



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 219

August 2024

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In August we enjoyed seeing Anna-Marie Bennett as our demonstrator, focussing (literally) on small turnings. It's very delicate work and the end results were a couple of lovely items that will fly off the sales tables at Christmas.

SEPTEMBER MEETING - Our next club meeting is on 11th September and will be a club night. Long-term member Bob Marshall has structured the evening so that our newer turners can learn from and get to know the more experienced members. It will be a hands-on session co-ordinated by the committee and will involve all who attend with the aim of enthusing and educating newer turners, so please turn up ready to share your experience or to learn more about turning. Co-incidentally, this month's off-centre contribution from David Evans reflects exactly on this theme. (You couldn't make it up?)

TRAINING NEWS - Training places for the remainder of the year are nearly full, but please contact Mel Williams if you have not yet done so. I can also announce that Mel will be stepping down as training co-ordinator from the end of this year, so we are looking for someone to step into her capable shoes. If you can help, please get in touch.

SEPTEMBER COMPETITION TABLES - In August the advanced competition entries were superb, and unfortunately the beginners' was a one horse race! If you are a beginner, please bring a turned Apple or Pear in September - we really enjoy seeing your progress. The advanced competition is a Hollow Form, and it will be interesting to see how deep our hollowers can go this year.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS - In this edition, David Evans has contributed his third "Off Centre" article whose theme is "Legacy". Peter Clark reports on the Chestnut Products Woodturning Weekender in Spalding. I know five of our members attended, but it may have been more. It was a very enjoyable event, and I wish I had been able to attend both days!

Finally, my personal thanks to Martin Sexton, who contributes a classical music inspired poem which prompted me to listen here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWQO-BudhrY>. It made my day. As ever, looking forward to seeing you all in September.

Adam Blackie
Chairman

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Club News

July Competition

Beginners



1st James Blackie

**ONLY ONE ENTRY THIS MONTH FROM THE
BEGINNERS...**

**THIS SPACE COULD BE YOURS NEXT MONTH —
ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TURN AND APPLE OR A
PEAR AND BRING IT TO SEPTEMBER'S
COMPETITION TABLE.**



Advanced



1st Harvey Alison



2nd Phil Walters



3rd = Pete Pocock



3rd = Peter Kemp



3rd = Peter Hoare

Open

1st Harvey Alison



2nd = Peter Hoare



3rd = Tony Taylor

2nd = Alan
Lewis



3rd = Adam Blackie

Meetings Calendar

2024

Aug	13th	Anna- Marie Bennett
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

Sep	An Apple or Pear
Oct	Paper Weight
Nov	Bud Vase
Dec	Xmas tree decoration

Advanced

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. 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 then feel free to do so at the next meeting or email/phone,

Steve Beadle

Tel 07720 677456 Email Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk

AWGB Seminar

The seminar this year is in Staffordshire on 4th-6th October – see link below.

Harvey Alison will be attending and is open to be contacted by other members with a view to possible car sharing. If you are intending going to this event and are interested in the idea please contact him on: harvey@blackwatermusic.net

[AWGB Woodturning Seminar – The AWGB International Woodturning Seminar](#)

Demonstration by Anne-Marie Bennett



Anna-Marie specialises in miniature work.

When she started woodturning, she decided to focus on small items because it challenged her and also it made good use of all of the offcuts that were inevitably produced when working with wood.



Anna Marie uses small tools naturally, for example those made by Axminster Tools. Often she will use exchangeable tools held in metal tool handles. Mostly these tools are just smaller versions of standard tools, though Anna-Marie also makes tools for special purposes, such as very fine parting tools or very small curved hollowing tools. These can be made from materials such as HSS bar or an old tool that can be re-purposed, such as older files.

Helpful pieces of advice offered include practicing your finishing cuts on a piece of spare wood, and, as ever in woodturning, to sharpen your tools before making your final pass, to minimise the amount of sanding required to remove tool marks.





She stated that the choice of wood is important for miniature work.

On a very small scale, open grained woods such as Ash and Oak will have weaknesses in the structure of the wood, so she suggests close grained woods such as ebony, boxwood, etc. Good results can also however be obtained with materials such as acrylic, or corian.

Training

Club Training Update – Mel Williams

Beginners

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.

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.

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

Training support from the AWGB

As a member of the AWGB, all members have 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.

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

Man's Shed Update 29th August 2024

We met at the workshop today and had our first session. After a coffee in the farm café where we had the time to socialise, get to know one another and discuss woodturning.

