



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 187

December 2021

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

So it's Farewell to 2021...

At the end of a difficult year for us all, I'm encouraged by the way the club is slowly regaining its footing with the resumption of "normal" meetings, competitions and other related activities.



It's a sobering thought that the final pre-pandemic meeting on the 10th March 2020 (a demo by John Aitken) was followed by a gap of 17 months when, apart from our monthly forays into Zoom videoconferencing, there were no live club meets. It wasn't until 10th August this year that we were able to resume at Adeyfield with a sparkling demo from Les Thorne attracting about 55 members and visitors. This was followed by attendances of 35 for the demo by Mick Hanbury in September, 35 for our first Club Night in October (which featured a wonderful exhibition of your Covid lock-down turnings and other woodworking creations), and 37 for our final 2021 (9th November) demo by Terry Smart (Chestnut Finishes). This meeting also marked the resumption of our monthly competitions and the raffle.

The growing threat of the very contagious Omicron Covid variant obviously put many of you off from attending our 14th December Christmas Social meeting where 21 participants had a lot of fun with quizzes, informal demonstrations, DIY refreshments, a Christmas raffle, the monthly competition and expanded sale tables with items from the workshops of Colin Clark and John Sharp on offer. Note that JOHN SHARP'S WORKSHOP CLEARANCE is ongoing with half of the proceeds going to club funds. It's in the form of a blind auction and the closing date is 31st December - see Adam's notes in Club News.

Another notable resumed event where the Club was represented was the Craft Fair held at the Frogmore Paper Mill (at Apsley on 5th December). I dropped in and was very impressed with the Club stand which was attracting a large amount of attention from visitors. I was particularly taken with the interactive bit allowing kids to try out some turned wooden tops, as it was one of the only stalls offering an activity for youngsters and thereby attracting parents who may otherwise have passed by. It was good to see a demonstration with one of the small club lathes in action as well. Many thanks to Adam Blackie, Keith Harrup and Peter Hoare who manned the stand all day. Their efforts brought in £150.00 for club funds.

... and Welcome to 2022!

As I write this at the end of 2021, it's looking as if the Omicron variant is not as severe as the earlier Covid variants, and no new restrictions are currently planned for England. We intend to persevere with our "normal" evening meetings at Adeyfield but with an expansion to include other activities. Under current Covid restrictions, masks will have to be worn at our meetings but those members exempted will be made equally as welcome. All participants are encouraged to take a Lateral Flow Test before attending, for the safety and comfort of us all.

11th January Meeting – Bring your “Well Finished Bowls”

The first meeting will be on the 11th January and will be a demonstration by Gary Rance. The competition subject is “A well finished bowl of any description”. We are hoping that this will appeal to all our newer and less experienced members “to have a go!” as well as our “old hands”.

Saturday morning “Hands On” sessions

Looking to 2022, we're very keen to build on the responses from the consultation and re-start the Saturday morning “hands on” sessions which will be a great opportunity for Club members to get to know one another and provide mutual assistance in improving practical turning techniques.

Pope's Yard Brewery Visit

The folks at the Pope's Yard brewery are based at the Frogmore Paper Mill in Apsley. They provided the beers for the Christmas Meeting quiz prize and have been in touch with Adam Blackie (our treasurer). They have asked if we would be interested in a Club visit to the brewery in March or April. There would be opportunities for tasting and maybe some food for around £10-15 a head. Details to follow.

Finally A Gentle Reminder: MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS are due on 1st January. Prices have been frozen again this year. Please respond promptly and support your Club.

My grateful thanks to all the committee for their hard work during these uncertain times which has enabled the Club to look forward to a better year in 2022.

Do please contact me or any member of your committee if you have any comments relating to club activities, or would just like a wood-turning chat! Wishing you all a very happy and brighter New Year, keep those lathes turning making plenty of shavings!

Tim
Tim Pettigrew
Chairman

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Club News

November Competition

This month, the judging was by the member vote

Photos by Don Guy

Advanced



1st Place – Cup and Ball
Peter Hoare

2nd Equal - Cup and Ball
Allen Kaye



2nd Equal - Cone and rod puzzle
Don Guy



Open

1st Place - Peter Hoare



2nd Place - Don Guy

Meetings Calendar 2022

11th January	Gary Rance (demonstration)
8th February	to be confirmed
8th March	to be confirmed
12th April	Club AGM
10th May	Robert Till (demonstration)
14th June	Club Night
12th July	Terry Smart?
9th August	Mike Fitz (demonstration)
13th Sept	Club Night (includes demo by Graham Lester)
11th Oct	Carlyn Lindsey
8th Nov	to be confirmed
13th Dec	Christmas Social

Raffle

Steve Beadle (Raffle Co-ordinator) is always looking for the usual helpers and newbies to help buy the goodies for the raffle. Please contact him if you can help.

