



# WOODBITS

## NEWSLETTER

Issue 194

July 2022

Welcome

### SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello!

Greetings from North Carolina, USA.

As an enthusiastic advocate of turning locally sourced green wood, I think I am surely in paradise at my stepson's family house (pictured) here in Chapel Hill which, like most of the local houses, is built amongst mature woodland. So surrounding the house we have Maples, Acers, Tulip Trees, Oaks, Loblolly Pines, American Ash and Hickory. All good for turning and with constant tree management, there is lots of free wood available!

A few metres away following a woodland trail; (a USA public footpath), there are mature Elms (now sadly so scarce in the UK) and Black Walnut trees developing large edible nuts (pictured). The timber is very similar to UK walnut and equally as prized by woodturners on both sides of the pond. Wish I could bring some when I fly back to the UK in a few days time!

#### **Cancellation Woes.**

Your committee had to work very hard to plan the July club meeting as Terry Smart from Chestnut Finishes who was the scheduled demonstrator, succumbed to COVID a few days before and very reluctantly had to cancel. Mike Fitz kindly agreed to take his place but then the extreme weather caused him to succumb as well, suffering from heat exhaustion. Undeterred your intrepid committee came up with several home-grown ad-hoc demonstrations featuring green wood turning. We hope both Terry and Mike are now fit and well again.

#### **Green Horse Chestnut Turning.**

Talking about turning green wood at the last meeting, I gather that this coincided with the availability of blanks made from newly felled Horse Chestnut on the Club Sales Table. I would encourage all of our beginners to try turning this as it is a lovely wood to turn green and unlike many other timbers, a roughed out Horse Chestnut bowl will dry with very little degrade (just minor distortion) in a couple of months and will then be ready for remounting on the lathe, truing to a final shape, and finishing.

I am back in the UK on the 15th July and hopefully fully recovered from jet lag in time to see everyone at our August meeting. Until then, happy turning!

The photos below are of the house surrounded by a variety of mature trees and a Black Walnut tree with developing Walnuts.

Tim Pettigrew  
Chairman

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# Club News

## July Competition

This month, the judging was by member vote.

### Beginners



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Tony Buttle

2nd Place – Phil Walters



Advanced



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Peter Hoare



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Alan Lewis

3<sup>d</sup>= Place – Tony Taylor (immediately below ) and Allen Kaye (bottom)



Open

1<sup>st</sup> Place – Peter Hoare



2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Grahame Tomkins

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Tony Taylor (thin walled vase)  
and Adam Blackie (mallet)



## Meetings Calendar 2022

9th August	Les Thorne
13th Sept	Club Night (includes demo by Graham Lester)
11th Oct	Carlyn Lindsey
8th Nov	Jon Bailey Pole Turning Demonstration
13th Dec	Christmas Social

## Club Sweatshirts and Polo shirts

These are available from Mike Sheaf. They are blue and inscribed with the club logo. You can also add your name embroidered at no extra cost.

Sweatshirt. £19.00

Polo Shirt. £16.00.

Polo Shirt Long sleeves. £17.00.

Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

Forms for ordering are available from Mike Sheaf or the secretary. All forms to be returned to Mike.

Profits go to the Rennie Hospice

For more details or to order see Mike at one of our meetings or email him at:

[michael.sheaf@gmail.com](mailto:michael.sheaf@gmail.com)

## Raffle

I am always looking for the usual helpers and newbies to help buy the goodies for the raffle. Please contact me if you can help.

At the moment only May is covered and I need volunteers for the rest of the year. As a volunteer you would be responsible for choosing and buying a selection of up to 6 prizes up to a total of £60 and then bringing them along to the meeting where I will recompense you for the money spent.

If you commit to a particular night but need to swap it contact me so that cover can be maintained

Full receipts are required for each spend made

If you need to discuss any of this information with me, feel free to do so

**Steve Beadle**

**Herts and Beds Raffle Coordinator**

**Tel 07720 677456**

**Email ~ Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk**

## Competition Subjects 2022

Month	Beginners	Advanced
Aug	Bowl	Kitchen roll holder
Sep	Apple	Table lamp
Oct	Bottle stopper	Candle stick
Nov	Tool handle	tba
Dec	Christmas tree	A toy

## Project Table

Any and all items are welcomed for the project table. These will not be judged and might include unfinished items as well as ones that 'did not quite work out as planned'

## Axminster Discount

Axminster are still offering a 5% discount for club members. There are some limitations on machinery so check first and this only works for in-store purchases. Take your AWGB and Club membership cards to get the discount.

