



# WOODBITS

## NEWSLETTER

### Issue 193

### June 2022

### Welcome

## SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello!

### 14th JUNE CLUB NIGHT

Good to see some interesting items in all competition categories. Many thanks to Harvey Alison for so ably demonstrating the Sorby Pro-Edge system and also for his informal demo on turning fruit; one of the subjects of this month's competition.

### PROJECT TABLE

For those members new or old who do not like competitions it is worth a reminder that 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' or where some help and guidance is needed in a finishing technique.

### TOOL LENDING LIBRARY REMINDER

Under the careful but enthusiastic management of our treasurer Adam Blackie, we have started amassing equipment for our Tool Lending Library. With the aid of a donation from the family of our late secretary Colin Clarke, a Sorby Pro-Edge sharpening system has been purchased. This was put through it's paces to good effect at our Club Night on the 14th June. So this and other items of equipment in the library are available to all members either to try before they buy or to borrow for a specific job.

A list of suggested items has recently been circulated to all members. If you would like us to prioritise any of these listed items or suggest additions not on the list please talk, email or phone me, Adam or any committee member with your suggestions. All very welcome!

### SALES TABLE

Additional items for the club's sale table would be much appreciated. This can include excess turning stock, tools no longer used, books and magazines related to woodturning. You bring it we will sell it with funds going to the club to finance, for example, items for the Club's Tool Lending Library.

## ALL DAY TRAINING SESSION (2nd July)

The Sorby Pro-Edge sharpener will be used for this training session as well as all the Club lathes plus several additional lathes and equipment on loan from club members. Requested topics from the trainees include lathe basics, sharpening, bowl turning and sanding. We shall look forward to welcoming all who have registered for this event.

That's all from me.

Enjoy another great edition of Woodbits.

Tim

Tim Pettigrew  
Chairman

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# Club News

## June Competition

This month, the judging was by member vote.

### Beginners



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Phil Walters



2nd Place – Steve Godshaw



3rd Place – Derek Stephens

Advanced



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Tony Taylor



2<sup>nd</sup>= Place – Harvey Alison (left)  
and Peter Hoare (below)



3rd Place – Mike Fitz (below)



Open



1<sup>st</sup> Place – Chris Squires  
(Tea Caddy with insert)

2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Adam Blackie  
(Lidded box)



## Meetings Calendar 2022

12th July	Terry Smart from Chestnut Products
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

## 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](mailto:Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk)**

## Competition Subjects 2022

Month	Beginners	Advanced
July	Garden dibber	Platter
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

Some videos are available for members to borrow.

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

Allen.

## TOOL LENDING LIBRARY - UPDATE from Adam Blackie

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
- members can 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. eg Show and tell what you made or an article for the monthly newsletter.

### Tool Library Contact

Adam Blackie

07941 270640

[treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk)

Library Items available		
Stock Items already purchased as at June 2022	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
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

**\*Contribution is used to fund consumables for club library kit.**

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<b>** Other Tool suggestions received</b>	<b>Cost</b>
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

\*\* As at June 2022 the following have been suggested but not yet purchased.

If you would like us to prioritise any of these items for the Library please talk to a committee member.

## Art on the Common (Harpenden)

Report from Adrian Peter, Keith Harrup, Adam Blackie and Peter Hoare



The above four members took part in this year's AOTC, manning a gazebo for the Club over two days. Adrian, Keith and me on Sat and Adrian, Adam and I on Sun.

This year's event returned to its traditional month of June, after it slipped to September in 2021. You may remember (who wouldn't) that 2020's event, like everything else, was cancelled.

It was a bit "damp" (it rained) on Saturday morning, but did stay dry whilst we set up and was, thankfully, brighter in the afternoon.

Business was constant if not busy in the morning. We had chats with lots of interested members of the public and handed out Club leaflets to those who wanted to know more, along with an open invitation to "come along and see us".

Footfall was better in the afternoon, probably due to it being sunnier (sunshine always helps).

Sunday was much brighter and we had waves of "customers" throughout the day. Adam did particularly well, selling items donated by you, our Club members, making £133.90 for the Club's training fund. Thank you all and well done.



Over the two days we spoke to members of the public who just liked wood, but didn't know what woodturning was, those interested in taking up woodturning as a hobby and those who already turned, but didn't know there was a local club. We hope our efforts will result in some new faces appearing at the Club.