Club Leaflets

New leaflets promoting the club are now available. If you would like a supply before then please contact Adam and he will post some to you.

News from the Treasurer, Adam Blackie

FROGMORE Christmas Fair was a great success raising nearly £150 for club funds, generating several membership enquiries and was a lot of fun. Thank you to all who contributed items for sale and to those who visited on the day.



JOHN SHARP's WORKSHOP CLEARANCE is ongoing. I am helping his widow to clear his very well maintained tools and Carole has agreed to donate half of the proceeds to club funds. It's in the form of a blind auction and the closing date is 31st December - you have a few days to place your bids if you have not yet done so. Many items are not yet sold so don't miss the opportunity to add to your own tool collection. (You'll never know you need a tool, until you need it.) The description and pictures of the items can be found online here - [John Sharp Workshop sale](#)

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS are due on 1st January. Prices have been frozen again this year. I sent a renewal email to all members just before Christmas, if you did not receive it please let me know and I'll resend it. Otherwise prompt payment will save me a lot of admin.

Training Sessions

We hope to run beginner Saturday training sessions this year – if you are interested in helping to train or be trained yourself- please contact Tim Pettigrew on chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Committee responsibilities

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

Chestnut Products

For our new members and a reminder to others perhaps I thought we would make mention of the Newsletters from Chestnut Products – especially relevant now I guess because Terry Smart gave us a demo last month.

Terry Smart runs the company and as part of the support he offers to turners, he produces a monthly newsletter.

A couple of slightly edited extracts from his recent newsletter are below but if you want to receive them direct then use the Subscribe link on the main newsletter page – see link below:

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

Pen finishes

Something that is easy to answer is about the best finish for wooden pens. This will need to be hardwearing and able to withstand a lot of handling. Pens are usually a bright finish as well, and to get the best look it's worth spending a little extra time on the finishing.

Start with a coat of Cellulose Sanding Sealer, followed by a couple of coats of Melamine Lacquer, sanding down gently between all the coats. Next use the Melamine Gloss Lacquer spray, which will give a great final lacquer coat. Allow that to dry and polish it using the Burnishing Cream. By now you should have a great finish, but if you want to go further for that 'showroom finish' apply a coat of Friction Polish, allow that to dry and use the Burnishing Cream again. Finally, use the Microcrystalline Wax to prevent constant handling, marking the finish too quickly.

Sealers on dense timbers such as African Blackwood.

Anyone who's seen one of my demos will know that I'm a great fan of sealers, and how important they are. One of their jobs is to seal the pores of the timber so that less of the next coat is needed, but with dense woods the next coat (wax, lacquer, polish etc) doesn't really have anywhere to go. But one of the other jobs the sealer does is to make sure the timber is able to give as good a base as possible for whatever comes next. So my advice is that for the best results, always use a sealer. Even if you can't see what it's doing, it's still working hard for you to make sure you get the best finish possible.

Future Chestnut Products CONKERS sessions

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

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

Woodturning sessions on-line

Although our own Zoom sessions are now suspended as we can resume meetings in Adeyfield, many individuals and organisations are continuing to offer them.

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.

-----ooOOOoo-----

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 Friday evening. They will open the meeting at 7:15pm to allow everyone time to get connected before the meeting.

-----ooOOOoo-----

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.

-----oooOOOooo-----

AWGB

Revolutions by email

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

If you received the email and wish to continue, you don't need to do anything but if you wish to receive just the paper copy or the email copy, contact our data manager to inform him of your preferences.

They have no intention of phasing out the printed edition of Revolutions - just giving members the ability to choose.

-----oooOOOooo-----

Poetry Corner

CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

In this season of singing and dancing
Think of the reindeer busily prancing
Think of Santa with that heavy sack
Think of pub landlords, shall we be back?
Think about policemen patrolling the streets
Think of drummers missing the beats
What about nurses rushing to work
And hard pressed doctors, no duty to shirk
Praise all who serve us in all walks of life
Keeping us safe from the threatening strife
Bear in mind bus drivers who need to drive
Praise all our clerics who help us survive
Even the plumbers who come to our house
Or early posties and milkies who never give grouse
Without these folk we would be so much worse off
So count our blessings, to them our hats doff
Enjoy the festivities, but keep within reason
Share with all, those not mentioned this season
But they are included they need not doubt
These sincere great thanks with these words I spout