## Video Loan

The video box was out on the sales table in July and two videos loaned by members.

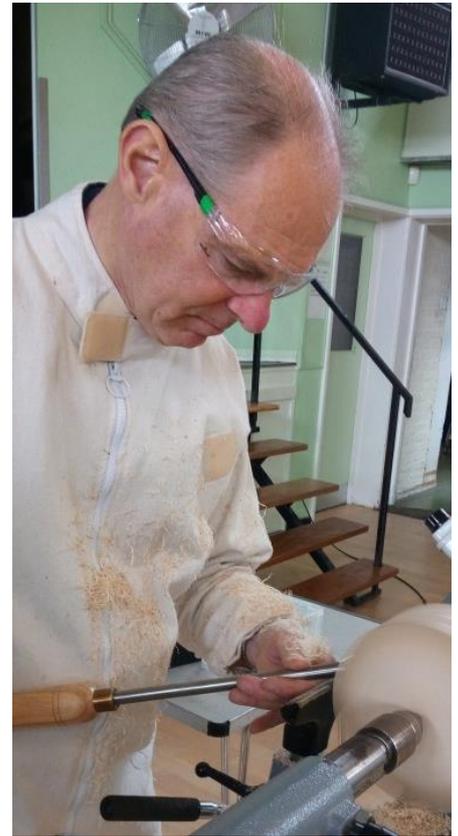
They will be available by the sales table during all meetings in the future – no charge to borrow with an expectation that they will be returned by the following meeting.

Allen.

# Adeyfield All day training session update – Adam Blackie

On the 9th of June, five trainees and five trainers, all members of our club, congregated at Adeyfield. We started officially at 9:00 AM, but after the preliminaries and registration we really started cutting at around 10.00am.

We managed to set-up for a full days training and managed five lathes and a sharpening station. The plan was for seven trainees and this would have been manageable, but unfortunately two dropped out at the last minute (Covid related!!). This of course meant that we were able to manage one to one sessions for all trainees throughout the day.



Most of our trainees were outright beginners, some of whom had never turned before, so the first part of the morning was generally spent familiarising trainees with their lathes, the tools and with a little Health and Safety thrown in for good measure. Three of them focused on bowl turning whilst the other two worked on spindle turning between centres. We broke for lunch at midday and offered to swap trainers

around for some variety, but all chose to stick with their initial trainer. What better compliment could there be for the five trainers who were Harvey Alison, Chris Bentley, Peter Hoare, Allen Kaye and Alan Lewis. A big thank you goes to them for giving up their Saturday to help out. And a big shout for Tim Pettigrew too – He organised the whole event.





The afternoon was then spent producing something to take home. A couple of bowls, Christmas trees and candlesticks were produced

We made a lot of mess and broke ranks at around 3.30pm to clear the hall for a wedding party who were booked in at 4.00pm. We just made it in time and I thought the hall looked almost good as new when we were finished.

It was a long and very enjoyable day for all involved and great value for money at only £10 per trainee. The pictures speak volumes....



# Report on July Club Meeting – Allen Kaye

As mentioned by Tim, both Terry Smart and Mike Fitz were unable to demonstrate at the July meeting due to illness however we were fortunate that Harvey Alison and Grahame Tomkins offered to step in with about a day's notice.

Harvey turned a greenwood chestnut blank and explained very clearly and fully, as he was turning, the issues around working with greenwood. Conveniently, Harvey and a friend had spent some days recently in preparing some greenwood blanks and brought a selection in for sale so that members could experiment themselves.

After tea, Grahame brought a number of jigs and devices that he has come to use on over the years to make some of the routine tasks we face simpler and more reliably accomplished.

## Greenwood Turning – Harvey

Harvey began by explaining how the greenwood blanks were cut. As the wood was heavy and chainsaws can be dangerous if not treated with respect the first things to consider were health and safety related. Steel toed boots are essential as are special chainsaw safe clothing as well as the usual facemask and ear protectors.



