning and turning Doorknobs (See pages 12 and 13 for a synopsis).

We had some good entries in the Club competition and particular thanks to Mel Williams for at last breaking the total lack of entries for the beginners section with an excellent rolling pin. I do hope that for the 10th May meeting we have more beginners entering, their special topic being a bud vase which are great fun to make.

A Few Reminders of Forthcoming Events

We still need a few more people to sign up for the **POPES YARD BREWERY** visit on **Friday 6th May at 1pm**.

It may have to be cancelled if we get insufficient numbers so please support this as it will be great fun and our first attempt at a club social gathering. If you have already booked up remember that friends and family members will be equally welcome, but do let Adam know in advance! Further details on page 11.

Change of Demonstrator for the 10th May meeting. Unfortunately Robert Till is currently hospitalised. Very many thanks to Grahame Tomkins for being able to book Stuart King who has kindly agreed to step in at short notice. We wish Robert a speedy recovery and hope his demo can be re-scheduled for a later date.

We have started planning a resumption of our member training initiative with our first **ALL DAY TRAINING SESSION BOOKED IN THE MAIN HALL AT ADEYFIELD ON THE 2nd JULY**. A signing up sheet was available at the AGM and will also be available at the 10th May meeting. We are still planning this but I can say that the cost per member will be £10 (partially offsetting the cost of hiring the main hall at Adeyfield). The event will start at 10.00pm and end at 4.00pm with members bringing their own lunch and using the kitchen for tea and coffee.

Members will be expected to bring a face shield which is an essential item of turning PPE. There are several on-line sources for these including for example [Axminster](#) (about £13.00 plus delivery), or [Zoro](#) (about £24.00 including delivery).

Participants are also encouraged to bring their own tools and there will be a sharpening clinic where help will be given in the use of various sharpening jigs. As well as the club lathes and accessories it is hoped to borrow additional member's lathes for use on the day.

Training topics will be governed by members stated preferences on the signing up sheets. All in all we hope it will be a lot of fun and provide some social interaction as well as providing help and advice where required. More details to follow.

That's all from me but do come and chat if you have a chance at any of our meetings as I love to hear what members are doing and get some ideas and feedback relating to club activities.

Tim

Tim Pettigrew
Chairman

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Club News

April Competition

This month, the judging was by member vote.

Beginners



1st Place – Mel Williams

Advanced

1st Place – Phil Scotock



2nd Place – Chris Bentley

3rd Place – Terania Hird



Open



1st Place – Terania Hird

2nd = Place – Peter Hoare





2nd Place – Tony Taylor



3rd Place – Phil Scoltec

Meetings Calendar 2022

10th May	Stuart King (demonstration)
14th June	Club Night
12th July	Terry Smart?
9th August	Mike Fitz (demonstration)
13th Sept	Club Night (includes demo by Graham Lester)
11th Oct	Carlyn Lindsey
8th Nov	to be confirmed
13th Dec	Christmas Social

Raffle

I am always looking for the usual helpers and newbies to help buy the goodies for the raffle. Please contact me if you can help.

At the moment only May is covered and I need volunteers for the rest of the year. As a volunteer you would be responsible for choosing and buying a selection of up to 6 prizes up to a total of £60 and then bringing them along to the meeting where I will recompense you for the money spent.

If you commit to a particular night but need to swap it contact me so that cover can be maintained

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

Email ~ Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk

Competition Subjects 2022

Apr	Rolling Pin – Beginners. Hollow form – Advanced.
May	Bud Vase – Beginners. A vase - Advanced
June	Fruit
July	Platter
Aug	Kitchen roll holder
Sep	Table lamp
Oct	Candle stick
Nov	tba
Dec	A toy

AGM

We had a good turnout for this years AGM. If you wish to see the formal minutes then please let me know but the key highlights are below:

As chair, Tim welcomed everyone to the meeting. Alan Lewis had decided to resign from the committee at this time and Tim took opportunity to thank him for all of his work over the years managing the groups Facebook and website. He noted that Harvey is now taking over these responsibilities.

Tim further expressed the need for someone to join the committee and take a responsibility as training officer.

Tony Taylor took an opportunity to request for more people to enter the turning competition.

For Adam Blackie, this was his first AGM as treasurer and he thanked Peter Hoare for his support and guidance in settling in to the role. The number of members had initially dropped this year to around 65 but in recent months new members had joined and we now have nearly 80 and are returning to pre-pandemic levels. The year started with £5.5K in the bank and now we have over £8K through the sales table, donations from the families of recently bereaved members as well as subscriptions.

Ideas for spending some of this surplus cash were asked for. This will be an ongoing issue and members are asked to submit ideas to Tim or Adam and then the committee will discuss options and make proposals. Ideas that immediately came forward included specialist kit that could be loaned to members and support given to young turners.

