



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 179

April 2021

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello!

Colin Clark

I am very sorry to have to convey the sad news that Colin Clark our previous secretary and newsletter editor of many years, has lost his brave battle with cancer and passed away on the 18th April. Colin, who joined the club in 1996, did an immense amount to support the Club being both the newsletter editor and secretary over very many years. I will miss his wise council very much and never forget the kind help and support he so freely gave after my election as chairman. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Sandy and the family. Club members are in contact to offer support wherever we can.

Future outlook for the Club

I'm writing this at a time when the Corona Virus lockdown is being progressively eased in response to falling infection rates and the current vaccination programme seemingly on course for completion. So I am very hopeful that we can proceed with the planned resumption of our face to face meetings at Adeyfield on the 13th July. More details will become available nearer the time when we can work with Scott (the centre manager) and get a better idea of how any remaining restrictions will impact on our plans.

For members who may be apprehensive at resuming face to face meetings and unwilling or unable to use Zoom, we are considering the option of video recording the meetings and making the recordings available on YouTube. Please make contact if you have any views on this, preferably before the next committee meeting on the 1st June. We are very keen for our planned activities to include as many members as possible and any comments aiding that aim will be very welcome.

The Club AGM, Tuesday 13th April

This was a Zoom meeting with 22 club members participating. In the aftermath of the meeting I am pleased to report that we now have a new treasurer and extend a warm welcome to club member Adam Blackie, formally elected to this role. Grateful thanks to our past treasurer Peter Hoare who has been guardian of our finances for well over 10 years and who is mentoring Adam as he takes over. I am pleased to say that Peter

hasn't escaped the net entirely and was elected to remain on the committee as a member without portfolio.



Adam Blackie - Treasurer

We also welcome Allen Kaye who was elected to the post of secretary which is in addition to his existing role of newsletter editor. Grateful thanks to Allen and all the other committee members who were willing to be re-elected for another year.

Future Meetings

Tuesday 11th May

This will be an IRD demonstration by Emma Cook (The Tiny Turner). Joining details will be circulated nearer the time.

Tuesday 8th June. Additional presentations needed, can you help?

Currently we have one presentation by Martin Gomme and are looking for 2 or more additional contributions. If you would like to contribute a short presentation but are not able to cope with showing pictures etc., then I will be very happy to act as projectionist. All you need do is e-mail your pictures to me in advance and then in the Zoom meeting I can share screen and show them whilst you provide a commentary.

Middlesex and the North London Woodturning Clubs Zoom Meetings

The next Middlesex meeting is on the 20th April and joining details may have been circulated before you read this. Herts and Beds members are always made very welcome in these excellent meetings. Please support our Middlesex and North London friends by participating if you can.

Grahame Tomkins noted at the AGM that he has booked Gary Rance for the first meeting back at Adeyfield in July and Mick Hanbury for September.

That's me done for April and I can get back to preparing some large 12" diameter boles of Horse Chestnut, harvested (with permission and assistance) in the aftermath of arboreal management work undertaken in Watford's Cassiobury Park.

Do enjoy another cracking edition of Woodbits, and please help Allen our editor by keeping the Woodbits contributions coming so we can continue to have an interesting and entertaining monthly woodturning related read.

Keep making shavings and stay safe!

Tim

Tim Pettigrew

Chairman

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Secretary: Allen Kaye secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Club News

A Note and thankyou from your retiring Treasurer

Firstly, thank you all for renewing your club membership. It has been a difficult year for businesses, groups, clubs and societies of all kinds and so we are fortunate that so many have "stayed with us". As I write this, we have 72 members, including two new 2021 members.

The Committee has tried to keep our members inspired through this Newsletter, Facebook and Zoom meetings, but for some all this technology is no substitute for face-to-face meetings and it isn't, but it is the best that can be done with a very bad situation.

Please support your club by participating as much as you can, however you can, now and when we can finally meet again. YOU are the club.

Peter Hoare – Member

Items for the Sale Table

Bearing in mind the proposed resumption at Adeyfield, Derek (Stephens) who is in charge of the Sales Table is looking for new donations from members. Start putting suitable items on one side from now on and bring them along for Derek on the 13th July.

Herts & Beds Woodturners on YouTube

For those who may have missed the AGM or other previous Zoom meetings edited versions are now also available on YouTube Hit the subscribe button if you want to keep up with any additions.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqMOhpzlhngggiQzvDqellkiAKBaT5q5A>

The AGM includes the business meeting (the first 46 minutes of the video), followed by an extremely lively "Show and Tell" session.

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Members Projects

Spalted Bowl – Barry Dyer

Had a lump of spalted wood sitting on a shelf for a while. I could see a few cracks but the bark inclusion was a bit of a surprise when it was exposed. I was initially undecided on what to do about the void which goes through to the inside. Resin was an option or leave as it is. In the end I decided to keep it unfilled (no resin).

My new lathe and sharpening system made this a lot more pleasant to turn than before and my finishing is getting better too. Sanded to 240 before Yorkshire Grit and Hampshire Sheen High Gloss.

