



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 215

April 2024

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Firstly, I would like to thank all those who attended the AGM in April, after which Nat Griffiths delivered a demonstration on segmented turning. There was a good turnout of 57 members and there were only two significant items arising at the AGM. Firstly, we voted in a new Club Secretary, Peter Clark, who takes over from Allen Kaye. The rest of the committee remains unchanged. Second, we also received a request to publish the names and pictures of the Committee. Our website has already been updated and you can see the various committee members and their mugshots here - <https://hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk/about-us>

MAY MEETING Our next club meeting is on 14th May. The demonstration in May will be given by Terry Smart from Chestnut Products. He will be talking about and showing a variety of ways to finish our turnings. He will also bring lots of finishes for us to buy, so bring all your pocket money!

As our club continues to grow, we would welcome ideas from newer members for future demonstrators. If you have suggestions, please contact Paul Rowland.

TRAINING NEWS There were two training events delivered in April and more planned for the rest of the year. We are exploring a joint venture with the Mens Sheds movement in Letchworth to see if we can establish a training venue in the east of our region. Steve Hart is leading on this, so please contact him if you can contribute in any way. We are also exploring the idea of a “matchmaking” service to enable more experienced turners to train our beginners in their own workshops. AKA “A Day in my Workshop”. We have six volunteer trainers so far and the details of the scheme will be circulated soon, but if you are already interested to know more, please contact Mel Williams.

COMPETITION TABLES This month, beginners are asked to bring a Dibber and the advanced competition is a Goblet With One or More Rings. I can also tell you that the captive ring cutter has already been borrowed from the library, but if you can make rings without this tool I would be interested to hear / see how that is best achieved. It may be a candidate for a future club night demo.

HARPENDEN ART ON THE COMMON. Once again four members are representing the club on the 8th – 9th June and will be selling items to raise cash for club funds. If you can bring any small items for us to sell it will be much appreciated. Contributions can be handed in at the welcome desk at the May meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all in May

Adam Blackie (Chairman)

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Club Secretary : Peter Clark secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Allen Kaye info@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Club News

April Competition

Beginners

1st Pete Pocock



2nd James Blackie

Advanced



1st Harvey Alison



2nd Mike Fitz



3rd Peter Kemp

Open

1st Harvey Alison



2nd Tony Taylor



3rd Melanie Williams

Annual Prize Giving

The prizes this year were awarded by one of our club ambassadors Chris Squires. The results for all three categories are as below and photos are of the winners receiving their medals from Chris

Category	1st	2nd	3rd
Beginners	Pete Pocock	Mel Williams	Phil Walters
Advanced	Peter Hoare	Harvey Alison	Tony Taylor
Open	Tony Taylor	Peter Hoare	Peter Kemp



1st Advanced – Peter Hoare



1st Beginners - Pete Pocock



1st Open - Tony Taylor

Meetings Calendar

2024

May	14th	Terry Smart
Jun	11th	Club Night
Jul	9th	Simon Hope
Aug	13th	Anna- Marie
Sep	10th	Club Night
Oct	8th	Steve Heeley
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

May	Dibber
Jun	Candle Holder
Jul	Plate or Platter
Aug	Any Style of Rolling Pin
Sep	An Apple or Pear
Oct	Paper Weight
Nov	Bud Vase
Dec	Xmas tree decoration

Advanced

Goblet With One or More Rings
Lidded Box
Something Stained or Painted
Bowl on Feet
Hollow Form
Two or More Woods
Pen/Pencil/Brush Holder
Pair Candle Holders

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.

Following the AGM I need to fill in the gaps for next year's calendar of volunteers. 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.

Full receipts are required for each spend made.

