



# WOODBITS

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 203

April 2023

Welcome

### **SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

Hello members and friends,

This is my first outing as Chairman and any doubts I had about what to write were soon overcome once I realised just how much is happening at the club and that I really need to keep it brief. So here goes...

#### **RECORD AGM ATTENDANCE**

I was delighted to see 50 members at April's AGM, the best attendance for many years. Demonstrations by six members in the second half of the evening covered everything from start to finish of the turning process. I am constantly impressed by the extent of the talent in our club and my thanks go to Peter, Phil, Chris, Grahame, Tony and Harvey for sharing their time and experience.

The AGM also saw the re-election of many committee members, thank you to everyone for standing again. And an especially warm welcome to several new volunteers: Steve Hart as Membership Secretary, Julian Cooke, Mel Williams, Paul Boyes and Rob Wiscott as Club Ambassador, Welcome Table and Sales Table teams respectively and finally, Andrew Street as Club Photographer. I look forward to working with all the team, old and new.

Don't forget that it is never too late to volunteer. We still need a Demonstrator Organiser and Allen is looking to relinquish his role as Committee Secretary. So, if you want to get involved, please get in touch with one of the committee members who will be happy to talk to you.

The AGM demonstration table saw a record number of items made by club members. My thanks to those members who bought their work. For next month the subjects are Hollow Form (Advanced) and Bottle Stopper (Beginners). But please consider bringing anything else for the Open category. And I really do mean anything because it's always a treat to see other turners' work.

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO MAY**

At the May meeting we will welcome Chris Parker as demonstrator. Also known as the Bald Turner, his website is here <https://www.chrisparkerwoodturner.com> .

Chris's speciality is Texture and Colour and I recommend a visit to his website to see some of his work. I think his demonstration will be inspiring.

## **AND LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE TRAINING EVENTS IN 2023**

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to highlight forthcoming club training events. The next members training day is being held on May 14th at Adeyfield.

The first event in March was a great success and at the time I am writing there is just one place left in May. Club member Chris Bentley is also hosting a daytime session on May 9 th at his workshop. Five club members will have the opportunity to work with our May demonstrator Chris Parker. This is the first Registered Professional Trainer (RPT) session organised by the club and I am personally disappointed that I didn't book a place for myself. Maybe next time...



Adam Blackie

Chairman

Chairman and Treasurer: Adam Blackie [treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)  
Club Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Allen Kaye [secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)

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# Club News

## March Competition

### Beginners

1<sup>st</sup> Tony Buttle



2<sup>nd</sup> Phil Walters



3<sup>rd</sup> Melanie Williams

Advanced



1<sup>st</sup> Harvey Alison



2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Hoare



3<sup>rd</sup> = Phil Scoltock



3<sup>rd</sup> = Allen Kaye)



3<sup>rd</sup> = Brian Stanton



Open



1<sup>st</sup> = Tony Taylor



1<sup>st</sup> = Phil Scoltock



2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Hoare



3<sup>rd</sup> Melanie Williams

## Meetings Calendar 2023

### 2023

|       |                    |
|-------|--------------------|
| May.  | Chris Parker       |
| June. | Club night         |
| July. | Darren Breeze      |
| Aug.  | Martin Saban Smith |
| Sept. | Club night         |
| Oct.  | Stewart Furini     |
| Nov.  | Phil Scoltock      |
| Dec.  | Club night         |

### Club Sweatshirts and Polo shirts

These are available from Mike Sheaf. They are blue and inscribed with the club logo. You can also add your name embroidered at no extra cost.

Sweatshirt. £19.00

Polo Shirt. £16.00.

Polo Shirt Long sleeves. £17.00.

Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Forms for ordering are available from Mike Sheaf or the secretary. All forms to be returned to Mike. Profits go to the Rennie Hospice. For more details or to order see Mike at one of our meetings or email him at: [michael.sheaf@gmail.com](mailto:michael.sheaf@gmail.com)

### Raffle

Raffle purchase Diary for 2023-24

I act as the raffle coordinator for the forthcoming year and need to fill the diary for the purchase of prizes for the months as stated below.

| Month           | Name         | Contact number | Email                         |
|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------------|
| May 9           | Steve Beadle | 07720677456    | Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk |
| June 13         |              |                |                               |
| July 11         |              |                |                               |
| August 8        |              |                |                               |
| September 12    |              |                |                               |
| October 10      |              |                |                               |
| November 14     |              |                |                               |
| December 12     |              |                |                               |
| January 9 -2024 |              |                |                               |
| February 13     |              |                |                               |
| March 12        |              |                |                               |
| April 9         |              |                |                               |

If you need to swap dates please contact me so that cover can be maintained. As a guide we have increased the spend on prizes to £ 60 .00 per month with a maximum number of prizes being 5 in total. There is some flexibility as it is offered as a guide. Full receipts are required for each spend made.

If you need to discuss any of this information with me feel free to do so  
Steve Beadle  
Herts and Beds Raffle Coordinator Tel 07720 677456

## Competition Subjects 2023

| Month | Beginners           | Advanced                      |
|-------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| May   | Bottle stopper      | Hollow form                   |
| Jun   | Light pull          | String box                    |
| Jul   | Kitchen roll holder | Pepper mill                   |
| Aug   | Coaster             | Tankard or mug                |
| Sept  | Dice shaker         | Piece using two or more woods |
| Oct   | Apple               | Pen                           |
| Nov   | Plate               | Natural edge bowl             |
| Dec   | Christmas tree      | Puzzle or game                |

## Website

A reminder for our new members that the club has a useful website maintained by Harvey Alison. There is amongst other sections, a gallery of turned projects that you may wish to contribute to. Contact details on the website.

[Herts and Beds Woodturners](#)

## Competition

Having just taken over from Tony Taylor as Competitions Organiser, I wanted to say that I thought this month's turn out for the competitions' table was very good and we want to encourage even more members to show their works of art. However, there are a couple of issues that I would like to sort out, hopefully, by providing the following clarifications.

We currently have three competitions: Beginners, Advanced and Open. Only one item should be put into any one category by each entrant. This is because the votes given by the members are used to determine the competition positions: 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Additional entries will take votes away from other participants, possibly affecting the results. So, please, one entry only.

The Beginners competition is meant for "novices"; members who haven't been turning long, but naturally want to see how they are improving. There is a set monthly subject.

The Advanced competition is for non-Beginners. There is a set monthly subject. So, if you think you're good enough to enter the Advanced competition, you shouldn't enter the Beginners competition as well.

The Open competition is for anyone, at any standard, to enter, and as the name suggests, there is no set subject.

You should not enter the same item twice for the same competition category. So, once only, please.

Also for the benefit of new members as well as a reminder to existing members this is how the points are allocated to entries.

1<sup>st</sup> = 10 points

2<sup>nd</sup> = 9 points

3<sup>rd</sup> = 8 points

All remaining entries not in the first three are allocated 6 points. At the end of the year the points are totalled and overall prizes are awarded at the AGM. Most importantly you can see that **all** entries accumulate points – not just 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Peter Hoare, Competition Organiser

-----ooOOOoo-----



## Meet the members – Julian Cooke and Steve Hart

### Julian Cooke – Club Ambassador

It was suggested that, from the point of view of new members, a little of my background might be helpful. My work has always been in engineering, primarily electronics and circuit design. I am married and have two grown up sons and four teenage grandchildren. I have always enjoyed working in wood, especially hardwood, and made items for many projects including furniture for the home such as chairs and tables . Over the years I have also made many items for the church including a music stand, donation box and cone shaped holders and stand for rose petals; these are used in place of confetti at weddings

Some years ago my sister in law asked me to make a bedhead and I agreed. Then I discovered that the design included finials, which I did not have the means to make, so somewhat regretted saying yes. Making just one was difficult but it was even harder to make more that matched. Obviously my woodturning skills at that point were somewhat lacking. Luckily I discovered the wood turning club not far from me and my skills and array of tools started to grow, beginning with the acquisition of a Record lathe. It was very encouraging to find so much knowledge and expertise in the club and the opportunity to meet with like-minded friendly people. I also work part time at a Repair Shed which involves not only repairing items but making new ones too.