Martin Sexton 23/12/2021

Puzzle Corner

Xmas Quiz

1. Which country started the tradition of putting up a Christmas tree?
2. How many ghosts show up in *A Christmas Carol*?
3. Which of the following is not a hardwood – Yew, Apple, Walnut, Balsa
4. What is the difference between Japanese hand saws and UK/USA ones?
5. How many gifts were given in total in 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' song?
6. Which sandpaper grit is the least coarse – 240 or 120?
7. In which Christmas movie does Tom Hanks play 6 of the characters?
8. In which country is it tradition to eat KFC for Christmas dinner?
9. In the movie *Love Actually*, which character sang 'Christmas Is All Around'?
10. The wood of which tree was the most popular choice for water pipes until the 1700s, as unlike other woods it does not decay when kept permanently wet?
11. What is traditionally hidden inside a Christmas pudding?
12. Which city has been donating Trafalgar Square's Christmas tree to London every year since 1947?
13. If you're born on Christmas day, what's your star sign?
14. What is the best-selling Christmas single of all time?
15. What time is the Queen's speech traditionally broadcast on Christmas Day?
16. What colour are mistletoe berries?
17. In *Home Alone 2*, who does Kevin run into in the hotel lobby?
18. What colour suit did Santa wear until Coca Cola rebranded him in red?
19. What decoration do elves traditionally have on their shoes?
20. *Miracle On 34th Street* centres on what real-life department store?
21. Which Christmassy song plays at the end of the 1988 film *Die Hard*?
22. What is the opening line to Shakin' Stevens' 'Merry Christmas Everyone'?
23. When do the 12 days of Christmas start?
24. What fruit is traditionally put inside a Christmas stocking?
25. According to tradition, when should you have your Christmas decorations down by?
26. Traditionally, when should you start making a Christmas pudding?
27. Who was killed off in the 2012 *Downton Abbey* Christmas special cliffhanger?
28. The bark of which tree is also known as "nature's aspirin"?
29. Which U.S. state was the first to declare Christmas Day an official holiday?
30. What is the only country named after a tree?
31. What's type of tree is most commonly used for Christmas trees?
32. In the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas' what was the gift given on the seventh day?
33. In the 2008 *Gavin & Stacey* Christmas special what gifts does Nessa give to everyone?
34. Stollen is a traditional fruit cake in which country?
35. How many reindeer drive Santa's sleigh (including Rudolph)?
36. Often used to make walking or riding sticks, what is the more common name for the sloe tree?

Answers at the end of this newsletter

Wordsearch

Courtesy of Midlands Woodturners

L	A	B	U	R	N	U	M	U	I	V	E	O	A	K
R	L	A	P	O	P	M	O	A	H	D	N	H	S	A
E	D	L	M	W	V	C	K	B	H	V	N	H	V	O
D	O	S	I	E	R	H	J	U	Y	O	Y	C	E	T
W	O	A	N	B	E	E	C	H	H	C	G	R	E	E
O	W	A	D	I	R	B	O	P	T	H	F	A	E	A
O	L	C	I	R	E	S	T	W	E	Y	N	L	N	K
D	A	A	F	C	E	U	P	L	Y	W	O	O	D	Y
X	D	C	I	H	N	S	Y	C	A	M	O	R	E	X
L	N	I	N	T	E	R	R	W	A	L	N	U	T	M
I	A	A	S	L	V	A	R	I	B	N	Y	L	P	A
L	S	E	A	S	O	L	E	L	M	I	A	T	G	P
A	H	W	T	H	I	P	H	L	O	N	C	R	H	L
C	E	D	A	R	A	O	C	O	M	E	C	L	O	E
O	G	N	A	M	R	P	R	W	I	L	P	I	N	E

LILAC	MANGO
LABURNUM	YEW
CEDAR	ACACIA
OAK	CHERRY
ASH	MINDI
MAHOGANY	TEAK
PINE	BIRCH
BALSA	PLYWOOD
WILLOW	VENEER
WALNUT	CHESTNUT
BEECH	SANDALWOOD
SYCAMORE	POPLAR
REDWOOD	LARCH
ELM	MAPLE

Answers to Xmas Quiz

1. Germany
2. Four: former business partner Jacob Marley, and the spirits of Christmas Past, Present and Future.
3. Yew
4. Japanese saws cut on the pull stroke
5. 364
6. 1994
7. *The Polar Express*. He plays Hero Boy, Father, Conductor, Hobo, Scrooge and Santa Claus.
8. Japan
9. Billy Mack, played by Bill Nighy
10. Elm
11. A coin
12. Oslo, Norway
13. Capricorn
14. Bing Crosby - 'White Christmas', according to the Guinness Book of World Records.
15. 3pm
16. White
17. Donald Trump
18. Green
19. Bells
20. Macy's
21. Sammy Cahn and Jule Styne - 'Let It Snow! Let It Snow! Let It Snow!'
22. "Snow is falling, all around me"
23. Christmas Day
24. Orange or tangerine
25. January 5th
26. On a Sunday, five weeks before Christmas
27. Matthew Crawley [Dan Steves]
28. Willow Tree
29. Oklahoma
30. Brazil Tree
31. Nordmann Fir
32. Seven swans a-swimming
33. One chocolate each from a box of Celebrations
34. Germany
35. Nine
36. The Blackthorn