

WOODBITS NEWSLETTER Issue 189 February 2022 Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello!

Not much from me for this issue but am happy to see that the club is continuing on the return path to normality with another good attendance at the 8th February meeting with an excellent demo from Ben Dick. With the total removal of Covid restrictions now in sight we are looking forward to extending club activities with the resumption of Saturday hands on training sessions and the introduction of some new social activities. This has been pioneered by our treasurer Adam Blackie who has organised a local brewery visit in Hemel Hempstead in May. More details to follow.

I'm writing this on the evening before flying to Lanzarote for a short winter break in in search of some Winter sunshine. When on holiday in a new place I'm always on the lookout for some small suitable pieces of wood from local trees which I can bring home, put on the lathe and turn into a memento of the holiday. Not sure what the options will be in Lanzarote but we shall see!

That's all from me for now but hope to see you at our next Club meeting on the 8th March.

Tim

Tim Tim Pettigrew Chairman

Tim's contact details: <u>chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk</u> Telephone 01923 241107, Mobile 07713803894.

> Chairman: Tim Pettigrew <u>chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk</u> Treasurer: Adam Blackie <u>treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk</u> Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Allen Kaye <u>secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk</u>

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Club News

March Meeting

The demonstrator at the March meeting will be our own Chris Bentley who will be focussing the session on hollow forms; covering tools, materials and techniques. Chris will bring his Hamlet Big Brother and a few Robert Sorby cranked tools. Members are invited to bring their own hollowing tools for comparison and a chance to try others out.

February Competition – A lidded box

This month, the judging was by Ben Dick. No entries in the Beginners Section

Advanced

1st Place – Peter Hoare





2nd Place – Don Guy



3rd Place – Allen Kaye

Open



2nd Place – Don Guy

1st Place – Peter Hoare





3rd Place – Grahame Lester



The Competition Table February

Meetings Calendar 2022

8th March	Chris Bentley – Hollowing Demonstration
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 the next meeting then please contact Adam and he will post some to you.

Competition Subjects 2022

Mar Piece using two or more woods Apr A hollow form May A vase June Fruit July Platter Aug Kitchen roll holder Table lamp Sep Candle stick Oct Nov tba Dec A toy

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 <u>chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk</u>

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 <u>chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk</u>

Extra Curricular

POPES YARD BREWERY Visit

Friday May 6th 2022

At the February meeting, members expressed a desire to visit our local brewery.

Pope's Yard Brewery supplied several Christmas raffle prizes, which were very well received.

Their website is here – www.popesyard.co.uk

There will be a tour through the brewery, explaining the process of brewing beer and explaining how the brew kit works, then beer tasting which would happen outside in the yard. We can use tables and chairs by the stream; and if it rains somewhere inside to sit. We will try some samples of the different beers and hear a bit about the ingredients and flavours.

How much? Only £12.00 per head.

Where and When?

1.00pm. Friday 6th May 2022. The Cutter Room Frogmore Mill Fourdrinier Way Apsley, HP3 9RY, UK

Can I buy beer on the day?

Yes. Club discount of 15% per box of 12 beers (can be mixed beers) - as much as you choose.

How do I book?

Simply email or call Adam Blackie – Club Treasurer. He will agree payment details by return. Phone: 07941270640 Email: treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

This trip has limited availability. It will be first come first served, so book early.

Transport?

Local transport can be arranged for a small cost if this is a popular option, otherwise this is an opportunity for members to get together, nominate a driver, and have a nice day out.

Meet the members

We are offering members the chance to introduce themselves and tell us their areas of woodturning interest.

I am inviting all members both established and new to send me some text about themselves together with their photo and maybe some of their interests, ambitions and woodturning output for future newsletters. I thank those who have already sent me material and hopefully it will prompt others to send me something in the future.

Allen

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Peter Hoare

Peter is a member of the committee.

My interest in wood began in the 1980s with hand carving, but at some point (I don't remember when), I had the idea of turning and then "improving it" by carving something on it. However, I ended up just turning. I admit I still carve occasionally.

I bought a lathe (Nutool NWL37), a bench grinder, some tools and a book at Alexandra Palace. The lathe and bench grinder filled all the available space I had in my 6ft x 8ft garden shed, so that's what I learned with.

One item I later invested in was a battery powered dust hood, a Clearflow G1/4 6001 (it still works), which I believe Gary Rance sold me, at another Alexandra Palace show.