### Steve Hart – Membership secretary

I have been woodturning for about 4 years, I started just before the pandemic – so a beginner. During the pandemic I utilised my time researching aspects of woodturning and joined the AAW, AWGB and my local clubs Herts & Beds & East Herts Woodturning and watched hours of Interactive Remote Demonstrations (IRD). I have not had any professional training and got my initial “training” from YouTube.

The last 30yrs of my BT career I was both a designer and implementor of solutions involving people, process, and technology within various markets – hence there was a wide variety in my work. I was also a part time lecturer at Hertfordshire University in Systems Thinking (which also drove my work variety).

I have carried that variety into my woodturning interests in that for me researching, finding inspiration, developing my project, and having a go at anything that catches my attention!



Always willing and happy to pass on my learning and to use software to capture, develop, show ideas and concepts.

## Results of the 2022/23 Turning Competitions & Prizes

### Beginners:

- 1st **Phil Walters**
- 2nd Mel Williams
- 3rd Tony Buttle



### Advanced:

- 1st Tony Taylor
- 2nd Peter Hoare
- 3rd Harvey Alison and  
Allen Kaye (joint)



### Open:

- 1st Peter Hoare
- 2nd Tony Taylor
- 3rd Phil Scoltock

Congratulations to the winners and  
thanks to all those who took part.

Peter Hoare and Tony Taylor

-----ooOOOoo-----



Photos are of Phil (top), Tony (middle) and Peter  
receiving their prizes.

# Minutes of 33rd Annual General Meeting.

## Apologies for absence

Richard Hartshorne, Steve Beadle, Don Guy, Gary Rance, Graham Hill, Mark Aizicowitz, Andrew Fisher,

**Minutes of April 2022 AGM** - No Issues raised.

**Matters Arising from Minutes not covered by items on agenda** - None

## Chairman's Report

Tim stated that he felt it had been an excellent year – he mentioned a number of things in this context including the excellent redeveloped website, newsletter as well as increased representation at external events and fairs which has helped to drive the increase in members. A further notable achievement has been the training opportunities planned by Phil Scoltock and supported by the trainers and members who attended. Thanks to Grahame Tomkins for managing the stream of demonstrators for our monthly meetings. Tim especially also thanked our member Chris Bentley for offering the use of his workshop for some of the training session.

Tim noted the new lending library – this was the brainchild of Adam and who now manages the loan of kit to members who want to try out new tools and techniques.

Some committee changes – Allen Kaye is looking to stand down as secretary but offers to keep producing the club newsletter, a new members secretary, Derek is standing down from managing the sales table, Grahame also standing down from managing the demonstrators but leaving the diary in a good state as all bookings for 2023 have already been arranged. Tony Taylor is stepping down as Competition Manager – Peter Hoare has offered to fill this last role.

Tim took an opportunity to thank all members and the committee for their friendship and support. The members showed their appreciation.

## Treasurer's Report

Adam reported a good year financially with income and expenditure both around £6,000. We were pleased to receive three substantial legacies during the year that allowed the lending library to be set up and to support the training initiatives. Members have increased from around 70 to 83. Finance details have been circulated. In the future we hope to increase the amount we commit to training and one of the legacies specifically was given on the basis it was to be spent on training.

However, we see that demonstrators' costs are steadily increasing mostly due to increases in travelling costs. We expect Adeyfield to increase their charges. The 8 Demonstrator nights generally break even but the club nights do not.

**Motions** - Adams proposal is to increase slightly the membership fees and the evening attendance charge. Floor open for discussion.