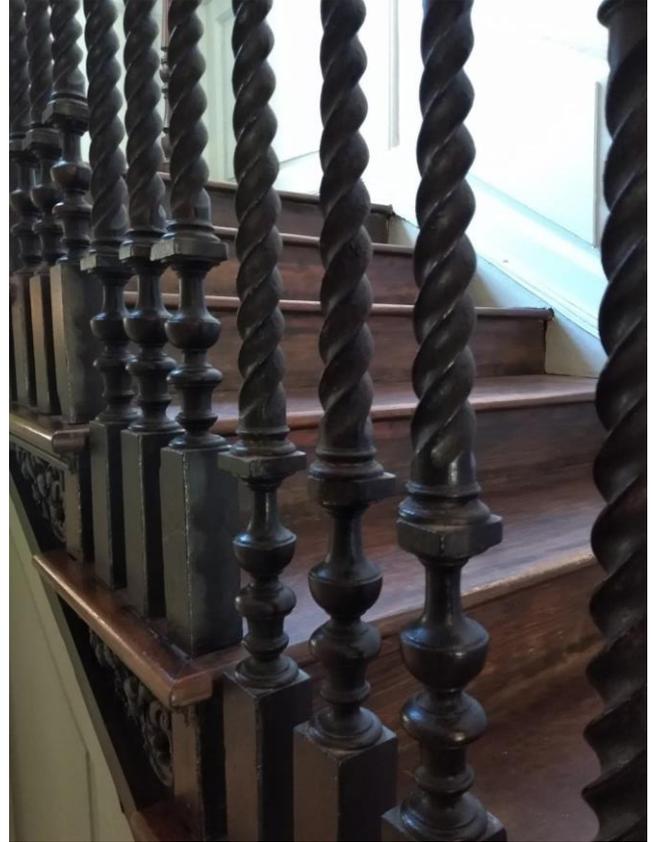
We were pleased to be able to support Cancer Research UK with a donation of £90 (15% of our sales).

Peter

## Ancient woodturning spotted in Hampstead.

I was visiting Hampstead Heath at the weekend. We decided to arrive early for Brunch at Burgh House in Hampstead. Somewhere I have been to many times but had never before noticed the staircase in the house.

Around 1720 the house was extended by Dr William Gibbons (1649 – 1728). He added panelled rooms and this extraordinary oak staircase with some very complex Balusters.



As you can see they are pretty much identical, but some of the twists are quite different diameters, so not perfect. It would be nice to know who made them. Local or imported?

I was left wondering whether I could make one or two of these as a project.

You can see these splendid turnings at Burgh House, <https://www.burghouse.org.uk>. I also recommend the place for coffee and a cake and as a bonus there is free parking in Hampstead on Sundays.

Adam Blackie – June 2022

# Projects

## Rattle - Malcolm Wickens

I have recently made some captive ring baby rattles for neighbours' newborns. The wood is sapele and the finish is food safe and toy safe oil.

The wood started as square so it was first roughed out round between centres.

The end was formed followed by the positioning of the "captive rings". Care was taken ensuring the shaft was not too small. Then the handle was roughly formed, followed by the creation of the rings.

The rings were sanded as they were shaped as once they were free to spin.....the difficulty factor goes up.



Finishing touches completed and then two coats of finishing food safe oil.

Malcolm Wickens



## Turning Apples

Harvey gave us an interesting and practical demonstration creating a turned apple.

He started with a prepared blank 70mm wide x 60mm high, with a 20mm recess at the bottom and 35mm at the top.

It is a personal choice how to mount the blank – many of the examples on the net are spindle turned with the grain running parallel to the lathe bed but it is equally OK to choose to mount the blank as in the photo.

The blank is turned round normally using a bowl gouge if cross grain is involved and then the shaping can be started.



Before the final shaping the blank is removed a special screwchuck is used to mount it as can be seen in the photo.

Although this will secure the blank, it is still a good idea to bring up the tailstock until the last minute.

Screw chuck holes filled with a clove and an ebony shard respectively.



Harvey with the finished apple and some of his other fruit.



There are a number of videos and resources on the net that offer help and guidance on turning fruit. Examples below:

The first shows how the special screwchuck is made, the second and third shows alternative forms of mounting the blank including using glue.

