



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 205

June 2023

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to June edition of Woodbits.

There is so much in this month's edition that I don't really know where to start, so I will try to keep it short.

Improved format for Club Nights

I am very happy to report that the June Club Night was a great success. Six subject tables or demonstrations were provided by various club members, with just under 50 people attending. Club nights are picking up and we will repeat the format in future. So, if you are able and willing to pass on some hard-won knowledge at future events, please let the committee know. It would be very helpful for our future planning and is also rewarding to do.

July Demonstration and Professional Training event

Darren Breeze will be with us on 13th July. He will also be delivering a training session whilst he is here – it is now fully booked, but for future Pro Training events please contact Phil Scoltock.

Basics Training events and feedback.

We received more feedback from the basic training events held at Adeyfield in May. My thanks go to those who took the time to contribute reviews. The July session is now fully booked, so keep an eye out for future events if you have missed out thus far.

Summer Fairs

The club was successfully represented at Harpenden, unfortunately for one day only (see Peter Hoare's report below). We made a small impact on the day and raised the profile of the club.

There are many Craft Fairs in Herts and Beds, and the Committee would like to know how many members attend these. So let us know if you have a craft fair planned and the club can supply flyers to enhance your stall, and you can help promote the club.

Your Committee Matters.

We have successfully filled all committee roles except for Club Secretary. Allen Kaye will stand down from the role in August but will continue composing and circulating the newsletter.

The role as Secretary is to assist the Chairman and committee to organise the meetings and to make sure the committee has a record of its decisions for future reference and action. Note that there are only four online meetings per year.

I recommend it as a good vantage point to see the full range of club activities and to get to know other members and thereby get more from your own membership. If you can help, please do volunteer. Without the support of a Secretary, I predict that the club will be much less well organised and less active.

Finally, some sad news.

We have been advised of the death of Don Guy, a regular contributor to the demonstration tables and our photographer for many years. A tribute from Tony Taylor is included in this edition.

See you all in July

Adam Blackie

Chairman

Chairman and Treasurer: Adam Blackie treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk
Club Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Allen Kaye secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

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Club News

June Competition

Beginners

1st Mel Williams



2nd Phil Walters

3rd Pete Pocock



Advanced



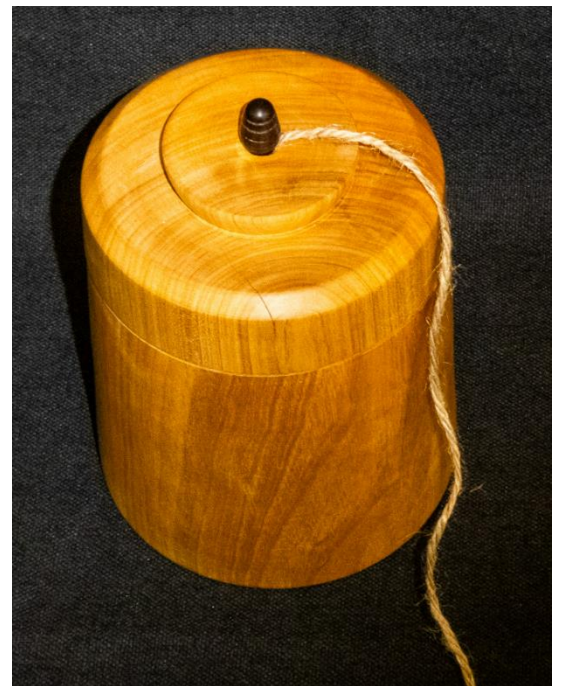
1st Tony Taylor



2nd Peter Hoare



3rd = Harvey



3rd = Adam Blackie

Open



1st = Brian Stanton



1st = Phil Walters



2nd Andrew Holwerda



3rd Tony Taylor

Meetings Calendar 2023

2023

July.	Darren Breeze
Aug.	Martin Saban Smith
Sept.	Club night
Oct.	Stewart Furini
Nov.	Phil Scoltock
Dec.	Club night

Raffle purchase Diary for 2023-24

I am the raffle coordinator for the forthcoming year. Many thanks to those people who responded to my last request and a number of months are now sorted but I have three months remaining as below:

January, February and April 2024

If you need to swap dates please contact me so that cover can be maintained. As a guide we have increased the spend on prizes to £ 60 .00 per month with a maximum number of prizes being 5 in total. There is some flexibility as it is offered as a guide. 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

Competition Subjects 2023

Month	Beginners	Advanced
Jul	Kitchen roll holder	Pepper mill
Aug	Coaster	Tankard or mug
Sept	Dice shaker	Piece using two or more woods
Oct	Apple	Pen
Nov	Plate	Natural edge bowl
Dec	Christmas tree	Puzzle or game

Remembrance of Don Guy – Tony Taylor

I got to know Don at club meetings soon after I started attending about ten years ago. He regularly entered attractive pieces in the competitions, and we quickly became friends.

Don visited me monthly for day workshop sessions, only interrupted by Covid and by his illness. He was a very modest and warm-hearted person, from whom I learned a lot about technique and the importance of taking care with details.

When I visited him, I was amazed at his involvement in restoring and riding vintage motorcycles. He had a very well -equipped mechanical workshop in addition to his woodturning setup, so this probably explained his attention to detail and precision in his turnings.