Adam started the session by talking through how we can start building and supporting the team that will support and manage the facility as it will be essential to the running of the workshop. We also discussed what items could be made as beginner projects that can be made and sold for Halloween and Xmas such as pumpkins, Xmas tree's, snowmen, wands etc. Colin started on the lathe and Dave practiced (on his own tools) sharpening on the Sorby.

*Right - Adam with
Dave Wisner and Colin
Newman in the
workshop*



The session also allowed us to trial the workspace along with the equipment and allowed Dave and Colin who are building their workshop to experience and understand the issues involved in building theirs.

The Man Shed has agreed to invest in more chucks, jaws, inserts and adaptors so that all three lathes can be used for beginner training and projects. Our next training session is scheduled for the Thursday 5th September. This is open to all Man Shed members and visitors (H&BW included), beginners or experienced. Please let me know if you would like to come along, the farm is a great place to socialise, meetup and get to know your fellow turners. So, if you have any aspiration in this area the MS can give you that opportunity to develop your tutoring, so please contact me.

Just to reiterate the following workshop information.

- Workshops will be held fortnightly on 1st (Training) and 3rd Thursday (open sessions) of each month, between 10-16:00.
- Each Thursday – will have a designated workshop supervisor – who will be responsible for the workshop, who attends, what projects are undertaken and by whom.
- On the designated days the workshop will be used solely,
 - For Woodturning.
 - For MS members and visitors (H&BW included)
 - Visitors allowed up to the 4 visits then expected to join the MS.

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

Regards

Steve 07508004511 sahart@btinternet.com

Another chance to see Emma Cook – the Tiny Turner

Come and watch

EMMA COOK

THE TINY TURNER

Demonstrating in person
at East Herts Woodturning Club on
Sunday 21 July 2024 10 till 4
at Sawbridgeworth, Herts, England

Cost £25 to include sandwiches, tea, coffee and biscuits
Simon Hope and Martin Pidgen will provide retail opportunities

Spaces are limited and will be allocated on a first come basis
For more information and ticket purchases contact
glynn.goodwin@gmail.com

Report from the Chestnut Weekender – Peter Clark

A number of members attended the Woodturning Weekender, held in Spalding, Lincolnshire, on the weekend of 10th/11th August.

The woodturning Weekender is sponsored by Chestnut Products and featured demonstrations from four different turners over the course of the weekend. Most of those that attended from Herts and Beds Woodturners were only present for the Saturday, but I travelled up on the Friday, staying until the event ended on Sunday. My wife accompanied me but wasn't booked in for the weekend. She was looking forward to doing her own thing.

We had booked accommodation at a hotel in the town centre and took a leisurely journey up the A1, stopping briefly at Tickencote to visit an ancient Norman church. We had a guidebook to this church which was inherited from Susan's late father, who had visited it when he was stationed nearby in the Second World War. Having arrived at the hotel we had planned for an evening meal at the local Prezzo, following which we walked to join a gathering in a pub close to the event centre where we chatted with Nathanael Griffiths (who did an excellent multi segment turning demonstration at our Club meeting earlier this year) and Darren Breeze, who visited us earlier.

The Saturday started at 9.45 with a morning of demonstration from Chris Parker, based around creating multi centre turnings using the Axminster Woodturning Eccentric Spiralling Chuck. This device costs a fairly reasonable £50.00 and seems to offer a lot of creative possibilities.

A coffee break and a chance to catch up with the other members of the club who were visiting the show and then back for a continuation of the Chris Parker demo. After a lunch break we were treated to a demonstration by Andrew Hall. We saw at least one of his turned wooden hats. Mostly, he was showing the use of some paint techniques on bowl turning. In the course of his demonstration, whilst waiting for sprayed finishes or sanding sealer to dry, Andrew entertained us with some song, accompanied by his home made guitars.

The first one was on the subject of workshop safety! As the end of the demonstration Adam Blackie and the rest of the club members set off on their journey home. I was looking forward to the evening barbecue, for which my wife was joining me. The catering staff at the event centre put on a splendid feast. There was a sense of excitement to see what surprises Terry Smart, who is the Director of Chestnut Products, had planned for the evening. As we sat and ate in the glorious evening sunshine we noticed a couple of strange characters wandering through the throng and engaging in conversations at each table. They turned out to be a comedy duo known as The Flying Buttresses (SEE IMAGE RIGHT). Situational comedy at its very best, totally ad libbed. Oh, and they were in the personas of a couple of chimpanzees, who have spent about three hundred years hiking their way around the country carrying huge backpacks, each topped with a bedding roll!