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

Steve Beadle

Herts and Beds Raffle Coordinator

Tel 07720 677456

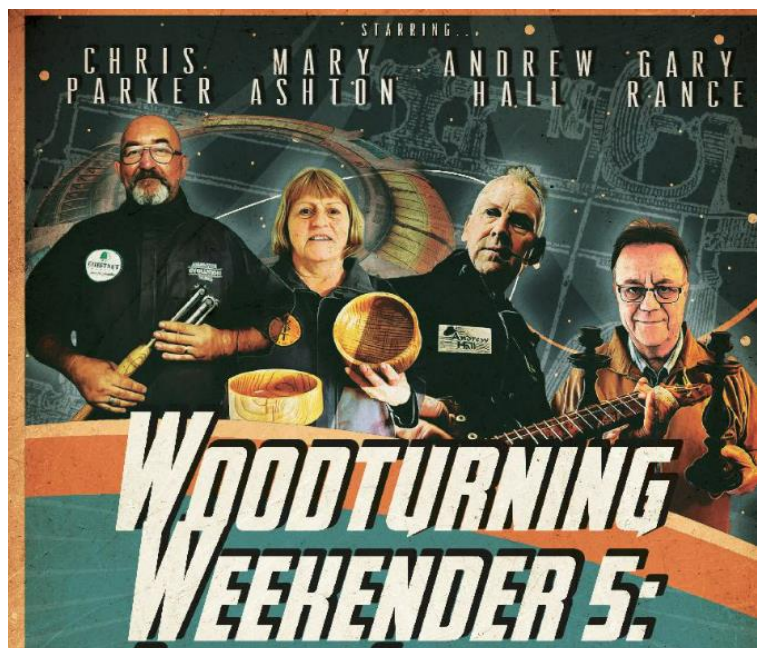
Email Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk

Woodturning Weekender

As mentioned last month, Chestnut Products are running this event, and a number of our members are already going on 10th August including Alan Wigginton and Adam Blackie who are both offering lifts.

If you want to take them up on that offer please contact them directly on alanwigginton@me.com or Chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk. Phone number for Adam is 07941 270 640

The Weekender site has just been updated so if you want the latest info about what is happening and who will be there – use the following link. [Woodturning Weekender 2024 | Chestnut Products - First for Finishes](#)



Introducing your new Secretary – Peter Clark

My journey to turning

I went to a school where one of the subjects was woodwork, which I enjoyed. I still have the plans I drew then and my elder sister still has the table lamp I made at school and gave her for her 21st birthday.

However, it wasn't until after I got married and became a home owner that I had any opportunity to develop anything further.

In 1992 my wife and I visited the Ideal Home Exhibition where I bought a Zyliss Torno woodturning tool. This was powered by my Black and Decker drill. It had a two prong drive centre in the chuck, a dead centre in the tailstock and a couple of clamps to hold it on the edge of a table or Workmate! Despite the serious limitations of this set up I was able to turn a few parts for some wooden toys I made for our children.



The steam roller shown below has roller, wheels, chimney and flywheel turned on this limited device. I also made a non flying wooden aircraft, with a turned fuselage, but no photographs of this can be found.



Then, one day, I began to have a “What if” moment. What if I didn’t have to go to work as a school IT technician any more? What if we were actually able to move somewhere else and start to enjoy a retirement? What could we do?

I began to wonder if we were able to find the right property we could perhaps have a small B&B and if I learned to turn I may be able to sell some of my produce to guests.

My wife wasn't terribly keen on the B&B idea, but the seed sown when my parents had retired to within six miles of Yandles at Martock in Somerset began to germinate. For years we had visited my parents and taken trips to the Yandles shows, seen no end of wonderful turners at work, as well as other crafts people. Then on finding a member of Cheam Woodturners Association who was promoting their club at a local fête, I joined the club. I was inspired, and hooked! About six months later I asked one of the members about some training and then had some lessons in a local garden workshop. There came a point in April 2018 when Susan and I were on a journey home from the lake district and decided to take another overnight stop in Leicestershire, “just so we could take a look at Charnwood Tools”. The following day we completed our journey home with a midi lathe strapped on the back seat of the car!

As we started 2020 I became the editor of the Cheam club newsletter. Three months later we were into Covid lockdown.

I was pleased to find and join Herts and Beds Woodturners last year and look forward to continue my turning journey and working for the club as Honorary secretary.

Peter



Demonstration by Nathanael Griffiths – Review by Tony Taylor

Nathanael Griffiths, at 20 years of age, is our youngest demonstrator so far. He has rapidly come to be recognised as a very talented woodturner after starting turning at school and winning the Young British Woodturner of the Year competition when only fifteen.