I've turned a few more from "found" pieces but they were also quite holey from wormholes in the timber which only really became apparent after I'd finished turning the outer shape of the bowl.

I could see that there was potential in making some very interesting bowls so I'm currently considering digging out the punky bits from the wormholes and then filling with resin and some sparkly bits...



"Tiger Blue" Terania Hird

A lidded hollow form and the second of my tiger striped themed vessels.

The stripes were engraved with an angle grinder & a Dremel & sanded. Then the piece was stained with HS Intrinsic Black, well sanded back & coloured with Chestnut Products blue spirit stain. Finished with Chestnut Products gloss acrylic lacquer & polished with Yorkshire Grit Microfine. I finished the base & finial with CP ebonising lacquer.

I love the way the colour has accentuated the grain & the onion on the finial mimics the lines of the body.

Really pleased with this, despite the problems I had & the time it took to make.

Inspired by the work of Mark Sanger & Cindy Drozda



Oak platter – Tony Taylor

This is 11 inches in diameter with yew branch segments embedded in epoxy resin. I originally made this a while ago, but it was flawed with bubbles.

Now I have turned away the old material and tried again - this time virtually perfect. Lessons learned: seal the wood with sanding sealer and use low viscosity slow curing epoxy.

After 4 hours burst any bubbles with very brief pass of blow torch. Check again until set.

Allow several days to fully harden before attempting to sand - wet paper 240 to 2000 grit then burnishing cream.



Pendant and earrings – Harvey Alison

Simple little extra birthday present for my wife, using leftover black wood.

The findings were all connected to the wood as follows:

1. Bore a small (~1mm) hole in the work using a Jacobs chuck in the tailstock and a small drill bit.
2. Turn the work was then as for finials, backwards towards the headstock.
3. Before parting off, sand and glue in the finding using CA glue.
4. Finish using abrasive paste and friction polish.
5. Part off with skew and finish the end by hand.

The fixings or 'findings' can be bought very cheaply online. The ones I used are here:

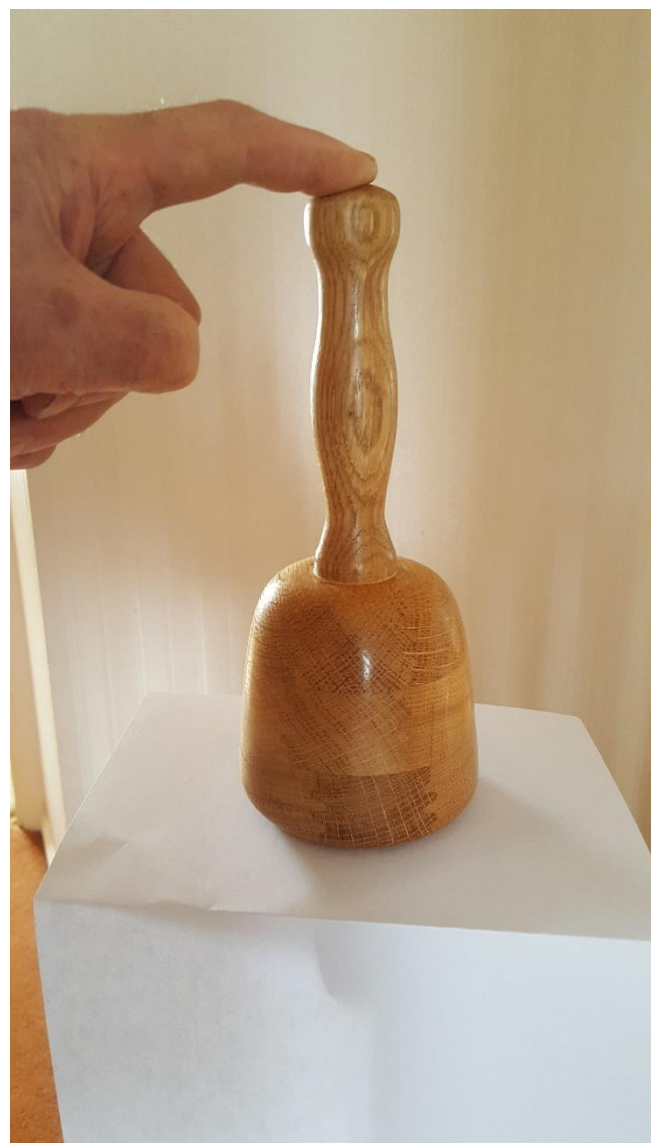
<https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B013X9V76K>



Live Edge Bowl and Maul – Keith Goddard

The live edge bowl is made from Laburnum. It is my first attempt having seen the Record Power live demonstration given by Theo Haralampou from Brisbane. The bark of the Laburnum was amazingly stable. There is a very thin membrane on the outside of the bark which was easy to remove.

The other image is of a "Heavy Maul" which was requested by a friend for his Masonic lodge. It made from a number of pieces oak and you can see the combed joints employed to glue the strips of oak to make the large original tabletop.