Don contributed in many ways to the club's activities, notably in helping set up the new lathe and the TV system, acting as club photographer and taking part in the craft shows.

We shall all miss the company of a warm and generous man.

Tony



Club Night Activities

Following previous club night styles, members had opportunities to collect in small groups focused on such activities such as Pen turning, sharpening, use of the skew chisel and design principles. Below is a couple of photos to give you a visual flavour of the night. If you have any ideas for future sessions then please let any member of your committee know so we can plan them in. Even better if you offer to run one!



Pete Pocock making his very first pen – watchers are myself and Paul Rowland (your new demonstrator organiser and booker)

Peter Hoare leading a session on design principles



Also for your interest – an ‘action’ shot of Grahame who each and every month has been responsible for making sure your tea, coffee and biscuits are available – many thanks to him..

Art on the Common (Harpenden) 17th and 18th June

Report from Adrian Peter, Peter Hoare and Adam Blackie

Adrian and I took part in this year's AOTC, manning a gazebo for the Club on Saturday only (more later). We were ably assisted for a time by Adam (who arrived in spectacular fashion mounted in a 1969 BSA Bantam) to get the Club's Sum Up card reader to work.

The weather was warm, although not particularly sunny, which was probably a good thing. Even more importantly it didn't rain.

Business was constant throughout the day, although probably busier in the afternoon. 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."

There's definitely a shortage of physical cash in people's pockets since Covid and we were very glad of the card reader (once we had mastered its use).

Over the day 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 should have been on the Common again on Sunday, but the weather forecast was for Thundery showers from 11.00 (just as the event would officially open for business) and getting progressively worse throughout the day. Our Gazebos is not waterproof (ditto wooden bowls, etc) and we were on a pitch beneath a large lightning conducting beech tree. We, therefore, decided not to attend.

The weather forecast was completely wrong by the way. Adrian and I both live in Harpenden and we had no rain or thunder! Very annoying.

Finally, we were pleased to be able to support Cancer Research UK with a donation of £43. Peter



POST EVENT COMMENT. -Adam Blackie

We received a comment on the club's Facebook page on Sunday.

Apparently, someone had planned to visit our stall Fair on Sunday, and was disappointed that for the reasons explained above, the club was not there.

This shows that the combination of Facebook, website and club extracurricular activities are succeeding in attracting interest in the club. My thanks go to anyone involved in these "back-office" tasks. Please keep it up.

Upcoming demonstrators – Paul Rowland

Paul Rowland has provided some information about the upcoming demonstrators.

13th July - Darren Breeze

<https://breezewoodturning.com/>

Darren is a Registered Professional Turner, tutor, demonstrator, maker, creator, recycler with a passion for what he does. He likes to create heirloom standard work at an affordable price, allowing all to share the love, passion, and dedication he puts into each piece. Find out more in the 'About' section of his website.



8th August – Martin Saban Smith

<https://www.msabansmith.com/>

Martin is a well-known professional woodturner with internationally known and respected social media channels with around 200 turning and business-oriented videos on YouTube.

He lives in the village of Four Marks in Hampshire with his family a stone's throw from his business Hampshire Sheen and The Woodturning Shop



Evaluating End Seal

This is an article produced by Tim Pettigrew for the Chestnut Newsletter.

Turning Green Wood – the problem of seasoning shrinkage

Woodworkers know well that freshly felled wood (often called green wood), contains large quantities of water. This is held in place by the impervious bark but rapid evaporation from the cut ends of the wood causes the timber to shrink. If left in the round the resulting stresses in the shrinking timber will cause it to fracture extensively (Fig. 1).

Figure 1. End view of a felled Cherry bole showing radial fracturing induced by shrinkage during drying

The fracturing can be largely eliminated by cutting the green wood into planks and allowing it to dry very slowly and evenly (season) in a well ventilated sheltered area. The wood will still shrink but, for the most part, the more pliable nature of the planks allow the wood to flex rather than fracture. Stacking the wood helps to minimise warping.



Twice Turning Green Wood

Wood turners can use a similar technique when they turn green wood. The wood is turned once into, for example, an over-sized thick-walled bowl or a platter. That is then left to season (dry out) to allow the pliable walls of the turning to react to the shrinkage stresses by bending rather than splitting. Once seasoned, the warped wood can be re-mounted on the lathe for truing up and finishing.

What Happens When a Green-turned Bowl Dries Out?

The graph in Fig. 2 shows what happened to the weight of a rough turned bowl of green cherry. As drying progressed the wood shrank and distorted which can be seen by comparing the topmost and middle inset photos, the top showing the bowl after the first turning, and the middle the distorted bowl after drying. The lowest of the three photos shows the bowl after it had been re-mounted for the second turning and completed. The bowl was finished in 2010 and although now over 13 years old, has shown no further distortion.

How was the moisture loss evaluated in the graph?

The changing moisture content was evaluated simply by weighing the bowl (with digital scales) on a weekly basis with a decrease in weight reflecting the progressive loss of water as the timber dried. Eventually a constant weight indicated that the moisture content of the wood was in equilibrium with the moisture content (relative humidity) of the atmosphere.

What else does the graph show?