[Woodturning - An Apple from Pear Wood! - Bing video](#)

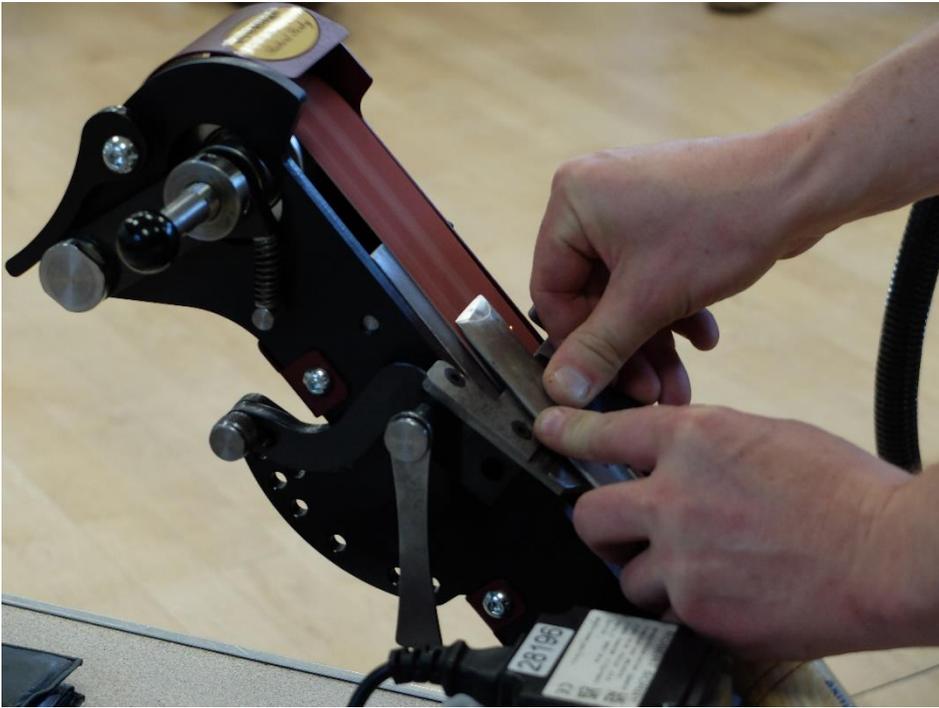
[\(84\) Wood Turning - An Apple from Irish Yew - YouTube](#)

[\(84\) Woodturning "How I Turn Apples" - YouTube](#)

[Woodturning Projects For Beginners Turning An Apple Then A Pear \(stevefreemanonline.com\)](#)

## Sharpening tools

As Tim mentioned in his shavings, the club has invested in a Sorby Pro Edge sharpening system that will be available for loan by members and Harvey also took time out this month to demonstrate how it is used and to describe the benefits.



Harvey demonstrated the sharpening of a number of different gouges. He emphasised the importance of regular sharpening in woodturning and the need for controlled, repeatable and effective method for sharpening, finishing or polishing on all your edge tools. One key advantage over the grinding wheel sharpeners is that you achieve a flat edge rather than one which adopts the curvature of the wheel.

He demonstrated and noted the ease at which one can get repeatable angles using the gauge which allows you to very quickly set up the system at a particular position.

Dust extraction ports allow effective extraction.

The belts were seen to be easily changed with a quick release and easy-to-adjust belt tracking.



# Technical Details

Motor: 1/2hp Belt Width: 2" Belt Speed 1400ft (440m) per minute to achieve the best results from your system, please familiarise yourself with all of its parts and accessories.



Various videos are available on the net including the following:

[ProEdge System \(robert-sorby.co.uk\)](http://robert-sorby.co.uk)

[Unboxing & Setting-Up the Robert Sorby ProEdge Sharpening System - Bing video](#)

[Robert Sorby ProEdge. Sharpening system. - Bing video](#)

# 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

*Join me at*  
**The Woodturning  
Week3nder 2022**  
*Full Steam Ahead*  
30 & 31 July 2022  
The Museum of the Great  
Western Railway,  
Swindon

Get Your Tickets at:  
[www.woodturningweekender.co.uk](http://www.woodturningweekender.co.uk)

The collage includes: a steam train, a green steam locomotive, a postage stamp from Laos (Postes Lao 1991, 650k), a 'TOTAL ADMIT ONE' ticket with number V1473KJ, a 'CHESTNUT PRODUCTS first for finishes' logo, and a 'UNION' train car.

[Weekender 2022 Shareable Content – Chestnut Products – First for Finishes](#)

# Woods

Continuing the series on woods used in Woodturning – we are now at F & G. (I could only find one of each)

## Fir

Turned green, it apparently sprays sap everywhere and this is the reason I have never used it. You do have to clean the tools and the lathe at the end with paint thinner or acetone and be prepared to use an old face shield.

Some people like dried fir wood from Xmas trees because they have a lot of branches which makes for an interesting piece. It does sand well.

Trees can grow to be very large, and yield a large amount of usable lumber and veneer for plywood. It is a valuable commercial timber, widely used in construction and building purposes.