One suggestion from floor was to round up the fees from £19.50 to £20.00. A second discussion centred around the balance between the evening attendance charge and the membership fee. Maybe we could scrap door money and increase membership? One factor noted was that not all people attended and it might be unfair. A suggestion was made to use electronic form of payment – Sumup for example. Adam noted that we had one already and it would be made available at the next meeting and either form of payment will be acceptable. A side comment from Adam was that at our current volume of transactions we pay 6.5% to Sumup.

Increasing cost of raffle ticket was also mentioned. This idea will be taken to Steve Beadle and the committee.

Following a question Adam stated that if people wanted, they could pay door fees upfront and Adam would keep records.

Motions agreed were for an Increase in door money £2.00-£3.00 and to round up the membership to £20 instead of £19.50

**Note** – this means Annual subs will increase from £34.00 to £38.00

## Officers and Committee

| Role                 | Nomination      | Proposer       | Second          | Carried |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------|
| Website manager      | Harvey Alison   | Malcom Wickens | Simon White     | Y       |
| Raffle manager       | Steve Beadle    | Keith Harrup   | Colin Gibbs     | Y       |
| Newsletter editor    | Allen Kaye      | Keith Goddard  | Julian Cooke    | Y       |
| Competition Manager  | Peter Hoare     | Mel Williams   | Brian Stanton   | Y       |
| Training Manager     | Phil Scoltock   | Alan Lewis     | Graham Tomkins  | Y       |
| Sales Table Manager  | Rob Wissgot     | Tony Buttle    | Andrew Holwerda | Y       |
| Demonstrator Manager | No nomination   |                |                 | n/a     |
| Treasurer            | Adam Blackie    | Andrew Mason   | Geoff Young     | Y       |
| Accounts Inspector   | Keith Goddard   | Allen Kaye     | Alan Wiggington | Y       |
| * Committee Sec.     | * No nomination |                |                 | n/a     |
| **Membership Sec.    | Steve Hart      | Tim Pettigrew  | Adam Blackie    | Y       |
| *** Chairman         | Adam Blackie    | Steve Hart     | Allen Kaye      | Y       |

\* Allen indicated he would continue the role until someone stepped forward.

\*\* Adam described the role including welcoming new members and visitors – also answering questions and collecting subscriptions

\*\*\* After comment from the members, there was a discussion about the suitability of joining the role of Chairman with the Treasurer. Tim described the role of the Chair to the members and asked if anyone had any specific objection to this proposal. One issue raised was the potential future difficulty of replacing someone who would need to take on both roles. Tim answered this by noting that the roles are very distinct from each other and precisely defined. It also represents a solution to the current problem of lack of nominations.

Note was made by Allen of Julian Cooke as Ambassador. His role is to offer help to new members and answer questions. Andrew Street was also noted as the club photographer for the competitions and also maybe for external events and training.

### Annual Competition Winners

Beginners            Phil Walters  
 Advanced            Tony Taylor  
 Open                    Peter Hoare

### AOB

A number of members offered thanks to the committee for their work this year.

And finally..

Adam took time to thank Tim for his work over the last 4 years. Adam felt his skills as a leader including his tact, working with and motivating people were to be admired. Tim's work within the Covid period were especially valuable in keeping the club together.





In recognition of his four years service as Chairman of the club, and with thanks on behalf of the committee and members, Adam presented Tim with a set of Ashley Isles thread chasing tools.

During Tim's time on office the club has not only survived the various lockdowns, but has grown to 83 members. He will be a hard act to follow

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## Design principles in woodworking

At April's AGM/Club Night I was talking about design and explaining the use of proportions to get the design to "look right." We discussed the use of thirds and the Golden Mean (or section) as two possible ways to achieve this. During the discussion, I demonstrated a home-made Golden Mean gauge and was asked if I would include the dimensions in our next News Letter. Well, as requested, here it is.