The curve of the graph line over the drying period reflects the rate of water loss. Initially the steep slope of the line shows a rapid loss of moisture reflecting the large gradient between the high moisture content of the wood relative to the low relative humidity of the atmosphere. The rate of moisture loss progressively diminishes until the moisture content is in equilibrium with the atmospheric relative humidity. At that point the graph line levels out completely and the wood is fully seasoned. Further slight variations of weight occur as the wood “breathes” absorbing or expelling moisture according to variations in atmospheric relative humidity.

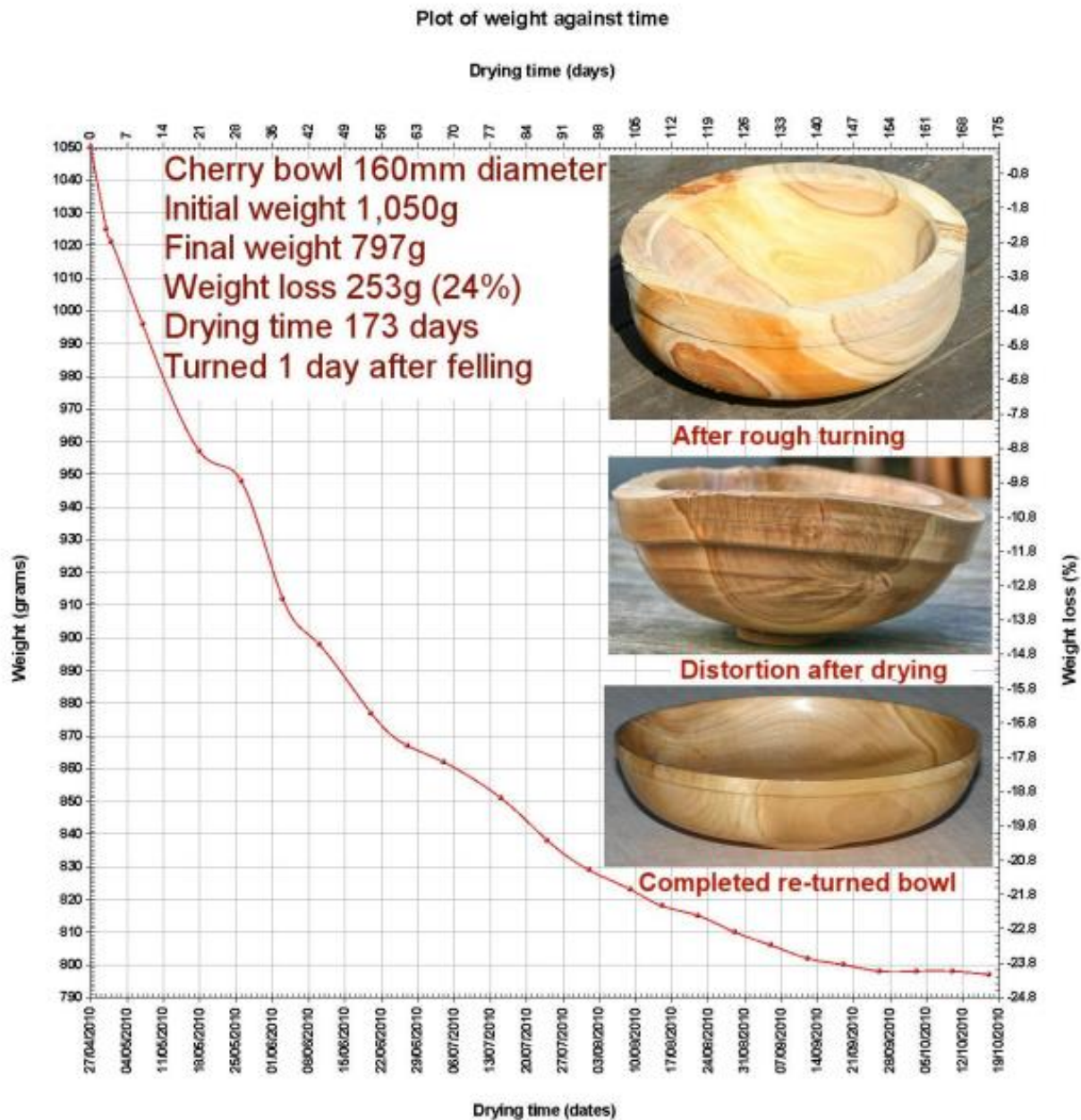


Figure 2. Graph plotting weight of a green turned cherry bowl against time. The curve of the line is initially very steep indicative of rapid water loss. The curve progressively flattens out as the moisture content (and weight) approaches equilibrium with the relative humidity of the atmosphere of the storage area. The inset photos (from top to bottom) show:

- (1) the bowl immediately after turning;**
- (2) distortion after complete seasoning;**
- (3) completed bowl after the second turning.**

The Drying Danger Period

Figure 3 highlights the period when the turning is most liable to crack which is in the initial period of drying when moisture loss and associated stresses in the wood are most intense.