Faceplate

Greenwood blanks are quite heavy due to the volume of water they contain so a very strong mounting on the lathe is essential – in this case a faceplate



A suitable sized tenon is turned first. Normally we would recommend a diameter just a little larger than the diameter of the chuck for best grip but in this case we need to be larger again as we expect that after drying, the distortion of the bowl will be reflected in the tenon as well and so the tenon will also need truing up to a circle before it can be remounted, The centre of the tenon is marked for later

A single bowl gouge can be used for all of the turning but others can also be employed.

Once the tenon is formed, the bowl is separated from the faceplate and remounted using the tenon. The centre of the bowl is then hollowed out leaving a substantial rim maybe 10% of the bowl diameter.



Once the moisture level has dropped sufficiently the bowl can be remounted – probably with a Longworth chuck or similar and the tailstock brought up on the centre mark you left earlier. The bowl can then be finished in the normal way

### Further Notes

Greenwood can be kiln dried commercially, air dried or used green

A rule-of-thumb for air-drying is to allow one year of drying time per inch of wood thickness.

Drying time for green wood can be speeded up by the following process:

- Always rough turn a bowl blank leaving a significant wall thickness unless you want the distortion as an artistic item but don't expect it to be able to be re-turned if it warps too much.
- If you are trained to listen out for the sound of **chainsaws** then this can be a very cheap way of finding wood for turning. Some tree surgeons often see wood as waste and happy for you to carry it away.
- Turning is **easier** than turning dried wood and can be an excellent way to practice techniques and shapes.
- The high moisture content of unseasoned wood will cause finished pieces to **warp** as they dry.
- **Splitting** is also likely if green wood is dried too quickly.
- If green wood is to be stored for a period of time, the end grain can be **sealed** with molten paraffin wax, Endseal or a paraffin wax emulsion. End grain loses moisture more readily than side grain and without intervention will cause cracks
- When turning greenwood, the lathe, the tools and the turner can get quite **wet** and all will need wiping down at the end.
- In the UK, air-dried timber is unlikely to have **moisture content** lower than about 15% and it is likely to be somewhat higher than this.
- If the item is intended to be used indoors it may be worth bringing it into the house for a few weeks to acclimatise it to the house environment before turning it - you will have a far more **stable** finished piece
- There may well be remaining **fungal** spores in air dried and particularly **spalted** wood that have not been killed off so be extra careful about inhaling dust

## Workshop Tips and Hints - Grahame Tomkins

Grahame ran through a few tips on what he uses in his workshop to help club members in the future,

From the pictures item 1 shows some carpet underlay handy for holding an item on the bench stopping it from sliding.

Item 2 a home-made depth gauge.

Item 3 a litter picker handy for picking up items from those awkward places.

Item 4 a drill gauge, some thing I use regularly to make sure the holes I drill are accurate.

Item 5 is the Hope sanding aid I use it all the time.

Item 6 are different reverse chucking aids depending on the size of your bowls.

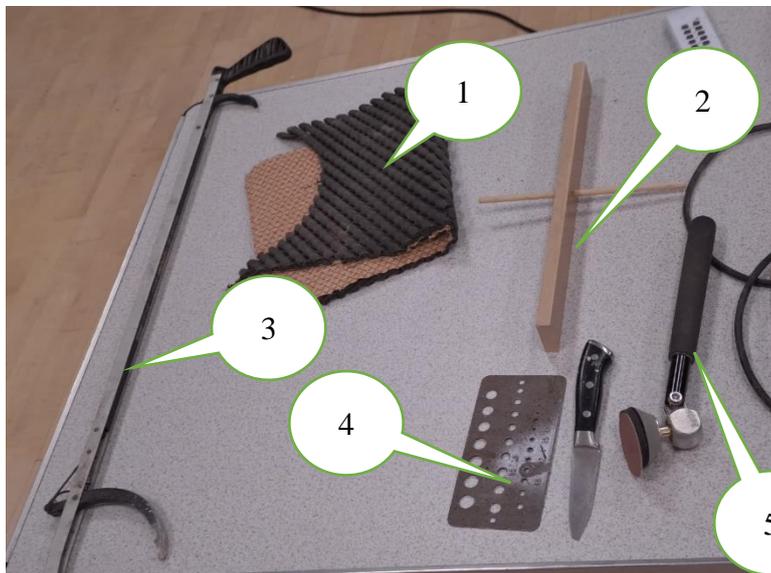
Item 7 is a Proxon hand grinder something I use for removing the stub left on the back of finished turnings. Can be used in a texturing capacity.

