



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 214

March 2024

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the March 2024 newsletter.

This month I am delighted to announce that Nat Griffiths, the winner of Series 3 of 'Britain's Best Woodworker' on Channel 4, will be demonstrating. I note that this is one of his first demonstrations and I am looking forward to meeting him. This edition also features two interesting articles from club members Chris Squires and Bob Marshall. My thanks to them both for contributing to this month's contents.

APRIL MEETING

Our next club meeting is on 9th April and is the AGM. Our club has been steadily adding new members in 2023 and stands at a current total of 92. If you are new to the club, please let us know how you are getting along, tell us what we can do better and help us celebrate our achievements in 2023.

The AGM formalities are a necessary part of any club. There will be a short formal agenda, some voting for the committee members and no doubt some heartfelt speeches. Then, at the end of the formalities, we will also be giving some awards for the 2023 competition entries (nothing for me this year 😊)

There are some changes in the Committee for 2024 and these will be communicated at the AGM. Note that opportunities to join the Committee are open to all members throughout the year, not just at the AGM. If you think you might help to run our club please contact ANY committee member, anytime. Nat Griffiths will be giving a demonstration in the second half of the meeting.

TRAINING NEWS

The future training events, whether for beginners or for those wishing to learn a skill in more depth, are already planned for 2024 and places are filling up fast, so contact Mel Williams if you are interested. We also have access to the AWGB training courses - Details inside.

COMPETITION TABLES

This month is the Easter meeting. Beginners are asked to bring an Egg Cup and the Advanced competition is an Egg-Shaped Box. If two of you get together and make a box that fits into a cup, I will be most impressed.

See you in April. Adam Blackie

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Club Secretary and Newsletter Editor: Allen Kaye secretary@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Club News

February Competition

Beginners

1st Sash Smith



2nd Pete Pocock



3rd James Blackie

Advanced



1st Peter Kemp



2nd Tony Taylor



3rd Phil Walters

Open

1st Chris Bentley



2nd Harvey Alison



3rd Tony Taylor

Meetings Calendar

2024

Apr	9th	AGM + Nathanael Griffiths ¹	https://nathanaelgriffiths.com/
May	14th	Terry Smart	
Jun	11th	Club Night	
Jul	9th	Simon Hope	
Aug	13th	Anna- Marie	
Sep	10th	Club Night	
Oct	8th	Steve Heeley	
Nov	12th	Mick Hanbury ?	
Dec	10th	Christmas Social	

2025

Jan	14th	Gary Rance?
Feb	11th	Steven Kearvell
Mar	11th	Stewart Furini

Competition Subjects

2024

	<u>Beginners</u>	<u>Advanced</u>
Apr	Egg Cup	Egg Shaped Box
May	Dibber	Goblet With One or More Rings
Jun	Candle Holder	Lidded Box
Jul	Plate or Platter	Something Stained or Painted
Aug	Any Style of Rolling Pin	Bowl on Feet
Sep	An Apple or Pear	Hollow Form
Oct	Paper Weight	Two or More Woods
Nov	Bud Vase	Pen/Pencil/Brush Holder
Dec	Xmas tree decoration	Pair Candle Holders

¹ Nathaniel began turning at the age of 13 and two years later won the Young Turner of the year award from the Guild of Master Craftsmen. He has exhibited at the Royal Academy's Young Artists' summer shows and was a runner up at the Company's 'Wizardry in Wood' competitions in 2021. In 2022, he received a bursary from the Company to undertake further training. He won series 3 of 'Britain's Best Woodworker' on Channel 4.

Raffle purchase Diary for 2024-25

I am the raffle coordinator for the forthcoming year and need to fill the diary for the purchase of prizes for the months as stated below.

Following the AGM I need to fill the next year's calendar of volunteers. To ensure we get a selection of prizes we ask different members of the membership to the club to buy the raffle prizes. This ensures we have a variation every month.

As a guide we have increased to spend on prizes to £ 80 .00- £100 per month with a maximum number of 5 prizes in total. There is some flexibility as this offered as a guide.

Full receipts are required for each spend made.