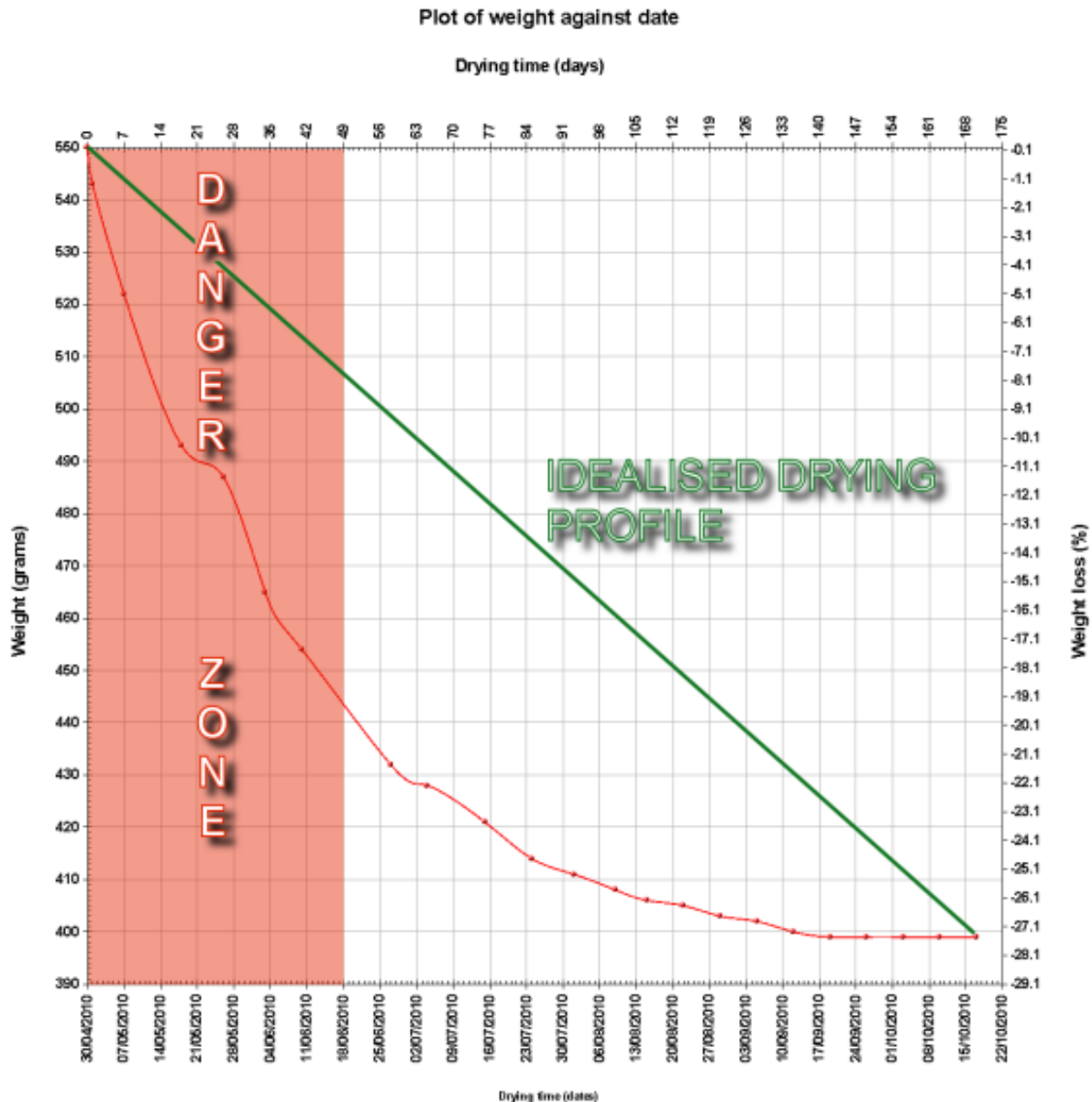


Figure 3. The graph in Figure 2 reproduced and annotated to show the drying danger zone which is in the initial phase of drying when water loss is most intense and corresponding stresses in the timber are at a maximum. The green line shows an idealised drying pattern where the water loss is more equalised over the drying period. This also extends the drying period which is also a significant factor in minimising fracturing.

How can the rate of drying be regulated?

There are several ways in which this can be achieved but for this discussion we will focus on the widely used technique of painting the wood with a substance to retard the rate of moisture loss. This slows the moisture loss and consequently also extends the drying period.

Which retardant should be applied to the green turning to slow the drying?

The PVA Option

Perhaps the most commonly used drying retardant is polyvinyl acetate (PVA) emulsion referred to variously as wood glue, white glue, carpenter's glue, school glue. It is a water based white viscous liquid which can be applied by paint brush to a green wood turning. It dries hard to a semi-transparent coating.

The Paraffin Wax Option

Another common retardant is paraffin wax which can either be applied by melting (e.g. by melting wax candles), and then dipping the woodturning into the molten wax. Alternatively a much easier (and safer) method is to purchase paraffin wax water-based emulsion which can simply be painted on to the turning using a paint brush. This dries leaving a thick residue of wax. Chestnut Products *End Seal* has been specifically developed for retarding drying of green wood in this way.

End Seal versus PVA Emulsion – which is most effective?

For many years I have used PVA but latterly thought that it was not very effective in retarding the drying with many turnings drying out too quickly and cracking. So I decided to try using *End Seal* and carry out an evaluation of the effectiveness of both methods.