In 1999 we moved to Harpenden from Hemel Hempstead. I retired in 2009 and in 2010 we went to a local event: Art on the Common. It was there we met an exhibitor selling



turned items. We didn't need any turned items, of course, but had a chat with the exhibitor (who is still a club member). He told us about the "local" woodturners club that held monthly meetings in Hemel Hempstead (about half a mile from where I used to live)!

I joined at the end of 2010 and at the 2011 AGM became Treasurer. I thought it would be an excellent way to get to know people and get involved in the club. I was right in both cases. Adam Blackie took over as Treasurer in 2021, but I remain a keen Committee

Member.

I try to sell some of my turned items and have been lucky enough to attend craft fairs with the club. It's a great way to meet wood lovers of all sorts and there is an opportunity, sometimes, to introduce another turner or prospective turner to the club.

I bought a new lathe in 2010, a Record CL1 (4 speed belt drive) with about 6 inches over the bars. I make a wide range of items, but do like smaller items. I also try to enter something in the monthly club competition as well as the "open" category, if I can.



Steve Hart - a Hobbyists View

Both the processes, making and creativity is what motivates us, not solely the result?

I am a novice wood turner (joining the club mid-pandemic late 2021) and have attended a couple of meetings in Hemel where I had the pleasure of meeting some of you. What I have found interesting is the process that shapes peoples woodturning direction and creativity. My father and uncle (tool maker & master carpenter) gave me some genetic connection to making things along with my BT career. Which started in telephony and then moved into new developing areas of, data communications, IT and finally new joint venturers and products. This meant my role (& interests) changed frequently depending upon what business BT was trying to make.



This creativity continued when I left BT in 2013 to design my own oak framed house (using SketchUp) clearing the plot by taking down a large cherry tree. Rather than waste the wood I decided to make something with it, this started my woodturning career.

I bought books on milling and drying wood and went online to research and build my capability to harvest and store the wood. This process I also followed in the use of resin. Along with this I cleared my garage out, tooled it up and constantly watched YouTube to see how it should be done in both aspects, result and safely (PPE).

Unfortunately, about six months into my new career Covid kicked in and access to expertise became difficult, so I was on my own.

The above gives the background to this article describing my motivation, process and results of my learning and creativity - making "doweled" cherry bowls using resin which are shown in the images below.

I was determined to use the cherry wood which had now split and checked as well as be creative with resin. Another

interest is form, and how shapes change because of the section or cutting angle. It's also like segmented turning – but with resin.

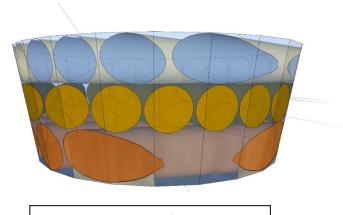
The process (in brief)

- Turn the rod/dowels.
- Spray the mould (I use plastic chocolate tins) with mould release (silicon spray) before placing the rods in.
- The rods are cut to length and shaped at their ends. I made a jig for this, using the same principle as for making a bowl blank on the bandsaw. Use sandpaper to clean off shavings and debris on the rods.



- When you have built up your layers of rods, place a piece of board directly over the top layer and tape it down leaving gaps for you to pour (otherwise the layers will float), and the air to escape. Pour slowly from one side only. The board will be used to mount the "blank".
- I use casting resin in one pour (can go to 5cms thick). The results are better using a pressure pot but it's not essential if your careful in your resin preparation and pouring technique. I used a pressure pot for my bowls. These bowls used about a litre of resin.
- Decide what colour and whether to tint or use translucent pigments with the resin but follow the mixing instructions using either weight or volume to mix. You need to cast in a temperature of >20 degrees or the resin crystalises and goes cloudy.
- Leave it for 3 days or longer to fully cure.
- Turn as normal. Be careful, if you are too aggressive the resin chips out as little sharp shards and can cut, and you may need some protection.

• I sanded to 400 grit, applied cellulose sanding filler, Yorkshire sheen and wax. You can easily get a lot higher gloss finish.



2D Sketchup Model of the dowel patterns and shape determined by the dowel layers and cut.







My own critique & comments.

They are "heavy", but I suspect that if I went thinner (say 4mm), I am not sure that the rim would hold?