After the chimps had left us, hoping to make it to the Lake District before dark, so they said, we returned to the main meeting hall, where the next part of the evening was immediately obvious, as the main stage now proclaimed that "The ELO Encounter" were going to be performing for us. An absolutely amazing ELO tribute band, thoroughly enjoyable with renditions of Roll over Beethoven, Mr Blue Skies and many other classic numbers. When the concert finished we headed for the centres cafe, where we were firstly



entertained to some stand-up comedy from Dan Rees of Zebrano Woodcraft before a session of good old Karaoke before making our way back to the hotel for the night.

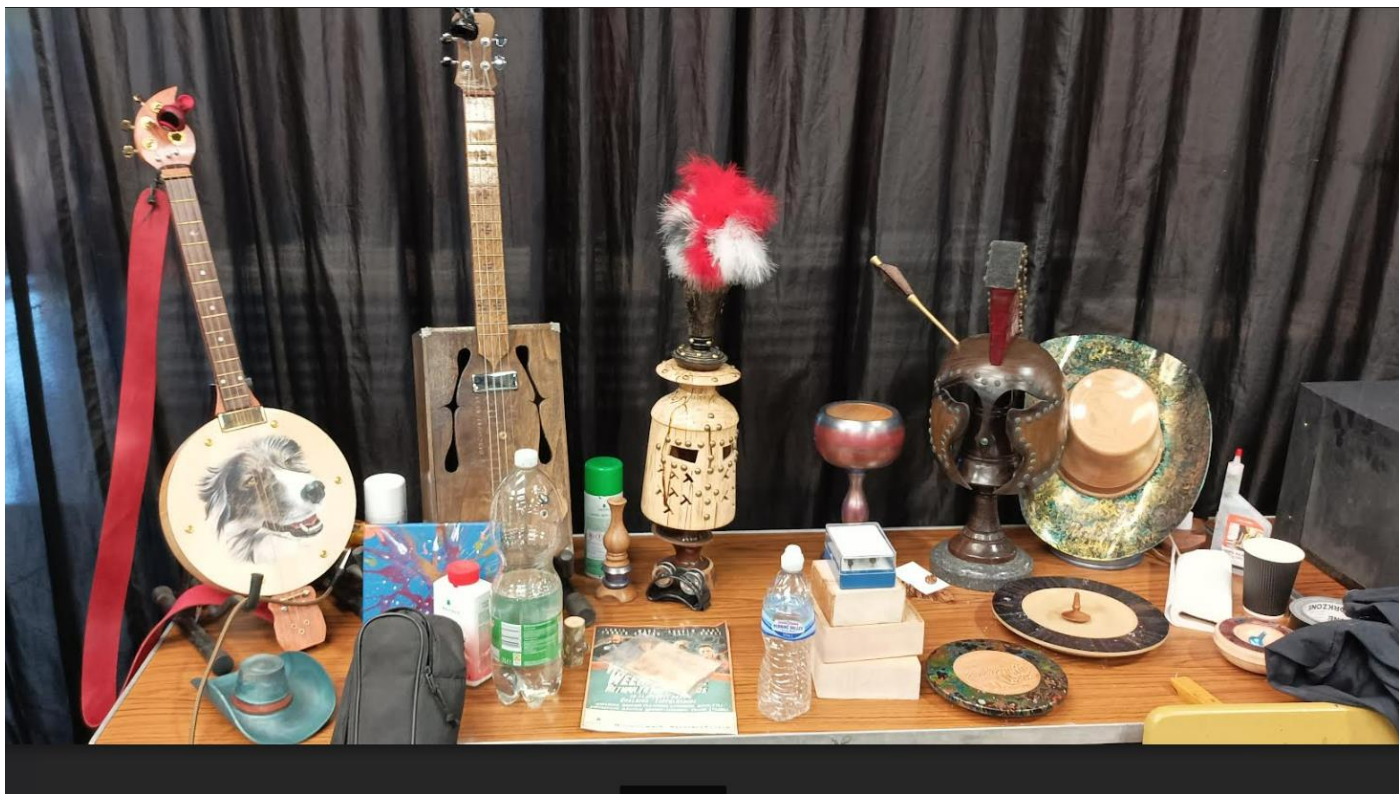
Sunday morning we were treated to a demonstration from Mary Ashton. Mary has spent quite a few years in education. The benefit of this was that she explained exactly why she did every single step. Not being patronising, just helpful explanation which I felt was appropriate and of particular benefit to novice turners. After lunch we had our own Gary Rance doing demos until the weekend closed at 4.00 pm. I forget quite how many demos Gary got through in his time there, but seeing him make one of his pepper grinders in about twenty minutes, and then turning a wooden apple in about three minutes flat was pretty memorable.