Finishing Notes

This month is a focus on wax. The text below is drawn from a number of sources including Wikipedia, Axminster and Chestnut Products.

Waxes

There are four main types of waxes that are used by woodturners.

Beeswax

This is the softest wax. Produced by bees to form the honeycomb cells. After extraction of the honey, the wax is immersed in hot water and floated off to be used in the making of polish, fillers and creams.

As a primary wood finish, beeswax has to be reapplied a little more often as it does not last as long as other finishes such as lacquers, shellacs, varnishes and oil finishes. Beeswax is most effective when used as a polish on top of another type of finish.

Applying Beeswax

Before getting started, it's best to clean the wood of any dust and debris. This can be done by using a clean cloth and rubbing down the surface. If not removed, these can mix into the wax and ruin the appearance of the finish.

Apply the wax sparingly with a cloth on delicate surfaces. For those in need of a more thorough penetration, use 0000 steel wool.

After applying a thin even coating of the polish allow plenty of time for the medium to evaporate and wax to harden. This time can usually be found on the product itself.

Now you can buff. This is best done with a stockinette roll. The soft open texture surface picks up excess wax whilst burnishing the surface. For larger surfaces, a great way to speed up this process is by using a brush mounted on an electric drill. Alternatively, if you have the luxury of a lathe, buffing can be done quickly and easily.

When this is done, repeat the process again to get the best possible finish.

Carnauba Wax

This is the hardest wax. A vegetable wax that is produced by the carnauba palm in Brazil. Its job is to help reduce excessive evaporation from the leaf pores. The wax is gathered on the leaves and refined into a hard brittle wax. For best results, it is combined with other waxes such as beeswax, combining their properties to give the best possible finish. Woodturners also use carnauba in stick form, taking advantage of the heat produced by friction to apply the wax.

Microcrystalline Wax

This is a wax with very fine crystals which, when applied will break down to form a very dense surface which is highly water resistant. Unlike many other waxes, microcrystalline wax also has a melting point higher than body temperature and is thus less prone to finger marking.

Application

Apply the wax to a sealed surface using a cloth. Use as sparingly as possible. The wax stays wet for about 5 minutes making it easy to spread into a thin, even coat. Allow 20 minutes before polishing.

This wax buffs up well by hand and is useful on non-woodturned projects. It can of course be buffed up on the lathe using a safety cloth with the lathe running.

Microcrystalline wax is toy safe and ideal for any item that might get water splashed on it or will be handled a lot.

Paste Wax

Paste waxes are mixtures of the other waxes intended for particular uses. Often they mix turpentine with one or more of the other waxes.

Woodturning sessions on-line

Apart from our own Zoom sessions there are others that members might want to participate in. If you do come across any others one that look useful please let me know and I will include the details in next month's Woodbits. There are many turners and also clubs offering Zoom and youtube sessions now. I will try to keep track of recommended ones here in the newsletter and by email but you may want to register with some of these directly to ensure you get reminders and details delivered straight into your inbox.

Chestnut Products CONKERS sessions

Dates already published for these free sessions

12 May 2021

2 June 2021

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

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

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AWGB Talking Turning Online Sessions

The sessions have changed focus and AWGB will be talking about various turning subjects and having Q&A during the sessions. These are all free of charge to anyone wanting to participate and you can connect from almost any internet enabled device. Check out the link below.

<https://www.awgb.co.uk/talking-turning-zoom-sessions/>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Please register in advance to ensure you receive the email with meeting details.

The meetings are at 7:30pm GMT every Tuesday and Friday evening. They will open the meeting at 7:15pm to allow everyone time to get connected before the meeting.

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Record Power free interactive demonstrations

It is difficult to keep up with their new demos here when this newsletter is published only once per month.

Record Power are arranging many demonstrations and the best way to keep up is to register yourself directly with them to receive your invites and up to date lists of what is happening. Don't forget to check the time in our own time zone as some of these are international,

Simply send an email with RSVP in the subject line to miked@recordpower.co.uk – and they will reserve a spot for you. Your log in details will be sent in return.

For sale and wanted

Nothing reported to me this month but as Tim mentioned in his shavings, you might want to think about our plans for a big sale of items once we get back to meeting in Adeyfield. If you have been tidying your workshop or maybe buying new tools then remember that you can always bring redundant stuff to sell at the meetings. Things can be donated or you can offer a small percentage of anything sold to club funds.

If you want more detail about how you can dispose of items at future meetings then contact Derek Stephens – his email is derek.stephens@ntlworld.com

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Poetry Corner

Here comes mum with little one

In warmth of autumn's sunshine ray
Her baby nestles, it is such fun
But now nutrition rules the day

Where is dad, he's not in sight
Keeping covey in the reeds
To protect and warn of any fright
Duty done, do not run, these are the needs

Then back to the main aim of the day
Finding best grazing before day's end hazing
When once again she will have her say
That's all for now it's been amazing

Martin Sexton. Autumn 2020



and finally – a useful flowchart from Keith Goddard

PROBLEM SOLVING FLOWCHART