THE EVALUATION

A direct comparison was made on two identical green apple wood turned bowls, made from an apple branch cut during routine orchard pruning in February 2020 (Fig. 4).

Figure 4. Side and end views of a bough cut from an apple tree in Carhampton Community Orchard during pruning 8th Feb 2020. The bough was about 125 mm (5") in maximum diameter.



Using a bandsaw, an off-cut of the branch was sliced longitudinally into two equal halves 1a and 1b (Fig. 5).

Figure 5. The off-cut from the log was (band) sawn longitudinally into two slices (1A & 1B), 15/3/2020.



Next, the two slices were cut into two circular bowl blanks of roughly equal size (Figs 6a and 6b).



Figure 6a. Bowl blank 1A (from sliced log). Figure 6b. Bowl blank 1B (from other half of the sliced log).



Figure 7a. Bowl blank 1A ready to turn.



Figure 7b. Bowl blank 1B ready to turn.



Figure 8a. Bowl 1A, First Turning completed. Weight was 262 grams.



Figure 8b. Bowl 1B, First Turning completed Weight was 210 grams.

The Initial Weigh In after the first turning

The two bowls were weighed immediately after their first turning. They were then placed in a lidded plastic box for seven days to allow equalization of the moisture content before removal and placement in a cool and dry storage area

Comparing PVA & End Seal Retardants

The idea to do the evaluation came to after 24 days of drying. One bowl received three coats of PVA emulsion whilst the other received three coats of *End Seal*. The bowls were then allowed to free dry. The weekly weighing continued to evaluate moisture loss from the two bowls. The result is shown in (Figure 9).

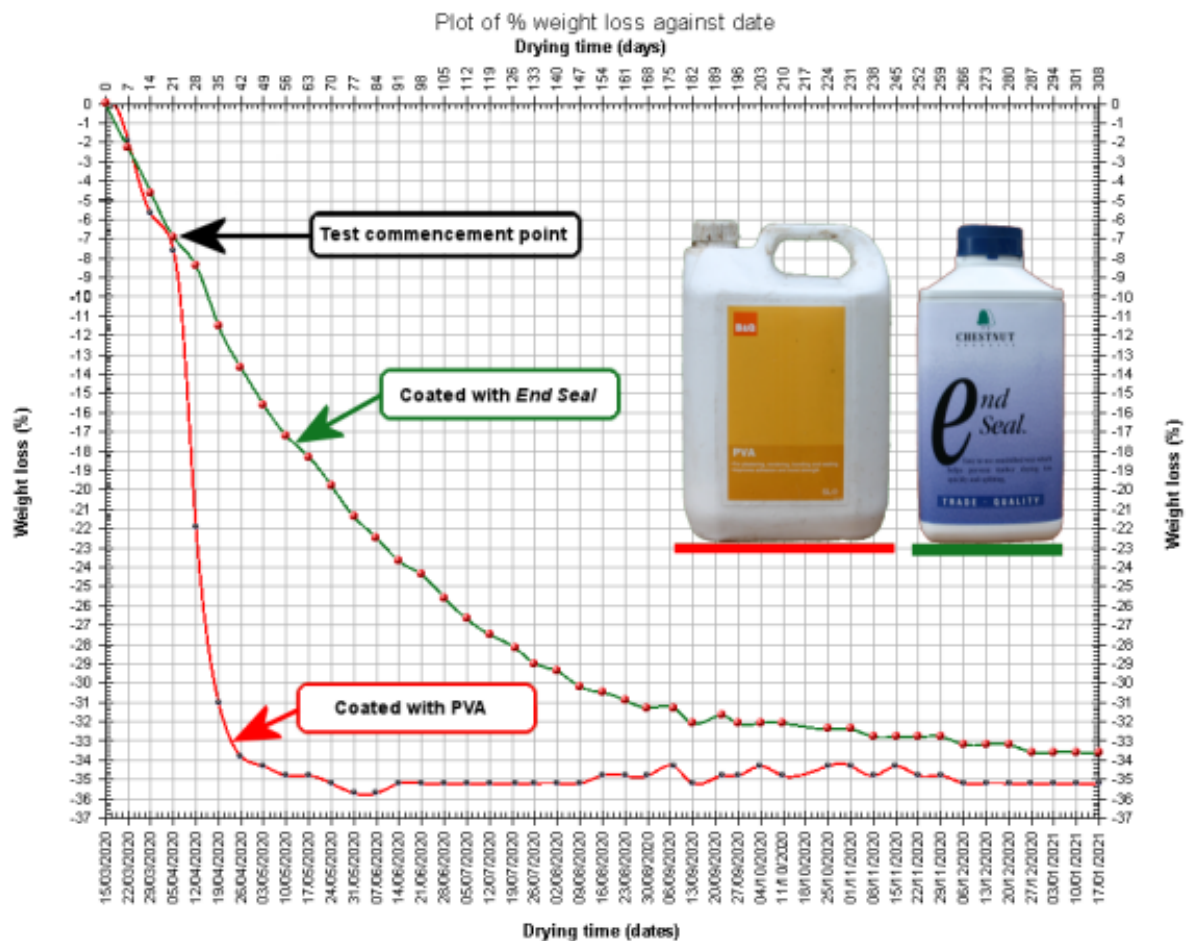


Figure 9. Two superimposed graphs plotting % weight loss against time for the two apple bowls. Bowl 1A (green line) coated with End Seal (3 coats) and Bowl 1B (red line) coated with PVA (3 coats). The full data-sets are given in Appendix 1

AND THE WINNER WAS...