Can vary in colour based upon age and location of tree.

Usually a light brown color with a hint of red and/or yellow, with darker growth rings. In quartersawn pieces, the grain is typically straight and plain. In flatsawn pieces,

Douglas-Fir heartwood is rated to be moderately durable in regard to decay, but is susceptible to insect attack. Accepts stains, glues, and finishes well.

Has a distinct, resinous odor when being worked.

Douglas-Fir has been reported to cause skin irritation, nausea, giddiness, runny nose, along with an increased likelihood of splinters getting infected.

This wood species is reported as being a species of least concern.



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## GONCALO ALVES

Heartwood is typically a medium reddish brown with irregularly spaced streaks of dark brown to black. Color tends to darken with age.

Grain can be straight, but is usually wavy or interlocked. Fine, uniform texture with good natural luster.

Goncalo Alves has excellent weathering properties, and is rated as very durable regarding decay resistance.

Goncalo Alves is generally not too difficult to work, despite its high density. Figured pieces with irregular grain can pose a challenge in planing and machining operations. Goncalo Alves can also have a moderate blunting effect on cutters. The wood is very resistant to moisture absorption, which can make it difficult to glue. Goncalo Alves turns and finishes well. No characteristic odor.



Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, Goncalo Alves has been reported as a sensitizer. Usually most common reactions simply include eye and skin irritation.

Widely available in a variety of widths and lengths as both lumber and veneer, as well as smaller craft blanks. Prices should be moderate for an imported hardwood.

This wood species is not listed in the Red List of Threatened Species.

Common Uses are for flooring, veneers, furniture, cabinetry, carving, turned objects, and other small wood specialty objects such as: pool cues, archery bows, knife handles, etc.

Goncalo Alves is also commonly referred to as “Tigerwood” or “Brazilian Tigerwood” among flooring dealers. The wood has superb stiffness, strength, hardness, and durability.

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# 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 the AWGB 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.

Check their website for how to can register to get yours directly.

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 on the website, 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 AWGB secretary who will answer any questions.

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!

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# For Sale and Wanted

Stand and Grinder from Garry Hodder.

Gary sent me some details of a stand and a grinder he has no use for. Details below – if you have an interest please email him directly.



*I have an Axminster Grinder stand which I fitted a dolly to move around the workshop. only used a few times then changed workshop so no longer needed it cost me £96.00 at the time. I am looking for a sensible offer – it just needs a clean - couple of rust spots being sat in garage.*

- Solid cast iron
- Suitable for the AC150BB, AC150BG & AC200BG bench grinders
- Three-legged base, substantial 265mm x 185mm mounting platform

*I also have a Jet (like Tormek) whetstone grinder with all the parts etc used a few times with parts jigs also inc gouges jig and axe, scissors etc etc cost over £400 offers again sensible. Mail me for pics etc*

*cheers Garry*

*I live in Wendover  
ghodder@mac.com*

-----oooOOOooo-----

## Lathe and Tools

A contact made with Tim at Frogmore contacted us about a lathe and tools that his father used that the family are now looking to sell. Photos below. In his email he said.

*' The lathe I think it was probably £1000 new and I think we're probably after £500. There are a load of bowl blanks that we can throw in to whoever buys, and there are some accessories.*

*Additionally, we have a load of cutting tools which we can either sell as a set or separately. We're probably after £200 for the lot.*

*There's also a band saw and somewhere under the house is a dust extractor... I think there is also a big chunk of elm(?) that was going to be a seat base for a Windsor chair.*

*Hopefully these will be of interest to someone in the club?*

*I live on the Manor estate in Apsley. If anyone wants to come and have a look, they're welcome. I think we're missing a chuck. Not really sure. There are a few other bits. We've kept it oiled for about 7 years and*

started it up from time to time. Dad used to use it quite a lot for a couple of years before he got to the point where he couldn't any more. He had an engineering background so he looked after it while he was alive.

Mick Sear'

If you are interested then please contact him directly [micksear@gmail.com](mailto:micksear@gmail.com)



## Poetry Corner

AFTER A STUPENDOUS TEST MATCH 14 June 2022

THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A FREE LUNCH

There is such a thing as a free lunch  
Dished up today by this England's bunch  
Trent bridge's crowd were  
Denied value for money  
They entered free which is ironically funny  
A sporting triumph for winners and losers  
A sobering thought for our nations boozers  
At the end of the day  
Cricket's testing's here to stay  
Ten days from now we anticipate  
Rejoined contest with heightened heart rate.

martin sexton 14 June 2022