During the weekend there was, of course, a trade show with the likes of Simon Hope Woodturning, Turners Retreat and many others, including of course, Chestnut Products. There were also a number of other demos happening around the hall during intervals, not all of which were based on turning stuff. Chestnut Products are, of course,

used in many different wood arts. So we were able to see and try scrollsaw techniques, see Dan Rees making rings, marvel at the inspiring Turn and Burn, and be absolutely amazed by Gorgeous Gourdes. There were also displays by the AWGB and a raffle for fund raising for the Emerging Turners Programme.

All in all a very enjoyable weekend. I think the weekend ticket cost £45.00 for the two days, which is astonishingly good value. The barbecue tickets were an additional £25.00, but WOW! Where else would you get an evening barbecue, situational comedy, a brilliant concert, a stand up comic and a sing song for £25.00. Huge thanks to Terry Smart and his team from Chestnut Products for such a varied and inspiring weekend. Thoroughly recommended and I'm looking forward to getting confirmation of next year's event, which may well be in Swindon.

Peter Clark



Images from the weekend

Although reproduced before in the newsletter, given the number of new members I thought it useful to include this helpful table from Chestnut Products.

How to use this Chart

Select your first coat from the list, and follow the line across. Y=Yes, you can use the coating indicated as the next coat. Repeat for each change of product.



Off Centre

Woodturning from a different angle

Legacy is in your hands by David Evans

I had been wondering what to do with my grandfather's old wood working tools. He trained as a joiner and had a stint in the navy during the war. He was an Artificer, helping to maintain the ship. Some of the tools may have travelled with him across the Arctic Circle as he and his crew protected trade convoys. After retiring he'd while away hours in his garage working on doll houses, Welsh dressers and front doors.

Always by hand as there was no electricity in the garage located at the end of the garden. The tools are ancient by today's standards. But they will soon appear on the club's sales table. It's good to know that someone may still get some use out of them. My grandfather's legacy living on in someone else's hands.

As woodturners we are custodians and creators of legacy; the tools we inherit or buy and pass on when we're done; the wood we source and shape for our own pleasure or for someone else's; the bowl turning techniques we demonstrate to the next generation of woodturners. On our lathes in our sheds, we breathe new life into something old, unloved and un-shaped.



I was reading an article in the FT Weekend about a gallery owner whose father, a farmer, planted trees for a small wood back in the 1960s. This was considered unusual for a farmer at that time. After he died the wood became the farmer's living legacy. When an 80-foot poplar was felled by lightning his son didn't want it to be just another log pile for the fire. So, he asked a woodturner to create a series of bowls which he now displays in his gallery. In doing this his father's legacy continues to live on in a different form.

Similarly, the tree at Sycamore Gap on Hadrian's Wall in Northumberland that was felled last year. The tree meant many things to many people. Couples got engaged beneath its boughs, the ashes of loved ones were scattered over its roots, weary walkers rested in the shade of its leaves. It had stood for generations and was quite literally part of the landscape. Then one day it was gone and the public mourned.

The National Trust has still to decide what to do with the timber from the 200-year-old iconic landmark. Several thousand turned pens available at the nearest gift shop would not only help boost the Trust's coffers but would allow everyone to own a little piece of history. It would ensure the Sycamore tree's legacy lives on.

Tools, trees and ornaments are tangible items. They will one day break or fall out of favour. Yet our skills as woodturners are intangible and will never break. As a club we pass this on to new members through our various training programmes and to members of the public with demonstrations at village fairs.

Our club night demos are opportunity for experienced craftspeople to pass on their skills and yes, their legacy. Their hope, although unspoken, is that some of us may copy their techniques and in doing so, in a small way, that person's legacy lives on. The next time you pick up a tool or piece of wood off the sales bench spare a thought for the journey it has taken and of the person who held it before you. And the next time you turn a piece of wood into something you're pleased with, stand back and take a moment. You've just created a piece of your own legacy.

David Evans works for NHS England and is new to woodturning. If you've got an idea for Off Centre come and talk to him on a club night or email info@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Poetry Corner

Pachelbel Canon in D.

Irish or welsh, neither flat nor sharp
More likely germanic, their enchanted harp
Six angels sans wings
But what pleasure this brings
His melody repeats and in our heart sings
Such a well known tune
From tonic solfa hewn
So simple composition
By this world renowned musician
Pluck to the left pluck to the right
Played the six harpists, every note's flight
Demanding we hear
With sound charmed ear
Renewing our faith
In his oeuvre so dear

martin sexton.