As the pictures show I have experimented with the wall shape, resin colours & pigments. I also intend to try different resin and wood, as well different rod shapes. In this respect I have built a SketchUp model of the mould and layers to explore different section cuts and rim shapes.(see above)

Finally, each bowl took about a litre of resin (£14), so I am exploring ways to reduce the amount used.

Keep creating and good health.

Allen Kaye

I am the current secretary and newsletter editor.

I have always enjoyed working with wood but my retirement and some compensation money (awarded following being knocked off my bicycle) prompted me to set up a 'workshop' in my garage about 10 years ago. I have a Record DVR lathe and that works for me – having used belts to change speed at a community workshop, I really appreciate the variable speed controls.

Over time practically all of my relations and neighbours have had a woodturned present and I wonder if the world is heading to 'peak bowl' so I like now to mix pure woodturning with other techniques and normal carpentry. After conversations with

Don Guy I am currently working with pewter inlays. I have also embedded led lighting into bowls and controlled them with Bluetooth and an Arduino – interesting but useless I guess.

Each year I produce items for sale at the local church fairs. This year we held a real one again instead of the virtual ones and it was interesting to see what people went for. Generally anything that was made from local wood flew off the table and I could have made many more pens, xmas trees, penguins and ball/cup toys. I generally make functional items but hope to someday build the confidence to make the scary leap into art. I also work in fused glass and use a CNC router to decorate woodturned items.

Outings to woodworking shows were always enjoyed with others – the ones at Ally Pally were really good days out and I have hopes that the Harrogate show will be safe enough to visit this year.



Items for sale at the last Xmas fair



Demonstration by Ben Dick 8th February.

Review by Tony Taylor

Photos by Don Guy

Ben presented a complete explanation of how to make a segmented bangle made up of 90 pieces of 16 different woods and acrylic segments. The starting materials were strips cut on the table saw to 16 x 7 mm. These then had to be cut to exactly calculated length and angles, according to the number of segments per ring and the diameter of the ring. The diameter required is best taken from an existing bangle. The circumference will be Pi x diameter (Pi being about 3.14) and so the length of each segment will be this value divided by the number of segments. The cutting angle is given by dividing 360 degrees by twice the number of segments.



The angles must be cut very precisely – the smallest error is multiplied by the number of segments to result in an

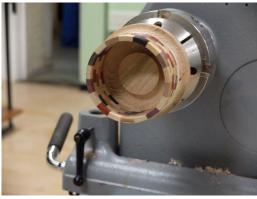


unacceptable misfit when gluing up. The best approach is to make a cutting sledge (see image on left) which slides on the table saw (Ben is willing to supply details or various designs are available on-line). The saw blade must be sharp and ideally of thin kerf. Initially, trial runs must be made, adjusting the angle until the pieces form a perfect circle.

Gluing is best done on a flat plastic board using either Superglue for the Acrylic segments or Titebond original for the wood. Segments are joined three at a time and

then these assembled into a ring, which is secured by a rubber band and then clamped between two plastic tiles till the glue is set – preferably overnight. The rings must then be sanded flat and this was achieved using a home-made sanding disc on the lathe. The ring was held in a jig and moved to ensure an even action.

The sanded rings were then glued together using Titebond, with the first glued to a waste block turned on the lathe. Rings with Acrylic segments should not be mounted on the outside. Once all the rings are assembled they are



clamped and left overnight. The bangle was then turned to its final size using a gouge on the outside and a scraper on the inside. The edge was rounded with sandpaper.

Extra decorative effect was achieved by embedding two circles of copper wire. Grooves were cut 1 mm wide and the wire stretched

carefully around and glued in place with Superglue. Terminal blocks were clamped on the wire ends to make it easy to grip. The ends were carefully trimmed to meet neatly next to a segment join. With the glue hardened the bangle was sanded and parted off. Finally, with the bangle on a jam chuck the other edge was sanded round. It then only remained to finish with sprayed lacquer.



Ben provided a great deal of detail based on his practical experience in a very well-prepared demonstration, which was greatly appreciated by all the club members.

Chestnut Products

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

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

Future Chestnut Products CONKERS sessions

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

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

Also – in case you are not already aware Chestnut Products are arranging and promoting another weekend event this July



Weekender 2022 Shareable Content - Chestnut Products - First for Finishes

Woodturning sessions on-line

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.

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.