If you wish to discuss any of this information with me feel free to do so at the next meeting or email/phone me

Steve Beadle

Herts and Beds Raffle Coordinator

Tel 07720 677456

Email ~ Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk

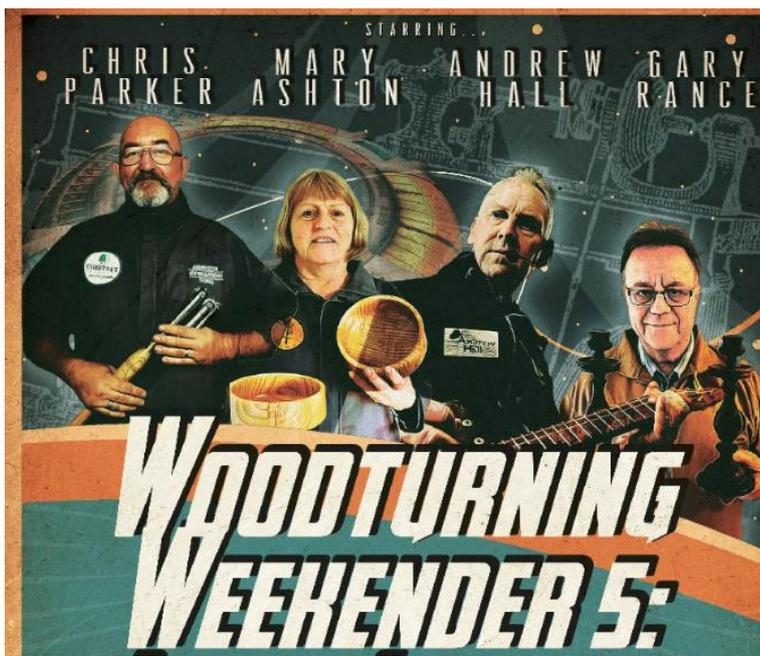
Woodturning Weekender

As mentioned last month, Chestnut Products are running this event and a number of our members are already going on 10th August including Alan Wigginton and Adam Blackie who are both offering lifts.

If you want to take them up on that offer please contact them directly on alanwigginton@me.com or Chairman@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk. Phone number for Adam is 07941 270 640

Note the famous face on the right of the poster. If you want more info about the Weekender have a word with him at our next meeting.

Allen



Demonstration by Les Thorne— Review by Tony Taylor

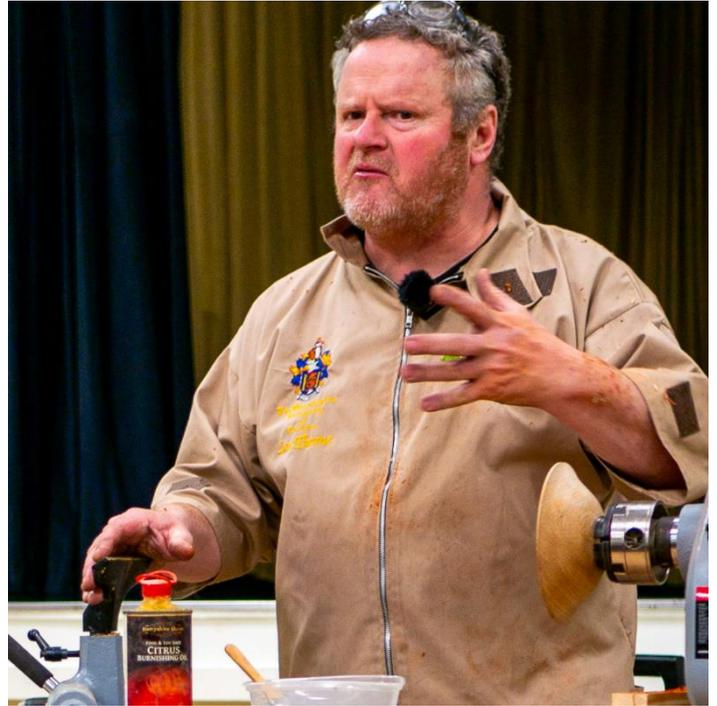
A good turnout of members were gathered in expectation of a great evening of entertaining woodturning. We were not disappointed.

Les offered us the choice of a useless but decorative lidded urn or a bowl with inset ring – we chose the latter.

Les started with a dry 7 by 2 inch disc of Oak, which he mounted on a screw chuck with the lathe running.

This method is perfectly safe with a smooth piece of wood and cuts a very good thread. He discussed the presentation of the gouge in some detail, making a cut across the edge pushing in the line of the bevel parallel to the surface. The bottom was trued up with a pull cut – the bevel should be close to parallel with the wood (open flute) for a clean cut and the gouge closely supported by the tool rest. This avoids scraping and blunting the tool.

There was a discussion regarding the choice of tenon versus mortice for chucking. Les maintained that a tenon is almost always preferred and that one should never leave any evidence of the chucking method. The tenon diameter was marked with dividers and cut by removing the surrounding wood with a pull cut. Finally, the tenon was trimmed straight or dovetailed with a skew, according to the chuck in use.