He has chosen to specialise in segmented turning, which has not been nearly as popular in Britain as in the USA. For the demonstration he took us through the stages of making a small vase, making use of previously prepared segmented rings.



Nathanael explained the need to plan the design carefully in order to calculate the required dimensions of the rings. The length of the individual segments is found by dividing the outer circumference ($\pi \times \text{diameter}$) by the number (n) of segments in each ring. The cutting angle for the segments is $180 / n$ degrees.

(Nathanael provided a useful page for the members on how to calculate the thicknesses and diameters of each layer – this is reproduced on page 13)



It is essential to cut the angles very accurately. He did not dwell on the various methods of achieving this, but did explain that small errors can be corrected by gluing up half rings and sanding their free ends flat on a disc sander. Most segmenters now use some form of Gerry Bennet's 'Wedgie Sled'. Once rings are glued up and fully dried, they are flattened on a disc sander or with a drum sander.

Assembly starts with a sacrificial block mounted on a faceplate or chuck. The lowest ring is glued to this and after allowing time to fully set, the face cleaned up and the next ring added, being careful to centre and to stagger the joints evenly. For a vessel which is to be relatively deep or closed, the interior can be turned in stages.

Since the grain is running around the rings, cutting is always along the grain. A bowl gouge can be used, but a carbide tool also works very well in this situation. Turning in stages also enables one to finish the inside of a closed vessel nicely in stages. Because one is sanding along the grain, it is satisfactory to sand to 240 grit, then to use Yorkshire grit or similar, followed by microcrystalline wax. Turning and fishing the outside along the same lines, completes the piece.

This was a very nicely prepared demonstration, delivered with many helpful tips. The audience was most appreciative and some of our members may well have been encouraged to try segmented turning. Nathanael's display of some of his work was most impressive.

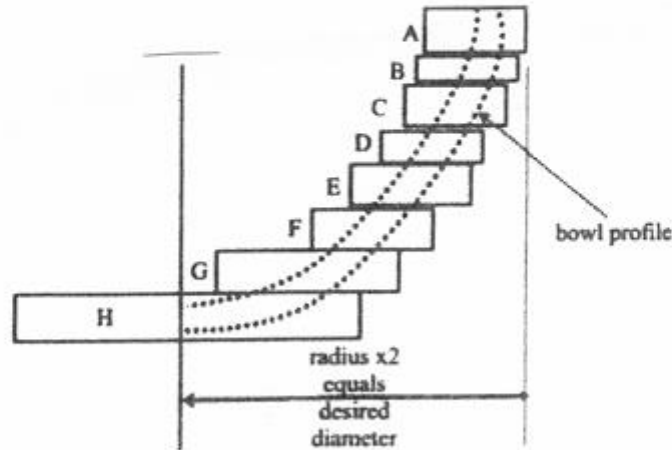
Nathanael's website is [Nathanael Griffiths](#)



Nathanael Griffiths
Preparing a Segmented Bowl Blank

Working Out the Thickness and Width of each Segmented Layer

Segmented Bowl Design



Make a sketch of your preferred bowl shape as shown in the drawing above. Plan out the number of rings and the thickness of each and draw those as "A" to "H" as above (more or less rings as required). Now you can work out the length and width of the segments in a given ring.

There are software programs available to help you determine the length and number of the segments for a specific diameter.

Cutting the wedges for each ring

360 degrees divided by the number of segments per ring
Divide that by 2 =angle that the saw needs to be set for each side of each wedge

18 segment ring
=360/18
=20 degree
segments
=20/2
=10 degrees angle

24 segment ring
=360/24
=15 degree
segments
=15/2
=7.5 degree angle

12 segment ring
=360/12
=30 degree
segments
=30/2
=15 degree angle

Special Offer – 10% off Chestnut Finishes.

In May, Paul Rowland (Club Demonstrator Organiser) has arranged for Terry Smart from Chestnut Finishes to talk and demonstrate about what finishing products are best for various types of woods and woodworking projects.