In Figure 9, Bowl 1A (green line) shows a slow rate of drying controlled by three coats of End Seal. In contrast Bowl 1B (red line), controlled by three coats of PVA emulsion, shows a much more rapid rate of drying. After a little under three weeks the wood of the bowl had almost reached it's Equilibrium Moisture Content (EMC) and thereafter showed little change. End Seal paraffin wax emulsion clearly shows a much superior ability compared to PVA to retard moisture loss during the seasoning process.

I appreciate that there are many other methods of dealing with seasoning such as using a microwave oven or by impregnating with Polyethylene Glycol or even boiling the turnings before allowing to free-dry. It would also be interesting to experiment using other coatings such as latex or different paints. It would be good to hear about other methods used by club members which could be published in Woodbits as a follow up to this evaluation.

Note: Tim has provided spreadsheets with the raw data he collected in his experiments. If you wish copies of these please email either or Tim or myself - Allen

Display Table

At each meeting a table is put out for members to bring items of interest for display. They do not need to be woodturned and are not submitted for the competition. Geoff used the club Dremel from the loan library.

Last meeting Geoff Selley and Adam Blackie brought items as below:

Carved Chess pieces – Geoff Selley

The wood is Mahogany; in fact, a table leg bought from the club stock.

The start was made by turning the base, then rough cutting on a table saw to lose some wood, then a jig saw for some shape, all very crude. I tried first with carving chisels but on end grain in such hard old wood it was very difficult.

The rotating Dremel is good but has its limitations. I have not tried the carving electric tool. Only three more to go as I have finished all the other chess pieces, then the board!!!

Geoff



The Pleasures of Restoring Old Tools - Adam Blackie

For some time I have been rummaging in the odds and ends that appear on our club sales table and often pick up badly maintained old tools.

I now have a nice collection of these old tools and they are a joy to use. My favourites are pre 1970's hammers and axes.

Old tools tend to be made from good quality cast steel, usually have a "Sheffield Made" stamp and are very easy to clean up. A quick rub down with a wire brush and then 24 hours in a bath of vinegar gets rid of most of the rust. Then a little attention with some fine sandpaper and a coat of good beeswax gives a lovely, aged finish.

If you have the kit, you can go over the top and polish to a mirror finish, but I don't usually bother. Occasionally I spray the tools bright red, just for fun.

Most handles on old tools are excellent quality wood. Generally, hickory. If they are not too far gone, they respond well to sanding away the rough spots and then a few coats of boiled linseed oil. Don't sand too much, but try to leave the old finish as far as possible. Too much sanding will remove years of "feel" and that will take another lifetime to re-establish.



If the wood is too far-gone new handles and hammer wedges are cheap on Amazon and easy to install once you have finished refurbishing the metal parts.

I used the Sorby Sharpener to hone all my axes to a razor finish. Not very practical in normal use because the angle is too acute to stay sharp, but for a small workshop axe, used to reduce wood to an approximate round form, just perfect.

Increasingly I am noticing that their previous owners sometimes make a welcome imaginary appearance in my workshop to supervise my efforts. This happens especially if the tools have their prior owners' marks. These ghosts from the past make supportive and constructive comments and occasionally I imagine that they transmit their past skills through their tools that I now own. Mostly, they urge me to stop, think twice and cut once.



What next?

Rob Wiscott will sell you some old tools for a pound or two on the sales table. If you do restore some, please bring them into the club meetings and leave them on the non-competition table. It's there for you to show and tell anything you make or do in a workshop. Best of all, you'll be preserving some great tools for a third or fourth generation of woodworkers. Adam Blackie

Projects

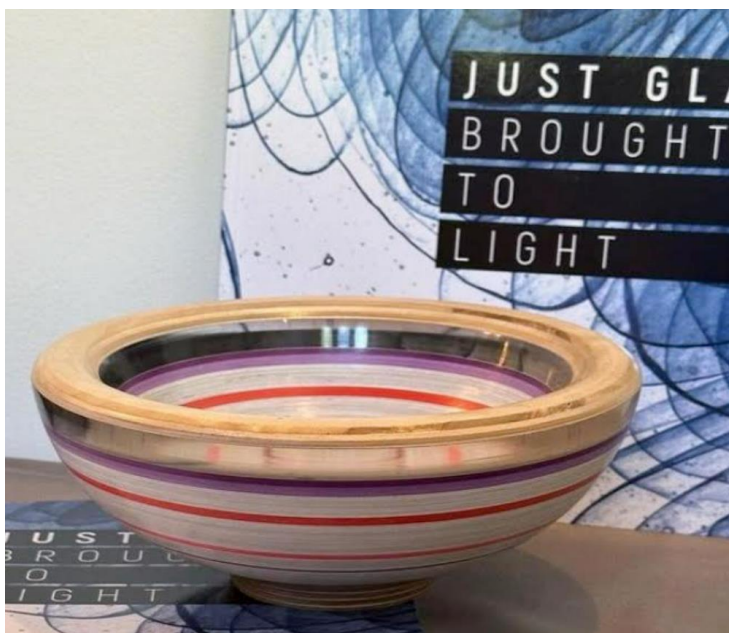
Paper Bowl – Graham Lester

Here is a project which I was recently asked to do by Just Glass, a group of over 50 established and emerging glass artists that have been taught at adult education colleges.