The next step was to shape the bottom to an Ogee and Les pointed out that one should start removing wood at the edge and not from the centre. He used a pull cut and cut above the centre line with the rest on the axis. Close tool rest support is important. Progressively finer cuts ensure the best surface. The essential for a sandable surface is that there should be no holes or tearouts. It is easy to sand away ridges but not holes. One should stop and look carefully, if necessary, taking it to the daylight. The final cut was a light push cut with ¼ inch spindle gouge with standard 45 degree bevel.

The bowl was then reversed in the chuck and hollowing commenced. Les explained how to present the gouge to avoid skipping. It is not always necessary to present the bevel at right angles to the wood to start, provided that you brace the gouge firmly on the rest. The flute should start closed and gradually open. When the rim had been defined, a 3 mm parting tool was used to cut a slot in which to fit the ring. For the contrasting ring a piece of Padauk was mounted on the screw chuck, the size marked with dividers and material gradually removed till a good tight fit was achieved. The ring profile was cleaned up by light scraping and the ring carefully parted off. It was a tight push fit into the prepared slot and could then have its surface shaped.



The final stage was to complete the hollowing, finishing with a small sharp gouge. Les prefers wet sanding using lemon oil as lubricant.



A remarkable technique shown was to start with 80 grit, then go directly to 400 grit with power sanding. The result was impressively smooth. This was an action-packed demonstration – full of useful tips and reminders for both new and experience turners. It was also full of good humour and left us all wanting more.

Training support from the AWGB

As a member of the AWGB, everyone has access to the support they offer.

The following list is a national one showing workshops that all AWGB members can attend. For more details see the AWGB website.

9 April	Intermediate	Thread Chasing	Simon Hope	Great Bromley, Essex, CO7 7TR
18 May	Beginner	Basic bowl	Les Thorne	The Woodturning Shop, Four marks, Hampshire
18 May	Beginner - Intermediate	Improving tool techniques	Darren Crisp	Shaws Burn Woodturning Studio, Ashgill, Scotland
1 June	Intermediate	Table Lamp	Dennis Wake	Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, County Durham
11 July	Beginner - Intermediate	Novelty animals	Kate Kitchin	Tingley, Wakefield
7 September	Intermediate	Platter	Dennis Wake	Hartlepool Enterprise Centre, County Durham
1 October	Intermediate - Advanced	Bowl & colour	Mick Hanbury	Turners Retreat
11 October	Beginner - Intermediate	Humming Top	Gary Rance	Wendover, Buckinghamshire
6 November	Beginner - Intermediate	Texture and colour	Chris Parker	Leyland, Lancashire

Future in-House Training Opportunities – Mel Williams

The arrangements for the beginner's basics training sessions have now been completed.

The beginner sessions will cover the basics of woodturning and some simple projects for beginners. We aim to train 4-5 people at each session, depending on the availability and skills of our volunteer trainers. The beginner sessions run from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm and the cost is £25 a head for each trainee. Training dates have been arranged as follows:

20th April – confirmed date and open for bookings

19th October – provisional date and open for bookings.

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We do also have ideas for future sessions as below. If you are interested in any of these, please contact me.

Woodturning Basics

Intro to the lathe & workshop, Safety & Risk, Dust & PPE, Tools, Sharpening & Techniques, Choice of wood, Grain Direction, Work Holding & Drives, Abrasives & Finishes

Sharpening with the Proedge

Jigs: skew, Proset, fingernail profiling & long-grind, Choice of belts: AliOx, Trizact, Diamond, Ceramic & Zirconium

Pen Turning

Kits, bushes & blanks, Specialist tools – mandrel, assembly press, barrel trimmer, Drilling & gluing, Finishes for handling.

Rotary Texturing and Spiralling

Types – Spiralling, Texturing, Knurling, Tools – Tooth pitch, Embellishing & burning.

Intro to Hollowing

Grain orientation, Hand hollowing and Jigs, Posture & leverage, form shapes, Cutter types (carbide/HSS – ring, shielded, bit), Cutting sequence & tool presentation, Measuring wall thickness.

Turning Small Items

Turning Small items for gifts and craft-fair sales: eggs fruit key fobs corkscrew letter-openers spinning-tops bottle-stoppers light-pulls, Kits & Special tools, Finishes for handling.

Intro to Lidded Boxes

Box Designs, Work holding, Grain matching, “pop” fit lids, Hollowing out the interior, Finishes.

Thin Wall Turning

Choice of wood, best shapes/designs, Work holding, Measuring wall thickness, Support options to reduce flex & chatter, Finishing as you go, reversing for the foot, thin wall hollowing pots & vases

That's all for now.