Paul has negotiated a special deal with Chestnut to get a 10% discount and most usefully, any orders made will be brought with him to the club on the 14th May.

To pre-order items from Chestnut Products to collect on the evening of the demo, simply order on their website www.chestnutproducts.co.uk. At checkout use the coupon code H&BWT to get a 10% discount and remove the delivery charge.

IMPORTANT: You will need to supply your address for payment reasons, but you MUST tick the 'Deliver to a different address' box; in the Street Address enter 'Collecting at Herts and Beds Demo'. The other boxes can be completed as normal.

If preferred, email your order to us, and we can accept card/cash payments on the night. A limited selection of goods will also be available on the night.

Orders must be placed by 12th May.

Note Terry is also going to bring something along to add to the raffle too

Thanks go to Paul for arranging this.

As part of his service, Terry does publish regular newsletters about finishing in general and also about the products he sells. Have a look at their website for more details.

[Chestnut Products - First for Finishes | Finishing Products](#)

Training

Training support from the AWGB

As a member of the AWGB, everyone has access to the support they offer.

The following list is a national one showing workshops that all AWGB members can attend. For more details see the AWGB website.

18 May	Beginner	Basic bowl	Les Thorne	The Woodturning Shop, Four marks, Hampshire
18 May	Beginner - Intermediate	Improving tool techniques	Darren Crisp	Shaws Burn Woodturning Studio, Ashgill, Scotland
1 June	Intermediate	Table Lamp	Dennis Wake	Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, County Durham
11 July	Beginner - Intermediate	Novelty animals	Kate Kitchen	Tingley, Wakefield
7 September	Intermediate	Platter	Dennis Wake	Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, County Durham
1 October	Intermediate - Advanced	Bowl & colour	Mick Hanbury	Turners Retreat
11 October	Beginner - Intermediate	Humming Top	Gary Rance	Wendover, Buckinghamshire
6 November	Beginner - Intermediate	Texture and colour	Chris Parker	Leyland, Lancashire

Club Training Update - Mel Williams

There is a lot happening on the training front and our plans are beginning to bear fruit. However, this is just the start and we are looking forward to lots more activity throughout 2024.

BEGINNERS EVENT IN APRIL.

On the 20 April we ran our second training event at Aylesbury for beginners / intermediate turners as follows:

Trainer	Trainee	Subject
Peter Hoare	Mel Williams	Small items
Allen Kaye	Andrew Lee	Beginners turning
Adam Blackie	Colin Wood	Beginners turning
Phil Scoltock	James Blackie	Texturing & intro to hollowing

It was a very successful day with plenty of banter, learning and friendship. Our candidates enjoyed the day, and most left with a completed project and plenty of enthusiasm for their own workshop adventures. There are a few individual reports elsewhere in this newsletter from the candidates so I won't say too much here, except I am looking forward to meeting more new members at the next one.



More photos and a review of the day are on page 17.

BEGINNERS - FUTURE DATES

Mel Williams has arranged two further dates this year at Aylesbury.

- 19th October
- 9th November.

These sessions are rapidly filling up so be quick and book a slot with Mel Williams (training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk).

If these dates are inconvenient, we are launching a new option for beginners soon.

MORE BEGINNERS OPTIONS – launching this year

Following the success of the Aylesbury based training we are exploring two further options for beginners.

This is to provide more flexibility around dates and locations.

We are calling it “A day in my workshop”. Six of our members have agreed to provide training in their own workshops. It’s the same deal as Aylesbury, but more flexible, with mutually agreed dates and one to one instead of a group session. It can be a full or half day – you agree this with the trainer.

The current locations include:

1. St Albans,
2. Welwyn Garden City,
3. Walkern (Stevenage),
4. Wendover (x2),
5. Watford

If you cannot book for one of the Aylesbury event days, please contact Mel Williams and she will co-ordinate a more convenient date for you.

YET MORE BEGINNERS OPTIONS – launching in late 2024

We are aware that Aylesbury is not an ideal location for those members who are based in the east of our region, so we are exploring a joint venture with **Letchworth Men In Sheds** to use their facilities. It’s early days and negotiations are ongoing, and we should have more concrete plans by the end of the summer.