It can be made of anything you have, such as: card, wood strips, aluminium strips, etc. The strip needs to be about 1cm wide and bolts or rivets put through the holes to enable the parts to move firmly but smoothly.

The ratio produced is 1:1.618 and is found in nature, as well as more everyday items like credit cards and TV screens.

There are loads of videos on line that you can watch if you want or if maths is your thing, look up Fibonacci sequence.

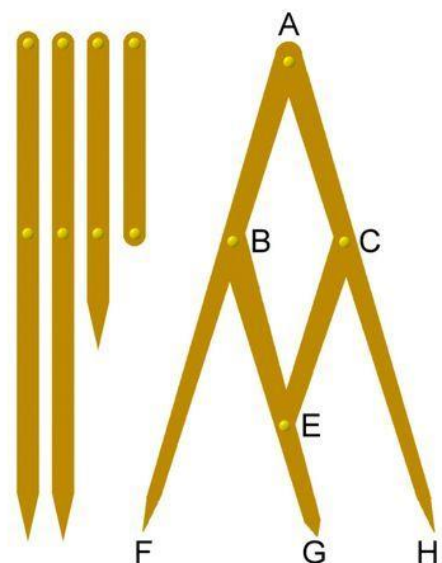
For woodturning purposes, the gauge can be used to determine, for example, the ratio of height to diameter of a vase or bowl.

A number of these have been cut from acetate and will be available on the sales table at the next meeting.

Have fun! Peter Hoare

### Golden Section Gauge

AF = AH = 340mm  
 BG = 210mm  
 AB = AC = BE = CE = 130mm  
 EG = 80mm





# Appeal for Harpenden Summer Craft Fair contributions – last call.

Firstly, thanks to everyone who has contributed so far. Some of the contributions are pictured.

The Harpenden Craft Fair (AKA Art on the Common) is scheduled for the 17th and 18th of July.

The club will be represented by Peter Hoare, Keith Harrup, Adrian Peter and myself.

We will be promoting our club and also selling turned items to benefit club funds and on our own behalf.

Personally, my aim this year is to raise £500 for the club, adding to our reserves and helping to pay for future club training events. My focus will be small items - pens, bottle stoppers and bottle openers.

Club members have already contributed a few dozen pens, and along with my own stock, I now have 78 pens to sell with a dozen bottle openers. BUT I would like to take around 100 items. If I can sell for an average of £5 each, I will hopefully achieve the £500 target.

If you are willing to help by making something for me to sell, various kits can be obtained free of charge from Rob Wiscott on the club sales table.

If you have anything to contribute (literally anything will sell) please bring them along to the club in May or June. The more variety we have the better it shows the abilities of our club.

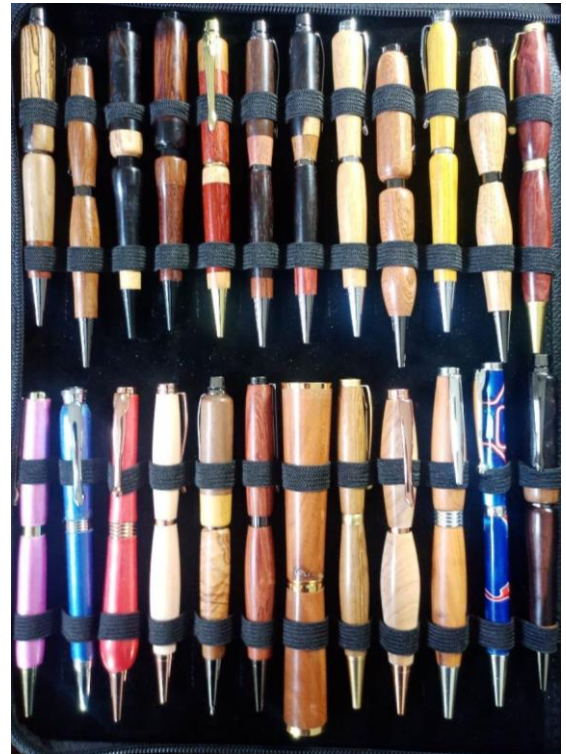
Adam Blackie 07941 270 640

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## Traditional Crafts Fair

I was sent brief details of a Heritage themed event in High Wycombe. Included in the day will be a number of stalls of traditional craftwork including wood turning and other wood craft.