Mel Williams - Contact me on – training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

Bowl Saver – Review by Bob Marshall

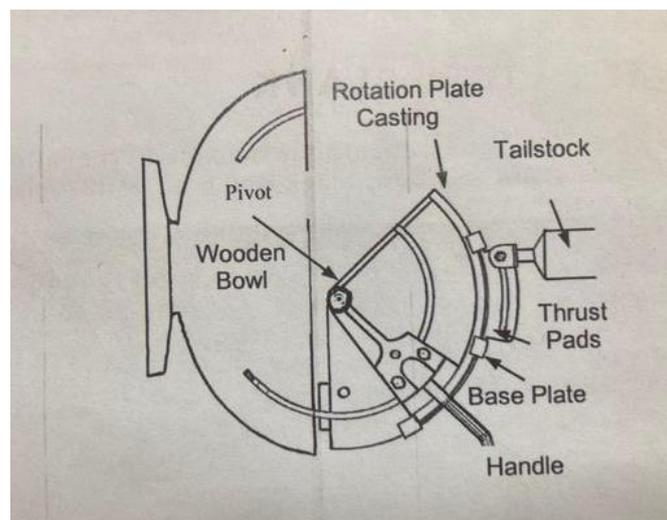
One of the most impressive aspects of our Woodturning Club is our Tool Library. This allows members to “try before they buy” or simply to use for a few weeks (generally 4) then return a tool which would not be cost effective for them to buy. How many of us have bought a number of tools which “seemed a good idea at the time” but which were rarely, or even never, used?

The club’s Woodcut Bowlsaver would fall into this ‘rarely used’ category for me. As ‘value for money’ this would prove well below HS2!

As a Scot who lived in Yorkshire for 4 years I’m not a fan of gathering wood shavings which simply become a useless byproduct of my turning. By coring out a bowl from a larger bowl I get a feeling that in my own very small way I’m saving the planet by making maximum use of the log which I’m turning into something useful - perhaps even beautiful. Better still, I’m minimising waste.



The tool itself is somewhat frightening when you first see it. It is adaptable to many different lathes with different diameters of banjo tool-rest uprights and different heights of head stock and tail stock centres.



The instructions (included) are not (in my opinion) intuitive - BUT with a little thought the tool can be used very effectively to cut one, or more, bowls out of a large(r) one. There are two cutters included which at first sight would seem to imply that only bowls of the diameter of one of these cutters can be cut from its larger ‘doner’ bowl. Whilst this may be the ideal scenario, I’ve found this not to be the case. By careful positioning of the base of the Bowlsaver (distance from the top face of the doner bowl and with the central

swivel bolt off-centre to the lathe bed) very effective cutting can be undertaken from a wide variety of doner bowls with different depths and diameters.



In use there are a number of challenges which may not be immediately apparent at first sight. The first of these is to ensure that the doner bowl is **SECURELY** attached to the lathe's chuck. A tight fit to a relatively small spigot may not suffice as the whole spigot may be torn off. A tight fit on a larger set of chuck jaws will minimise this. I've also found - much to my own surprise- that a secure recess fit worked extremely well.

The other challenges relate to speed.

- 1 How fast can I get one bowl out of another from the start of the whole operation?
- 2 How fast should the lathe be turning?
- 3 How fast should I push the cutter into the wood?

1 The first question should not be taken lightly. The operator should think through the whole operation before starting. For example, a method of holding the smaller bowl should be prepared (e.g. a spigot or recess should be formed) before the Bowlsaver is even attached to the lathe. The inner bowl will likely 'fly off the lathe' when it has insufficient contact with the doner bowl. What could it damage? Where is your coffee mug?



The blank mounted. Given the quality and size of this blank, it would have been a shame for most of it to be turned into shavings – an ideal subject for the bowlsaver!

2 The lathe speed should be - in my opinion - slower than one would expect. It needs to be fast enough (obviously) to cut the wood cleanly, but not so fast as to burn the wood whilst cutting. My own latest effort was with Laburnum. This is notorious for having dark hard wood and light soft wood within the same log. Too slow means that one can easily cut through the soft wood, but the lathe may stall when attempting to cut the hard wood. A compromise must be found which avoids this, but does not burn the wood at too fast a speed. Towards the centre where the lateral speed of the cut is decreased the lathe speed can be increased - slightly.

3 The cutter is held on a swivel base. Pushing the handle in too quickly will result in shavings building up within the cut. Burning and/or lathe stalling will likely result. Perhaps even worse, the holding method (e.g. spigot) may be torn off the larger bowl. The answer is to push in relatively slowly and withdraw frequently to clear the build up of shavings.