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Woodturning Course – Gary Rance

5 x 3 hour sessions over 5 weeks

Dates: 7, 14 & 21 March; 4 & 11 April

Location:The Farrowing Workshop, Road Farm Countryways,
Great Missenden, Bucks, HP16 9LSTiming:Monday nights 6.45pm for 7pm start – 10pmCost:£

During this course you will learn from highly experienced professional woodturner. He will give an introduction to the skills of woodturning over five, 3 hour, Monday night sessions.

The course will cover:

- Spindle turning
- Bowls
- Boxes
- Pens
- Goblets.

All equipment, materials and safety equipment is provided.



Limited to 4 attendees per course so please book soon to avoid disappointment.

To find out more or to book your place, please contact us on

Email: chalkdell.roadfarm@gmail.com

Woods

I have always found some difficulty in wood identification and for my own information as well as for the Quiz offered at the Xmas Club night, I put together a list of fairly common woods used in turning with brief descriptions. Over the months to come, I will reproduce these descriptions ordered alphabetically. This Month is the letter B. It is the case however that photos of one given type of wood can vary according to the age of the tree

Some of the information is taken from https://www.wood-database.com/ Other from elsewhere on the net Allen

Basswood (lime)

Pale white to light brown colour, with sapwood and heartwood sections not clearly defined. Growth rings tend to be subtle, and colour is mostly uniform throughout the face grain of the wood. Knots and other defects are uncommon.

Grain is straight, with a fine, even texture and moderate natural luster. Basswood is rated as being non-durable in regard to heartwood decay.

Easy to work, being very soft and light. Perhaps one of the most suitable wood species for hand carving. Basswood also glues and finishes well, but has poor steam bending and nail holding characteristics. No characteristic odour.



Note – although the two names are used interchangeably, there are slight differences between Basswood and Lime.

Birds Eye Maple

Not a distinct species of maple; considered a growth/grain anomaly. Although rare exceptions exist, birdseye maple is almost exclusively harvested from hard maple (Acer saccharum). Called birdseye maple (sometimes written out as bird's eye) because the tiny knots in the grain resemble small bird's eyes. The figure is reportedly caused by unfavorable growing conditions for the tree. The tree attempts to start numerous new buds to get more sunlight, but with poor growing conditions the new shoots are aborted, and afterward a number of tiny knots remain.

Birdseye maple is frequently sold in veneer form, but solid lumber is available as well. Being tiny knots, the birdseye figure most noticeable and pronounced on flatsawn pieces of lumber.



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Banksia

Banksia pods originate from southwestern Australia. They grow on trees from the Banksia genus. However, of the many Banksia species, typically only the pods from the Bull Banksia (Banksia grandis) are large enough and solid enough to be used for woodturning applications. These pods are commonly compared to pine cones, though Banksia trees are not conifers and aren't related to pine trees (Pinus genus)—the seed pod itself is considered the fruit of the tree.



In woodworking applications, banksia pods range in size from 4" to over 12" long, with a diameter ranging from 2.5" to 5" wide. Just under the

exterior of the pod, there is an area of reddish brown fuzz-like material. Further toward the centre is the denser, wood-like core. The seed cavities can reach well over halfway into the pod, giving turned projects a very unique appearance and texture. Some woodturners fill these voids with resin or other coloured inlay materials, while others choose to showcase the openings as a prominent design feature.

Bubinga



Heartwood ranges from a pinkish red to a darker reddish brown with darker purple or black streaks. Sapwood is a pale straw colour and is clearly demarcated from the heartwood. Bubinga is very frequently seen with a variety of figure, including: pommele, flamed, waterfall, quilted, mottled, etc.

Grain is straight to interlocked. Ranges from moderately durable to very durable depending upon the the species. Bubinga is also reported to be resistant to termite and marine borer attack.

Easy to work overall, though depending upon the species Bubinga can have silica present, which can prematurely dull cutting edges. Also, on pieces with figured or interlocking grain, tearout can occur during planing or other machining operations. Gluing can occasionally be problematic due to Bubinga's high density and natural oils. Turns and finishes well.

Beech

Beech is one of the most widely used woods throughout history. Although there has always been a certain rivalry with oak, due to its similarity in properties, beech wood has survived to this day as one of the most sustainable woods for the manufacture of all types of furniture.

The colour of the solid beech wood is light and slightly pinkish. It naturally becomes more honey if exposed to sunlight.

It rots easily in contact with moisture and is sensitive to attack by insects and fungi. It is necessary therefore to apply protective treatments. Beech has no characteristic odor.