I was approached by Just Glass to make a bowl from copies of their 'Just Glass Brought to Light' publication which were no longer needed as an amended edition has been printed.

The bowl is made-up of three copies minus the covers, interleaved with coloured paper and bonded together. I also used some clear acrylic which shows the first page of the publication (giving an abstract glass effect) and showing through the top rim of the bowl.

The bowl is then finished off with a plywood top and bottom.



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Something Different – Ian Wood

It's not very often that I do any woodworking on small projects, but after reading the excellent article by Peter Dunsmore I decided to have a go at my version of his idea.

I am very involved in Scouting and we are always looking for something different for our various events and competitions. As woodworkers, we all have that pile of bits and pieces which we have put aside thinking they will come in useful one day, in my pile [or stock] I had bits of batten, thin plywood sheet, small hinges, clear plastic 2mm sheet and a couple of cans of spray paint, the only thing I needed was an old radio controlled chassis. I did a shout out on the local Scout website, received a number of offers, and chose the one pictured top right.

Using the drawings from the article I was able to enlarge to produce the templates I required, and then the fun really started. Dusting off skills, machinery and tools that I don't regularly use, the jigsaw, lathe for turning headlamps, scroll saw, router table, Dremel, band saw, mitre saw, soldering iron as well as testing and setting RC gear... thank goodness for Youtube!

A few challenges occurred, the chassis and RC equipment were over ten years old so a number of components needed updating or changing, the suspension needed adjusting to give more ground clearance and easy access to batteries all had to be worked out. It was also necessary to slow the motor down to do hill climbs, not the 20 mile an hour which it did in its former life. I also fitted a camera in the front to provide the drivers experience. The biggest problem was knowing when to stop, especially with well meaning friends suggesting their ideas for additions.

We have had a few test runs, there is a little fine tuning required, but as they say it will be alright on the night. Just one last thing, we where going to name her Teagan but being the Queens Jubilee we have called her Lilibet.

Stay safe

Ian Wood

Note: Ian's report was the letter of the month in the January 2021 edition of Woodworker magazine. He has sent scans of the magazine pages. If you want to see these then talk to Ian at the next club night or ask me.

Allen



Summer Craft Fair Opportunity

We were sent details of an upcoming fair – they are looking for stall holders – preferably offering home made products.



Stall Fees

Large trestle table (approx. 2m in length)	£16.00
Small Table (approx. 1m in length)	£ 8.00
Space for a small stand or rack (max 1m)	£ 6.00
Space for a large rack(s) or large items (max 2m)	£12.00

Power is available.

The event is being heavily advertised locally and on social media. If you are interested in attending on your own or with other club members please contact the organiser - Sophie Hamilton

rainbowbeadsandsupplies@gmail.com

Note also that the club has flyers to advertise our club and packaging with our logo to make you look more professional. Details from Peter Hoare or Adam Blackie

June Library Update

The full library list can be seen via our website -

If you wish to see the full set of items available for loan then look at the website.

<https://hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk/membership>

UPDATED PEN TURNING KIT

Following the success of the pen turning demonstrations at the June Club Night we have augmented the clubs equipment with the addition of an MT1 pen mandrel.

Those of you with smaller lathes will now be able to use the kit to experiment with pen making. Pen kits are available on the sale table – talk to Rob Wiscott.

Charnwood Pen and Keyring Turning Kit, 1 and 2 Morse Taper and Bottle Opener Mandrel

This complete 1 MT AND 2MT Pen turning kit contains all the tools you need to start pen turning.

- MT1 and MT2 – Colleted Type Mandrel
- 5 x 7mm Bushes
- PENBT – Pen Barrel Trimming Tool
- PENTI – Pen Barrel Insertion Tool suitable for 6mm – 15mm diameter Tubes
- PBD7 – 7mm x 95mm long HSS drill bit
- Bottle Opener Mandrel
- Key, Ring and Bottle opener kits.



The collet type mandrel is quick to adjust and offers a strong action.

The collet that secures the mounting shaft ensures that the shaft is locked and centred in position to guarantee a perfectly centred pen.

The shaft slides inside the collet so that it can be lengthened or shortened to adapt to the length of the pen to be made.

The kit consists of 7mm HSS drill bit, pen tube insertion tool, barrel trimming tool, collet type pen mandrel, bushing set for 7mm pens.

AND here is a very useful guide for making pens - everything you'll need to know if you are new to pen making - <https://youtu.be/E-bzXki7Lf4>

Lending Library Process 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:

- Club members can try before they buy or
- Club 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, pen kits)

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

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For Sale and Wanted

Lathe and Accessories

Last month I included some items for sale by David Vesey in Berkhamsted. I checked with him last week and he has not sold it all and so has given me an updated list and description below. If you are interested in any item, please contact him directly. Allen

FOR SALE

VB 36 lathe with long bed and various accessories, see photos. Motor is 3HP. Bought in 2007 and had amateur use only.