Summary

Overall, I think that this tool is an excellent one for our Tool Library.

Few of us will save so much cash in obtaining log blanks to justify this tool as being a cost effective addition to our collection of tools. Using it periodically, and successfully, is extremely satisfying.

Give it a try!

Bob Marshall.

'My New Lathe' – Review by Chris Squires

My introduction to the Hemel Woodclub was via Ayletts Garden Centre, when the nursery was celebrating Apple Day, 6 years ago or so. I met with Tony Taylor and Peter Hoare .

Tony took me under his wing, I spent many a day in his workshop sorting out my bad habits and turned out some nice pieces. This was where I first used a variable speed lathe, and what a difference that made.

My own lathe at the time was a blue Record CL 3 long bed , 3 speed one which I had been woodturning pieces for tens of years . Just recently I considered upgrading my lathe for a variable speed model. I sold my old blue CL3 but unfortunately, I became hospitalised unexpectedly for a number of weeks and had to put a new lathe on hold for a while.

I was then gifted a second hand lathe, made round about the 1950s a Harrison Union Jubilee mostly used in Secondary school workshops. A very basic lathe, with imperial thread sizes , head stock of 10 TPI with a 5 inch reach to the bed and 4 speed belt drive .

Anything bigger than 10 inches diameter, whether bowls or platters would have to be turned on the back end of the head stock. A chuck for the front end , a second chuck for the back end

Changing the belt speed not easy !

The banjo and tailstock has the quick release lock system, well ahead of the game since most modern lathes now have this system . This largish lathe also took up a lot of workshop space .

One big problem was however that the head stock does not line up to the tail stock and is not an easy fix . There are no adjustments to be made to correct this and a real issue when spindle turning.

Having spent time exploring modern day variable speed lathes, talking to many users of differing lathes , I went to the Newark Woodshow recently with a view to get myself a new Record Herald bench mounted lathe. I was working to a limited budget.

My budget was £900 plus and my spec was to include variable speed, quiet runner, indexing , locking head stock system, swivel head stock, self setting, easy lock release banjo and tail stock and bench mounted .

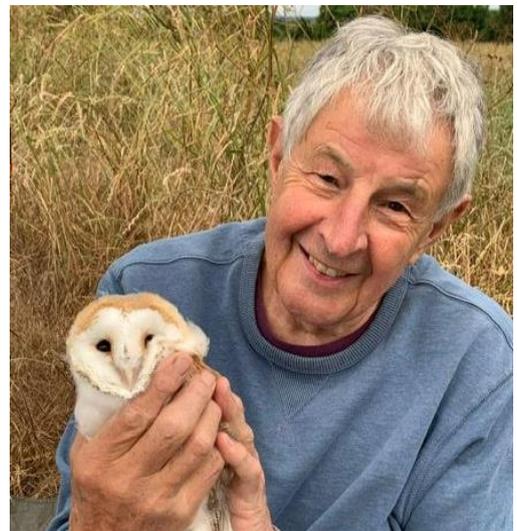


it was probably the best time to purchase one - show price deals are always better than the usual retail offers .

I welcome anyone looking to purchase such a lathe to visit my workshop to try mine out. There are other club members who use the Herald lathes. Maybe we should form a Herald user group ?

Chris Squires

PS – Chris is an avid twitcher and also sent me great shots he took of this egret and an owl. Any other bird watchers out there?



For Sale

Stratos 230 lathe for sale

We have been contacted by a Mr Dave Deakin of Potters Bar.

He has a Stratos 230 lathe for sale, with the bed extension and the Axminster 4 Jaw Chuck. He is asking £2000 ONO for all of it.

If you are interested please contact him directly as below

e-mail - dave.deako16@gmail.com

or Telephone - 01707 653391

Poetry Corner

THE MIRACLE OF YouTube

Perused YouTube, something there for all taste

Recorded talent not going to waste
We've all been there, done that
Whatever the wind blows, hold on to your hat
Music or humour, there for all time
Without any cost, not even a dime
The reward of time very well spent
To educate or amuse, whichever, well meant
A medium for people's past glories
Indelibly preserving their appropriate stories
Pick your pleasure, there's one always there
Whatever the topic, no need to despair
Someone has done it, recorded for posterity
Some tongue in cheek but most with sincerity
Needing instruction? then Utube's the place
All manner of solutions, just watch that space
Make an old English bow, ancient skill cast in stone
Or a moon bound rocket, you don't stand alone
Above all, YOU have skills you wish to impart?
Captured there on film is a very good start

Martin Sexton March 1st 2024