All current officers stood for re-election. No other nominations were received and so current officers were voted back into post.

Chairman:	Tim Pettigrew:
Treasurer:	Adam Blackie
Secretary:	Allen Kaye

Except for Alan Lewis who resigned from the committee, all other committee members stood for re-election and were voted back into post. Current committee members are now Tony Taylor, Harvey Alison, Derek Stephens, Steve Beadle, Grahame Tomkins, Peter Hoare. There is one vacancy

Inspector of Accounts Keith Goddard stood for re-election and was voted into post

Competition Rules

Given that we are at the start of a new cycle after the AGM, it was thought useful to remind existing members and explain to new members how the competition is organised.

There are three categories – Beginner, Advanced and Open. The Beginners and Advanced have a subject for each month. The Open category can be anything. At each meeting these are judged and the top three are allocated points of 10, 9 and 8 respectively. All other entries not in the top three are given 6 points. At the end of the cycle March 2023 the points are totalled and winners identified.

Project Table

Again, for new members and old it is worth a reminder that any and all items are welcomed for the project table. These will not be judged and might include unfinished items as well as ones that 'did not quite work out as planned'

Prize Giving

Tim was pleased to announce the winners of the Advanced and Open competitions for 2021-2022

Peter Hoare – Advanced



Don Guy - Open

Training Sessions

Planning for our 1st Saturday training session this year is now well advanced for a date at the beginning of July – if you are interested in helping to train or be trained yourself- please contact Tim Pettigrew on chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Committee responsibilities

Bruce Edhouse used to organise the training days but as he has now moved to Derbyshire, he cannot continue with this responsibility and we need a replacement Training Manager – if you are interested in taking this on please contact Tim Pettigrew on chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

The Youth Booth

Keith Goddard talked at the end of the AGM about a charity dear to his heart that is in need of support.

I have extracted some information about them below

If you want more information please contact him directly.

The Youth Booth is a UK Registered Charity based in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Founded in 2018, Our aims are to provide safe spaces for children and young people to socialise, make new friends and learn important life skills. We are looking for a grant of £10,000 in order to fund our current project costs, of which we have already raised the remaining 50% from our support network.

The core values of the charity are:

- To ensure our projects and services are free of charge and accessible to all.
- To ensure every penny is accounted for and that we get the best value for money at every opportunity.
- To ensure that everyone we work with fits our visions and purposes.
- To ensure our spaces are judgment free zones and there are strict policies

The Youth Booth is currently running five different projects, which you'll see are broken down below:

- A Free Grab and Go Breakfast Service For All Children (Monday-Friday term time)
- Basic Cookery On A Budget Course For 14+
- Free Multi-Sports For 11+
- Free Multi-Sports 4+
- Food Support Service

Keith is talking with the Youth Booth about how club members might give support. One possibility it for us to turn bowls that can then be donated for sale with proceeds to the charity. Watch this space!

Mentoring

Facebook includes a mentoring facility that allows people who are happy to be mentors to connect with those who wish to be mentored. This is restricted to paid up members of Herts and Beds Woodturners. This will be informal – no payment will be expected or required beyond a cup of tea with biscuits! or similar if a workshop visit is arranged.

We recommend that mentor and mentee start with a conversation at a club meeting. Under 18's within club safeguarding policy.

Although this process uses Facebook, if you are interested either as mentor or mentee but do not use Facebook then contact one of the committee and we will sort something out.

Axminster Discount

I checked this weekend that Axminster are still offering a 5% discount for club members. There are some limitations on machinery so check first and this only works for in-store purchases. Take your AWGB and Club membership cards to get the discount.

Allen Kaye

Reminder - Spaces still available – bring your friends!

POPES YARD BREWERY Visit

Friday May 6th 2022

At the February meeting, members expressed a desire to visit our local brewery.

Pope's Yard Brewery supplied several Christmas raffle prizes, which were very well received.

Their website is here – www.popesyard.co.uk

There will be a tour through the brewery, explaining the process of brewing beer and explaining how the brew kit works, then beer tasting which would happen outside in the yard. We can use tables and chairs by the stream; and if it rains somewhere inside to sit. We will try some samples of the different beers and hear a bit about the ingredients and flavours.

How much?

Only £12.00 per head.

Where and When?

1.00pm. Friday 6th May 2022.

The Cutter Room

Frogmore Mill

Fourdrinier Way

Apsley, HP3 9RY, UK

Can I buy beer on the day?

Yes. Club discount of 15% per box of 12 beers (can be mixed beers) - as much as you choose.

How do I book?