Included in the email was the 'social tile' picture on the right. Little other information was sent but a website I found suggests you follow the Facebook group **My Wycombe** if you want to know more.



# Training Update

## April Training update and Darren Breeze July Master Class available to book

Following the success of the March in-house training session, invitations to the next in-house training session on May have been sent and arrangements are firming up.

Similarly arrangements are in place and everyone is ready for the club's first masterclass which will be provided by an RPT Chris Parker who is scheduled to demo to the club at the next club evening May 9th, and during the day of 9th Chris will be providing a masterclass to 5 attendees.

## Now Available to book ; Darren Breeze Masterclass July 12th

We now have places available to book for a hands-on masterclass which will be provided by **Darren Breeze on July 12th** (which is the day after his demo at the club evening).

The master class will be an all day session where he will teach; and then attendees will be guided to make their own version of 12" square wall hanging which will be decorated including texturing and colour – similar to Darren's wall hangings pictured right.

And if you prefer, Darren will have clock mechanisms available to buy if you'd prefer to make a clock version of the wall hangers pictured right.

Darren will provide tuition on turning a square wall hanging, then texturing and colouring including air-brushing, use of embellishing / gilding waxes.

The masterclass will take place in Hemel ~~Hemstead~~.

The session will be substantially subsidised and therefore the cost per attendee for this full day of group training with an RPT is the incredibly low price of £35/person. **The session on 12<sup>th</sup> July is open to be booked now, please email <mailto:training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk> to book your place (as we have to commit to the RPT, payment will be needed as soon as your place is confirmed) – places will be assigned on a first-come-first server basis – when it is full, its full.**

Also for masterclasses we use 4 large lathes, and 1 mini-lathe. So the 5th slot for this masterclass is being offer at the discounted price of £25 to use the mini lathe and make a scaled down version of the platter using a 8- 1/2 " platter blank. If you'd prefer the small platter slot, please request the 5th masterclass slot in your email.



Lathes and the wall-hanging blanks will be provided. Texturing power tools and there should be a few air brushes available too.



# LENDING LIBRARY UPDATE

The full set of tools that we now hold for members has been included in previous newsletters – from now only new ones will be here as the link to the Library is on our website on this page - <https://hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk/membership>

There are two updates this month.

First is the Pen Turning Kit that has been upgraded to include key ring and bottle opener items and kits. A supply of all these kits is also available via the club sales table at wholesale prices.

Second is the addition of a thread chasing kit from Ashley Isles. It comes in three parts and is a duplicate of the set that was presented to Tim Pettigrew when he stood down as Chairman at this years AGM. So if you need hints on how to do thread chasing, you know who to ask!

## Charnwood Pen and Keyring Turning Kit, 2 Morse Taper and Bottle Opener Mandrel

This complete 2MT Pen turning kit contains all the tools you need to start pen turning.

- PM2MT – Colleted Type Mandrel
- 5 x 7mm Bushes
- PENBT – Pen Barrel Trimming Tool
- PENTI – Pen Barrel Insertion Tool suitable for 6mm – 15mm diameter Tubes
- PBD7 – 7mm x 95mm long HSS drill bit
- Bottle Opener Mandrel
- Key, Ring and Bottle opener kits.



## Ashley Isles 16 TPI UNI-CHASER MALE & FEMALE THREAD CHASING TOOL

16 TPI UniChaser developed in conjunction with John Berkeley.

This one tool chases both male and female threads.