ADVANCED TURNERS EVENT IN APRIL

Chris Bently and Phil Scoltock booked to do the 2 day “The Hollower” course with Phil Irons near Stratford Upon Avon on Wednesday 24th April and Thursday 25th.

This has been partly funded by the club using funds donated for RPT Training. We are looking forward to seeing what they produce and learned in future meetings and newsletters.

If you want to attend some professional training to learn some advanced techniques, please contact Mel Williams who will be happy to explain how the club funding can be accessed.

That’s all for now.

Mel Williams can be contacted on training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Photos and Review – Aylesbury Training April 2024 – James Blackie

I was very pleased to attend our club training day at Aylesbury.

As a beginner, starting wood turning in November 2023, I have been keen to try various techniques of wood turning and decided to have a go at deep hollow turning.

Club member Phil was my trainer for the day and I found his knowledge and tuition on the day was perfect for my ability and I felt very assured and confident throughout the day.

I basically turned two rough practice pieces. Firstly, a pine wide mouthed vase so that i was able to see the tool end and get to know the method of roughing out the inside.

In the afternoon I turned a narrow mouthed vase shape bowl out of a piece of Pear wood all of which was done free hand and blind. It was very nerve racking but a great achievement for my first go. I will certainly continue with more practice and hopefully bring along a piece to show on one of our club nights. I can highly recommend any club member who is looking to try something new, or improve their current skills, to sign up for one of these club training sessions.

Thanks again to Phil and the other trainers for giving up his time and to the club for organising these events. Looking forward to the next one.

Some photos of the day follow and more can be seen on the club website, Instagram and Facebook - links as below

<https://hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk/galleries>

<https://www.instagram.com/hertsbedswoodturners?igsh=Ym43d2hua2xtNjAy>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/F9kUJ8N6E2Pt3BJX/>





Appeal for 2024 Harpenden Summer Craft Fair contributions.

The Harpenden Craft Fair (Art on the Common) is scheduled for the 8th – 9th June.

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

We will be promoting our club and selling turned items to benefit club funds. Once again, my aim this year is to raise £500 for the club, adding to our reserves and helping to pay for future club training events.

Our focus will be small items - pens, bottle stoppers, pepper mills and bottle openers. Small bowls and any live edge objects always attract attention. Club members have contributed generously in the past and I hope that you will be able to do so again.

If you are willing to help by making something for us to sell, various kits can be obtained free of charge from Rob Wiscott on the club sales table. A photo from last years event is below.



If you have anything else to contribute (literally anything small and well made will sell) please bring them along to the club meeting on 14th May. The more variety we have the better it shows the abilities of our club and is also a great way to attract new members.

Finally, please put the dates in your diary and come and visit the event and our stall. (8th – 9th June). It would be great to see you there to support the club at this regular summer event.

Click on this [link](#) to see our club featured in this year's craft fair website and for other event details.

Adam Blackie
07941 270 640

For Sale

Last month Dave Deacon in Potters Bar asked me to advertise a lathe he had for sale – he needed the space in his workshop.

The lathe now has been sold but he now wishes to sell most of his stock of wood as well as some chuck jaws and an extractor. He sent me photos as below to indicate the range of jaws and wood.





If you are interested please contact him directly
e-mail - dave.deako16@gmail.com
or Telephone - 01707 653391

Poetry Corner

Misgivings, ON REFLECTIONS , AFTER THE POST OFFICE SCANDAL

Is this the demise of our mostly honest world
As mistrust of the top develops, is unfurled
Seen in all walks of life across the board
Whether home based or from abroad
Scandals like insidious cyber crime
Or violence in the streets so out of line
Is it fear of climate change reducing the range
Of worldly well being, inducing this change
What forces people to these inhuman acts
For media's report displaying the facts
Ordinary folk being denied fair progression
Notwithstanding the current depression
Has the rule of law lost its grip
With lost control of our through life trip

Onwards and upwards, mind's ease, is the only way
Bringing back balance at the end of the day

Martin Sexton. April 2024