Simply email or call Adam Blackie – Club Treasurer. He will agree payment details by return.

Phone: 07941270640

Email: treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

This trip has limited availability. It will be first come first served, so book early.

Transport?

Local transport can be arranged for a small cost if this is a popular option, otherwise this is an opportunity for members to get together, nominate a driver, and have a nice day out.

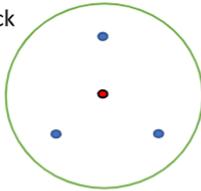
Off-centred turning - Keith Goddard

Seal and Ball – Keith Goddard

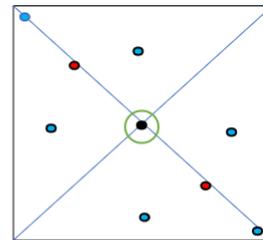
310 x 65 x 65mm



Off centre chuck
fitted with a
tenon



Four screws with their ends sharp. The centre screw slightly longer than the others. 20mm between each screw



Off centre chuck positions

The blank is supported between ring centres and the ball turned first using the half circle as a guide. The head of the seal follows next making sure not to make the join to the ball too narrow. The ball is then separated from the tail stock ring support.

The off centre chuck is hammered into one of the off centre positions and the ball supported by a rotating jam chuck in the tail stock. The first off centre is then turned and finished. This is then repeated with the off centre chuck the other position.

Twisted Goblet



The goblet is about 55mm wide and 50mm long. The remainder of the goblet is about 75mm and the three sections below the bowl evenly spaced.

When the upper section is complete and finished the goblet bowl is moved in the chuck 12mm horizontally using the tool rest as a guide. The middle section is then turned and finished.

The goblet is then moved in the opposite direction 12mm and the bottom section finished, and the goblet parted off. NB is pays to turn down each off centre section before shaping as the shoulders tend to chip and you end having to make an egg cup!

Doorknobs – Tony Taylor

Photos by Don Guy

The chief point of interest is the method of chucking the knob and the escutcheon.

The initial block of oak (70 x 70 x 80 mm) has a 8 mm square mortice cut in one end grain surface about 30 mm deep. This enables it to be fitted onto a piece of 8 mm square steel spindle which protrudes from the centre of a block secured in the chuck where it is held in place by a centre in the tailstock.

The knob is turned allowing 30 mm for the shaft and 40 mm for the knob in the form of a flattened sphere. The escutcheon starts as a disc of side grain wood 15 mm thick.

A 35 mm hole is drilled half way through and a 12 mm hole right through in the centre. A jam chuck is prepared with a central stub 12 mm diameter and about 5 mm deep. The escutcheon blank fits over this and is held tight by a central wood screw and washer. This allows the piece to be rounded to size and the desired profile formed.



After sanding to 400 grit, the finish chosen was cellulose sanding sealer followed by denibbing and buffing with red compound followed by carnauba wax.



Projects

Homage to Clint Eastwood – Chris Squires

Hat made from Cherry. Brim 150mm in diameter and height 72mm.

Base in Ash 160mm in diameter and centre support from Oak about 180mm in height.

Lower part 75mm deep with bark on which gives an interesting rugged effect.



Chestnut Products

Terry Smart runs the company and as part of the support he offers to turners, he produces a monthly newsletter. If you want to receive them direct then use the **Subscribe** link on the main newsletter page – see link below:

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

Future Chestnut Products CONKERS sessions

Check out their website and sign up if you want reminders and updates

<https://chestnutproducts.co.uk/conkers-live/>

Also – in case you are not already aware Chestnut Products are arranging and promoting another weekend event this July

Join me at
**The Woodturning
Week3nder 2022**
Full Steam Ahead
30 & 31 July 2022
The Museum of the Great
Western Railway,
Swindon

Get Your Tickets at:
www.woodturningweekender.co.uk

[Weekender 2022 Shareable Content – Chestnut Products – First for Finishes](#)

Woods

Continuing the series on woods commonly used in Woodturning – it turns out that there are not many starting with D so I thought I would digress into a related topic...

“Not to omit any one of them, the yew is similar to these other trees in general appearance . . . It is an ascertained fact that travellers’ vessels, made in Gaul of this wood, for the purpose of holding wine, have caused the death of those who used them.”

–Pliny the Elder, from *Naturalis Historia*, ca. 77 AD

The hazards of woods and wood dust in particular have been known for many years and we ought to bring at the very least—a small bit of respect and attention to the matter of safety as it pertains to wood toxicity.

All inhaled wood dust is hazardous to your long-term health. The info on the next page¹ lists some specific woods that can aggravate symptoms through allergic reactions, or woods that are outright toxic in and of themselves. However, all woods produce fine dust when worked, which in turn can damage your lungs and cause a number of other adverse health reactions.