The club kit includes:

- 16 TPI Uni-Chaser Male & Female Thread Chasing Tool
- Uni-chaser (threadchaser) RECESS TOOL
- Uni-chaser (threadchaser) ARMREST



Additionally, if you have used the Library but have not yet submitted a review of the item you borrowed, please could you send a few lines to Allen Kaye, our newsletter editor. He will be very happy to receive your response.

## **Lending Library Status and Rules**

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

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

### **How does this work?**

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

### **How long can I keep the tools for?**

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

### **How much will it cost?**

It's normally free of charge, however:

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

we would expect some contribution towards the replacement.

### **What else do I need to know?**

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

### **Tool Library Contact**

Adam Blackie

07941 270640

[treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)

## Wood for sale (1)

Chris Squires has a substantial quantity of hardwood for sale for carpentry and woodturning . Prices are negotiable. Mostly Oak and Ash Rough Cut – lengths vary from 74cm to 14cm, widths from 30cm to 17 and thicknesses from 8cm to 4cm

Chris lives in Welwyn Garden City – if interested please contact him on [stanleysquires@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stanleysquires@yahoo.co.uk)





## Wood for sale (2)

Mike Fitz, another of our members also has a substantial amount of exotic and special wood for sale – mostly for turning. Mike lives in Harpenden

The wood species include:

- Tulipwood,
- Mexican Rosewood,
- Cocobolo,
- Kingwood,
- Anjan,
- Indian Rosewood,
- Cereto,
- Satinwood,
- lignum Vitae
- Honduras Rosewood,
- Stripy Ebony

All are available 2" x 2" @ £1.00 per inch.



Other sizes:

1.3/4" . sq.

1.1/2" sq.

1.1/4" sq.

1." sq.

Prices of these are negotiable.

Also Anjan 2.1/4" sq. x 22" . £15.00



If you are interested, please contact Mike  
on 01582 762231 or  
07840098141

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### Equipment still for sale.

Last month I sent a special email about some woodworking equipment for sale in Stevenage. Most has been sold but he has not yet sold the wood turning lathe, the mortiser and the Hegner scroll saw. The information and photos are in that last email but if you are interested and want me to send you more details please let me know. Allen

## Woods A-Z

Continuing the series on woods used in Woodturning – we are now on U. I initially thought I would be jumping over U and V straight to (say) walnut and wenge but apparently on the net there are UK woodyards selling **Utile**.

### Utile

Very similar to sapele in nature and look – like sapele it can also be used as an alternative to proper mahogany. It is not on the CITES list but it is at some risk with up to 20% reduction over the last three generations.

It is used for turning as well as furniture, cabinetry, veneer, boatbuilding and flooring.

Regarded as a versatile, high-class hardwood, Utile is a durable wood imported from West Africa and known for its rich, uniform shade of red. Utile hardwood is also characterised by its attractive grain and high-quality finish.

Responds well to glues, nails, stains and polishes. Offers all the strength of standard mahogany with a strikingly exotic and distinctive look.



## Identifying wood

There are many websites that help us to identify an unknown wood but I thought I would share one technique I have used myself. The densities of wood do vary quite a bit and if you can take a sample and find its density then even if you cannot find it uniquely in the table on the next page then at least you can narrow it down. It is not perfect certainly and you can only use dry wood.

Density is calculated as Mass divided by Volume. Units can be grams per cubic centimetre.

Ideally the blank has a defined shape such as a cylinder or rectangular block. If rectangular then volume = length x breadth x height. If a cylinder, then it is the area times the depth. Area of a circle is  $3.14 * \text{radius squared}$ . Volume of irregular shapes can be found by finding how much water is displaced if it is put into a container already full of water.

Note – anything with a density greater than 1 will sink in water.

The table on next page is taken from the Internet and I have just removed some of the more exotic woods. If anyone wants the full spreadsheet then please contact me.