It is considered an easy wood to work with. It is also an excellent option for turning and bending, as it responds very well to bending under the action of steam. It is difficult and slow to dry but OK to apply finishes.

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 the AWGB 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. The following text is taken from their regular email update. Check their website for how to can register to get yours directly.

Travelling exhibition Competition.

Due to the cancellation of the Newark show in March, meaning they won't have a show to exhibit the competition pieces until later in the year, they have extended the competition closing date until the end of February. That means you have more time to enter! More details on how to enter and the prizes on offer are on the website competition page.

Turners Company Bursary Awards

The Worshipful Company of Turners are once again offering bursaries to help talented turners to develop their skills. More details are on the <u>Turners Company website</u>.

Still Talking Turning

Zoom sessions are still happening once per week on Friday evenings. Topics include a variety of subjects each session (some of them are even related to turning!) and include opportunities to show what you have been working on, ask questions. Details are <u>on our website</u>, the sessions are free and open to all. You just need an internet connection and suitable device to use Zoom.

More Volunteers needed

They still have vacancies for more helpers so if you have a little time to spare and would like to contribute to the running of the AWGB, help out with shows, training, the seminar etc. Please contact the <u>AWGB secretary</u> who will answer any questions.

2022 AGM

Once again they plan to visit Burnley for the AGM on the 20th of March The meeting will take place at 1pm at St Cuthbert's Community Hall, Sharp Street, Burnley BB10 1SL. There will also be a members / club meeting at 11am. Members of both associated and affiliated clubs are welcome to attend the club meeting. If you are planning to attend, please inform the <u>AWGB secretary</u> so sufficient lunches are ordered.

2022 Seminar

They will shortly be launching the 2022 Seminar which will be held at Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire on the 7-9th October 2022. Look out for the news coming soon and start working on those pieces for the instant gallery!

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For Sale and Wanted

Carving Tools for Sale in Watford

Details of these carving tools have already been circulated directly to members. There is an Excel file listing each tool – if you want to see that then let me know or contact Peter below. Allen

A comprehensive set of 79 wood carving tools in excellent condition.

The set was compiled to support participation in an adult education wood carving course run under the aegis of West Herts College at Stanborough Secondary School, Watford from 2002 to 2006.

Almost all the tools are from Pfeil, the Swiss specialist manufacturer, and were supplied new by Tilgear their UK agent at that time. Two are by the British tool manufacturer Henry Taylor and there are two fishtail gouges from Stubai of Austria. The set contains rare and difficult to find items and only about 25% are currently available from stock in the UK.

Please note that the tools are offered as a complete set only and are not for sale individually.

Total cost new in excess of £2,000. Now offered for sale at £800

Contact Peter Branch (Mobile: 07770 380 139 Email: peter.branch1@btinternet.com)

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Wood Lathe

Alan Lewis was contacted by a non-member with details of a lathe available. See below:

I have a wood lathe that I am looking for a good home for and I wonder if any of your members are interested. It was owned by my partners father who passed away a few years ago. I put it on a bench with the intention of trying it but have not got round to it. Rather than trying to sell it on eBay etc I would rather it went to somewhere it would be used. Please see attached photos. I live in Heath and Reach near Leighton Buzzard. If you are interested in the bench it is on it would need a van to transport it.

Graham Richmond

Graham sent the photos below: If you are interested please contact Graham directly – his email is <u>stillgottheblues@live.co.uk</u>







Poetry Corner

Revival of a Village and Woodturners tradition The return of the face to face meet!

From Covids grip to opened transition Twenty men and true Came out of the blue We met in the pub After eighteen month's stub Enjoyed the bonhomie Ignored the economy Downed the wine Revived the spine Such happy chatter Of much varied matter Resumed prattle's noise To boost up the boys From enforced isolation Whatever our station So good for the phsyque Bad outcome unlikely Same must be found In Woodturners round Of equal import In their minds good report martin sexton February 2022

Puzzle Corner

Wordsearch

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BUBINGA BEECH ZEBRAWOOD PEAR YEW SAPELE WENGE MAHOGANY PINE POPLAR PADAUK APPLE ASH MAPLE LIME HORBBEAM OAK CHERRY DEAL ELM HORSECHESTNUT EBONY

Welcome Club News Meet the members Woods AWGB Woodturning on-line For Sale Poetry Corner Puzzle Corner