I am not an expert here and perhaps the key message to take away here is that you need to be aware and if needed research the toxicity of the wood you are working with. Apart from the toxicity of the wood itself there are other factors to consider such as dust management, and choice of finishes. The quote at the top of this page also shows how the time any food might be in contact with the wood is also very relevant – the wine was probably stored in Yew barrels for many months.

I guess it goes without saying that in relation to dust is the importance of protecting yourself by capturing any dust at source if possible, using PPE and collecting ambient dust in the air. I tend to work with a good flow of air through the workshop by opening doors – gets a bit chilly sometimes but on balance I prefer to be cold and working within as dust free an atmosphere as possible.

Different people will have different senses of risk and what woods they consider safe-ish – Apple, Ash, Beech, Birch, Elm, Larch and Poplar might be a starter list but if anyone fancies writing a more definitive article for a subsequent Woodbits please let me know. Making things for small children brings yet further concerns if it is possible that they will be chewed so you need to think about using safe finishes as well as ‘safe’ wood.

¹ Image captured from [Toxic Woods \(woodcraft.com\)](http://Toxic Woods (woodcraft.com))

Species	Symptoms/Risks			
Beech	D			
Birch	D			
Blackwood, African	D			
Brazilian "cherry", jatoba		A	M	
Bubinga	D			
Cedar, western red	D	A	M	
Cedar, Spanish	D			
Cocobolo	D			
Ebony	D		M	
Ipe, Brazilian "walnut"	D	A		G
Iroko, African "teak"	D	A	M	
Mahogany, African	D		M	
Mahogany, American	D			
Makore, African "cherry"	D		M	
Mansonia, African "walnut"	D	A	M	G
Olivewood	D	A	M	
Padauk	D	A		
Pine, many species	D	A		
Purpleheart	D	A		
Rosewoods	D			
Rosewood substitutes	D			
Sapele	D			
Satinwood (Ceylon)	D			
Satinwood (West Indian & African)	D			
Teak (true teak)	D			
Walnut	D	A		
Wenge	D	A		
Zebrawood		A		

Key: D = Dermatitis A = Asthma & Respiratory

M = Mucosal Irritation, Eyes & Nose G = General Symptoms

AWGB

Revolutions by email

As part of their continued efforts to reduce our environmental impact, the AWGB send out Revolutions by email to all current members who have given us an email address. If you are a member and haven't received the email copy and would like to for future issues, please contact the AWGB data manager to update your email address.

If you received the email and wish to continue, you don't need to do anything but if you wish to receive just the paper copy or the email copy, contact the AWGB data manager to inform him of your preferences. They have no intention of phasing out the printed edition of Revolutions - just giving members the ability to choose.

Check their website for how to can register to get yours directly.

Still Talking Turning: Zoom sessions are still happening once per week on Friday evenings. Topics include a variety of subjects each session (some of them are even related to turning!) and include opportunities to show what you have been working on, ask questions. Details are on the website, the sessions are free and open to all. You just need an internet connection and suitable device to use Zoom.

More Volunteers needed: They still have vacancies for more helpers so if you have a little time to spare and would like to contribute to the running of the AWGB, help out with shows, training, the seminar etc. Please contact the AWGB secretary who will answer any questions.

2022 Seminar: AWGB will shortly be launching the 2022 Seminar which will be held at Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire on the 7-9th October 2022. Look out for the news coming soon and start working on those pieces for the instant gallery!

-----oooOOOooo-----

Puzzle Corner

1 What is the definition of a hardwood?

- a) Any wood that comes from a broad-leaved tree
- b) Any wood that is too hard to scratch with a fingernail
- c) Any wood with a specific gravity over 0.7
- d) Any wood that can be used in construction

2. Which of the following is a softwood?

- a) Apple
- b) Walnut
- c) Yew
- d) Balsa

3. Some woods are hazardous.

- a) True
- b) False

4. Many woodworkers prefer Japanese hand saws. What is the primary way that Japanese saws differ from normal saws?

- a) Japanese saws have finer teeth
- b) Japanese saws cut on the pull stroke
- c) Japanese saws use better steel
- d) Japanese saws are less expensive

5. Which of the sandpapers below has the finest grit?

- a) 100
- b) 220
- c) 80
- d) 60

6. Which wood might be best (ie safest) chosen for a rolling pin

- a) Maple
- b) Yew
- c) Laburnham
- d) Zebrawood

7. Which of the following is the safest mask to use when turning

- a) PP3
- b) PP1
- c) Medical grade mask

1 a), 2 c), 3 b), 4 b), 5 b), 6 a), 7 a)

Answers