Allen

| Wood               | Density            |
|--------------------|--------------------|
|                    | grams per cubic cm |
| Alder              | 0.4 - 0.7          |
| Apple              | 0.65 - 0.85        |
| Ash, white         | 0.65 - 0.85        |
| Ash, black         | 0.54               |
| Ash, European      | 0.71               |
| Aspen              | 0.42               |
| Balsa              | 0.16               |
| Bamboo             | 0.3 - 0.4          |
| Basswood           | 0.3 - 0.6          |
| Beech              | 0.7 - 0.9          |
| Birch              | 0.67               |
| Box                | 0.95 - 1.2         |
| Butternut          | 0.38               |
| Cedar of Lebanon   | 0.58               |
| Cedar, western red | 0.38               |
| Cherry, European   | 0.63               |
| Chestnut, sweet    | 0.56               |
| Cottonwood         | 0.41               |
| Cypress            | 0.51               |
| Dogwood            | 0.75               |
| Douglas Fir        | 0.53               |
| Ebony              | 1.1 - 1.3          |
| Elm, American      | 0.57               |
| Elm, English       | 0.55 - 0.6         |
| Elm, Dutch         | 0.56               |
| Elm, Wych          | 0.69               |
| Greenheart         | 1.04               |
| Hackberry          | 0.62               |
| Hemlock, western   | 0.5                |
| Juniper            | 0.55               |
| Larch              | 0.5 - 0.55         |
| Lignum Vitae       | 1.17 - 1.33        |
| Lime, European     | 0.56               |

| Wood                  | Density            |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
|                       | grams per cubic cm |
| Lime, European        | 0.56               |
| Locust                | 0.65 - 0.7         |
| Magnolia              | 0.57               |
| Mahogany, African     | 0.5 - 0.85         |
| Mahogany, Cuban       | 0.66               |
| Mahogany, Honduras    | 0.65               |
| Mahogany, Spanish     | 0.85               |
| Maple                 | 0.6 - 0.75         |
| Meranti, dark red     | 0.71               |
| Myrtle                | 0.66               |
| Oak                   | 0.6 - 0.9          |
| Oak, English Brown    | 0.74               |
| Parana Pine           | 0.56               |
| Pear                  | 0.6 - 0.7          |
| Pine, pitch           | 0.67               |
| Pine, Corsican        | 0.51               |
| Pine, radiata         | 0.48               |
| Pine, Scots           | 0.51               |
| Pine, white           | 0.35 - 0.5         |
| Pine, yellow          | 0.42               |
| Plane, European       | 0.64               |
| Plum                  | 0.65 - 0.8         |
| Poplar                | 0.35 - 0.5         |
| Rosewood, Bolivian    | 0.82               |
| Rosewood, East Indian | 0.9                |
| Sapele                | 0.64               |
| Satinwood             | 0.95               |
| Spruce                | 0.4 - 0.7          |
| Spruce,               | 0.45               |
| Sycamore              | 0.4 - 0.6          |
| Teak, Indian          | 0.65 - 0.9         |
| Teak, African         | 0.98               |
| Teak, Burma           | 0.74               |
| Utile                 | 0.66               |
| Walnut                | 0.65 - 0.7         |
| Whitewood, European   | 0.47               |
| Willow                | 0.4 - 0.6          |
| Yew                   | 0.67               |

## Poetry Corner

The good and the bad of the Rugby Smart Ball.

### 138 break in the first frame

How can Judd compete with that opening game  
He sat and watched pot after pot  
No miss Williams cleared up the lot  
Cometh the hour cometh the man  
We all know this saying since life began  
But wait a sec, there's Judd's reply  
Wins the second, his score is sky high  
One frame each is the start to the match  
Which will emerge with the first purple patch  
Correct cue action is what it's about  
Must get it right to avoid a rout  
Red then colour to gather the points  
Settle the nerves and bring calm to the joints  
Eye up the pocket, put the ball in the middle  
At the right pace to complete the game's riddle  
Side, back running, check and top spin  
All needed to work to create the win  
When they're in play they have great concentration  
When sitting it out, just contemplation  
But still is observed the gentleman's hush  
To come through the match without unseemly rush

martin sexton 2023