Item 8 sand paper holder with magnetized base.

Item 9 a magnetic tray very useful to keep items secure on the lathe.

Item 10 an electric pencil sharpener, somewhat of a luxury but heyho why not!

Hope you enjoyed it and maybe adopt at least one of the ideas.



# TOOL LENDING LIBRARY - UPDATE from Adam Blackie

## A NEW ITEM this month.

Thanks to **Malcolm Wickens** for a generous donation of the Hamlet Brother System 2 Deep Hollowing system. It's a monster tool, 26 inch handle and an extension almost as long, virtually limitless depth potential with this. – details can be seen here - <https://www.toolsandtimber.co.uk/hamlet-big-brother-system-2>



## Lending Library Status and Rules

This is intended as a lending library of the more esoteric or expensive tools that turners use infrequently. The value to the club is that members can try before they buy or borrow a tool for a specific job.

### How does this work?

To borrow a tool, simply contact Adam Blackie who will confirm availability and then arrange for the item to be available for collection.

Items will be available for collection at the next club meeting, (or in person by arrangement.)

### How long can I keep the tools for?

This depends on the project, but generally we expect the tools to be returned in usable condition at the next available club meeting.

Longer term loans by negotiation.

### How much will it cost?

It's normally free of charge, however:

If you break it or

If the tool uses consumable items (inc. sanding pads, grinding belts, stains and polishes) we would expect some contribution towards the replacement.

### What else do I need to know?

Once the loan is completed we ask that you share a little about your experience of the tools with the club. E.g. Show and tell what you made or an article for the monthly newsletter.

Tool Library Contact - Adam Blackie 07941 270640  
treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Library Items available	Cost	*Contribution towards costs
Robert Sorby ProEdge Plus (Deluxe System Pro Edge With MEGA BELT PACK)	499	Yes please
Tony Taylor Hollowing Jig	95	No
Hamlet Big Brother system 2 Hollowing system	145	No
Other items requested but not yet available		
WoodArt products 35K Micro-drill detailer kit	210	No
Thread chasing toolset	75	No
Simon Hope Thread Cutting Jig	237	No
Crown Captive Ring Tools x 3 Sizes	90	No
Paul Howard Fluting Jig + Indexing System	60	No

** Other Tool suggestions received	Cost
Crown spiralling & texturing tools with accessories	95
Axminster pen mandrel and accessories	85
Oneway Easy Core (bowl saver / coring system)	175
Paul Howard Sphere Jig	193
Pyrography machine	140
Airbrush + mini compressor	99

## Woods

Continuing the series on woods used in Woodturning – we are now at H for Hornbeam

### Hornbeam

Spalted Hornbeam is one of my favourite woods and apart from Oak, is the most common tree in Sherrardswood – see my bowl on the right.

Hornbeam's sapwood is very thick, with most boards and lumber being comprised entirely of sapwood. Colour is nearly white. Pale yellowish brown heartwood isn't clearly demarcated from sapwood.



Hornbeam is rated as non-durable to perishable in regards to decay, and is also susceptible to insect attack. It is considered difficult to work on account of its density and toughness. However, this same density, coupled with its fine and even grain, make an excellent turning wood. It stains, glues, and finishes well.

**PS Identify trees with a FREE Tree ID app** - Whilst researching the net for info on woods, I came across this free Tree ID app for Android and iPhone. It's an A-Z tree guide in your pocket from the Woodland Trust.

[Download the app](#)

*Allen*



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## AWGB

2022 Seminar: AWGB 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!

## Poetry Corner

**The George Cross, awarded to the four National Health Services of the UK.**

Well done, well done!  
Today announced, in your honour observed  
Not before time and nobly deserved  
The George Cross award to you one and all  
You took up the fight in a bravery call  
Put aside personal fear  
For the nations survival we hold so dear  
Your number, you angels, will not be surpassed  
As covid recedes we can say at last  
Not beaten, nor down and out  
You kept upright, not out for the count  
This spheres fears of a terrible blight  
You overcame in our current plight  
Your Devotion to duty  
Continued so long  
during pandemic's threat  
So fearsomely strong  
We Thankyou, again,our gratitude meant  
Your pride can continue  
Indeed heaven sent

martin sexton July 22