Small and large faceplates, adaptors for m33x3.5 and Myford ML8 threads, pin chuck. Vicmark 120 chuck with box and bowl jaws, Taylor 3 jaw metalwork chuck.

Hollowing arm which fixes to the tailstock, long bar rest for hollowing, curved rest.

Price including accessories. £4,950, buyer to arrange collection.

Comparable lathes are perhaps the Vicmark VL300, Oneway 2436 or Robust American Beauty. The current VB36 price new from Steinert is c. £16,000 with short tailstock.

Also selling a little used Record Power camvac, £125.

If anyone is interested they would be welcome to visit and inspect in Berkhamsted.

Kind regards, David Vesey, Berkhamsted. dgvesey@btinternet.com

Some photos below:



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Lathe motor Wanted

Mike Pearson contacted me through the website and he is looking for some specific bits of kit.

- Motor for a Myford ML8 lathe. Single phase 3/4 HP motor, 1425 RPM with 5/8" shaft.
- Number 1 Morse taper live revolving centre.

If you can help him or know of a possible source please contact him direct:

mikepearson1@btinternet.com

07752 008349

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Woods A-Z

Zebrano (Zebrawood)

This wood grows in the central part of West Africa in the rainforests of The Congo, Cameroon, and Gabon. The trees grow mostly along riversides and streams, and the trees grow to 130 feet, with tree trunks reaching a diameter of up to 5 feet.

It is moderately hard but extremely flexible with good physical properties. It does not dry quickly, and you need to carry out the process very slowly and evenly.

Heartwood is a light brown or cream color with dark blackish brown streaks vaguely resembling a zebra's stripes. Depending on whether the wood is flatsawn or quartersawn, the stripes can be either chaotic and wavy (flatsawn), or somewhat uniform (quartersawn).

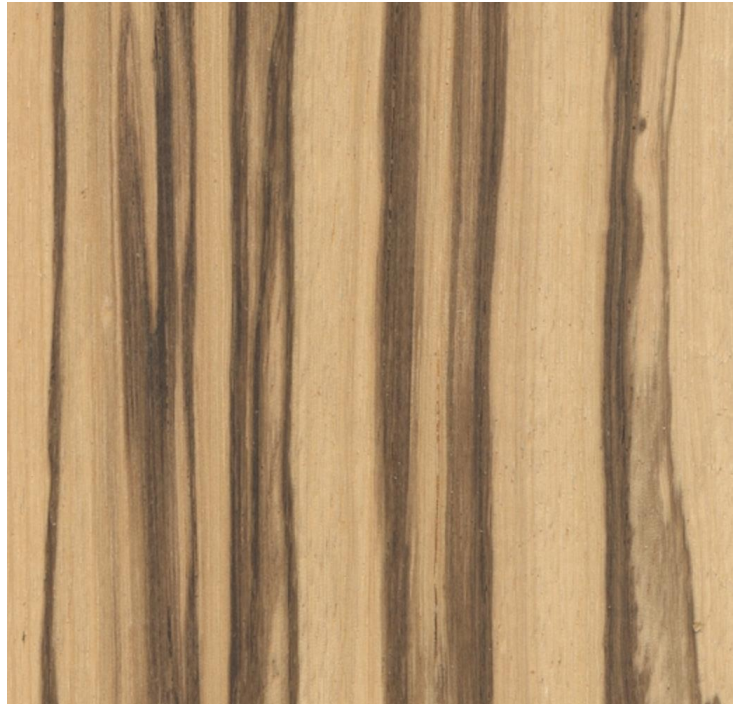
Zebrano is rated as durable and is also resistant to insect damage. It saws well, but can be very difficult to plane or surface and tearout is common. Zebrawood glues and finishes well,

Fairly safe to work with and common reactions simply include eye and skin irritation.

The wood tends to be fairly expensive, though usually not as prohibitively expensive as other exotics such as Ebony or Rosewood. This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices, but is on the IUCN Red List. It is listed as vulnerable due to a population reduction of over 20% in the past three generations.

It was commonly used for car dashboards about 20 years ago. People liked the classic natural wood finish. Even if dashboards may not be made of wood today, zebrawood patterns still enjoy wide popularity in automobile interiors.

Zebrawood serves as a suitable accent wood, and the strong pattern creates a sharp contrast wherever it is used. Zebrawood is often used as veneer. Other uses include: tool handles, furniture, boatbuilding, and skis.



Poetry Corner

Trends and use of Superlatives

Old age affords time to observe more and act less
Experience highlights how to refine youth's mess
When they revert to actual speech at last
Only when social media is for once bypassed
They use every superlative in their words of description
To introduce an act is no easy prediction
Take incredible, unbelievable, number one in the world
Is how the star's build up now is unfurled
Leaving no room for the common place
Which must be kept, looked full in the face
That good old standby, ordinaryess, to coin a new word
Which to deny it's existence is completely absurd
Let's all settle down, return to old ways,
Save superlatives 'til fitting, on occasional days

martin sexton 23rd Feb 2023