



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 204

May 2023

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Hello from sunny St Albans.

The weather is perking up and my workshop has decided to stop mimicking a fridge and become a slightly friendlier place, which is a good thing. It also gives me an added incentive to crack on with this month's project for the competition table – a "string box" for the advanced turners and a "light pull" for beginners.

The club output for the competition table at the last meeting was outstanding, so please do keep bringing your projects for us all to see.

JUNE IS A CLUB NIGHT

Newer members (and we have many) will be less familiar with the club night activities. The AGM in April saw a very successful evening with 6 members sharing their experience across a wide range of topics. At the time of writing, we have not finalised plans but hope to do something very similar in June.

ANOTHER NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

I am very happy to announce that Paul Rowland has agreed to join the Committee. His role will be to co-ordinate and book Demonstrators for our meetings at Adeyfield. Paul is new to the club and is also a new turner too, having just bought a bargain second-hand monster of a lathe (ask him for details). I also know that some progress has already been made with booking 2024 slots and a full schedule will be available very soon. If you have ideas for demonstrators, please get in touch with Paul via the committee.

There is still one vacant spot available on the Committee. Allen would like to relinquish his role as Secretary. So, if you have experience (or not and fancy having a go), please get in touch with one of the committee members to find out some more about it.

SUMMER FAIRS

These are just around the corner and have proved a great place to recruit new members and spread the word about our club. There is a club stand at the Harpenden Art on the Common event on 17th / 18th July. Please support the members who are attending by turning up and saying hello if you happen to be in the area. This year is bigger than usual and promises to be a worthwhile trip out; and there is still time to put it into your diary.

WOODBITS

If you are independently attending craft fairs please also consider advertising your event in our newsletter. I am sure other members will be interested to attend.

TRAINING EVENTS SUCCESS AND EVEN MORE PLANNED

I am personally very pleased with the success of the training initiatives organised by Phil Scoltock so far this year.

Last month's demonstrator was Chris Parker and in the day before our meeting he successfully delivered our first Registered Professional Trainer (RPT) session. There is another RPT session planned with Darren Breeze in July and at the time of writing it is not yet fully booked.

Four members have now independently booked a subsidised day with Les Thorne (thanks to Mel Williams for organising this). If you want to take part in professional training, the club may be able to subsidise it. Contact the committee for more details.

Last, but not least, the club ran a beginners training session at Adeyfield in May. It was fully booked, and some enthusiastic reviews can be seen later in this newsletter. Another beginners session is planned for July and a couple of places are free, so don't delay, contact Phil Scoltock to book your place.

FINALLY.....

We have a Raffle organiser – Steve Beadle, of very long standing, who raises around £750 per year for our club. He needs your help with sourcing prizes; he needs your ideas, because I expect he has run out of his own by now. The club will cover the costs, you just need to do the shopping.... and it's a chance to see something that you might want to win in a Raffle.



See you all on the 13 th June.

Adam Blackie

Chairman

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

CONTENTS

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN	1
Club News	4
April Competition	4
Meetings Calendar 2023	7
Raffle	7
Competition Subjects 2023	7
Training Update and Reports.....	10
In-House session Saturday 15 th July Adeyfield	10
Chris Parker Masterclass May 9 th – Report.....	11
May 14 th In-house Training session - Report.....	12
Two further personal reports from the 14 th Training day	13
Darren Breeze July 12th Master Class – 1 slot remaining – book now !!	14
Box Making Course – Gary Rance	15
Projects	16
Winged Bowls – Paul Boyes.....	16
Next Gen Turners – Peter Moncrieff	17
Appeal for Harpenden Summer Craft Fair contributions – last call.	18
May Library Update	19
For Sale and Wanted.....	21
Lathe and Accessories.....	21
Wood for sale.....	22
Equipment still for sale.	22
Woods A-Z.....	23
Walnut.....	23
Wenge	23
Poetry Corner.....	24

Club News

May Competition

Beginners

1st Dudley Peachham



2nd Phil Walters



3rd Pete Pocock

Advanced



1st Phil Scoltock



2nd Peter Hoare



3rd Tony Taylor

Open



1st Phil Scoltock



2nd Chris Squires



3rd= Tony Taylor



3rd= Andrew Holwerda

Meetings Calendar 2023

2023

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

Raffle

Raffle purchase Diary for 2023-24

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

Month	Name	Contact number	Email
May 9	Steve Beadle	07720677456	Stevebeadle1960@hotmail.co.uk
June 13			
July 11			
August 8			
September 12			
October 10			
November 14			
December 12			
January 9 -2024			
February 13			
March 12			
April 9			

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
Jun	Light pull	String box
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

Demonstration by Chris Parker – Report by Tony Taylor

The main part of the demonstration was devoted to decorating a lidded box. The body of the box was 75 mm square and 120 mm long. Using a ball burr mounted in a Dremel, a series of diagonal channels were cut on opposite faces .

An abrasive nylon rotary brush was used to clean up the surfaces and this was followed by thick black acrylic paint, brushed into the grooves. The edge faces of the lid were decorated with rings of various sizes, burned with cone drills. The spaces between were filled in with dimple from a small burr.

The upper surface was textured with thin parallel lines cut with a Rotur saw. A splash of vivid colour was provided by bright blue paint.

Chris then showed the steps involved in turning the lidded box. He cut tenons on each end of the block then parted off the lid at one third the length.



The lid was mounted in the chuck and a recess cut about 6 mm deep with a negative rake scraper then the central area hollowed. Next the base was mounted and hollowed with a spindle gouge and the lid fitted. After the break, Chris showed the steps involved in turning a bowl from a dry Sycamore blank. He explained the use of the negative rake scraper and gave some` useful hints on hollowing and shaping the rim.



Chris turns a variety of objects but does make a specialty of coloured and textured pieces. The following page shows some of his other work.



chrisparkerwoodturner.com

Training Update and Reports

In-House session Saturday 15th July Adeyfield

The next in-house training session is scheduled for July 15th at Adeyfield community centre. The format for this session is going to be a little different to normal. At this session all attendees will make the same project, with one of the training team showing each step prior to the trainees then having a go whilst being assisted by members of the training team.

The theme for this session will be a small textured and decorated bowl. Attendees will be shown how to turn the bowl and will then make their own.

Another member of the training team will then show how to add the texture using hand carving chisels. After all of the trainees have added texture to their own bowls, another trainer will show how to add metal gilding or chameleon flakes for the decoration.



Bowl blanks and gilding/chameleon flakes will be provided; and hand carving chisels can be loaned on the day.

This is a hands-on all day session, subsidised by the club. Cost to attend is £25 and there are four places available. To book email training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk The session is subject to sufficient members signing up to attend.



Chris Parker Masterclass May 9th – Report

Everyone seemed to have a great day at the club's first master class. In the morning Chris Parker provided instruction on, and then the attendees had a go at turning a deep bowl blank and using rotary texturing tools to add a variety of decoration to the underside of the blank.



In the afternoon, Chris instructed on turning a large platter decorated with a carving wheel on an Arbotech long neck grinder with the lathe spinning to add texture.

He then added scalloped texture around the outer rim with a burr donut wheel again using an Arbotech with the lathe stationary.

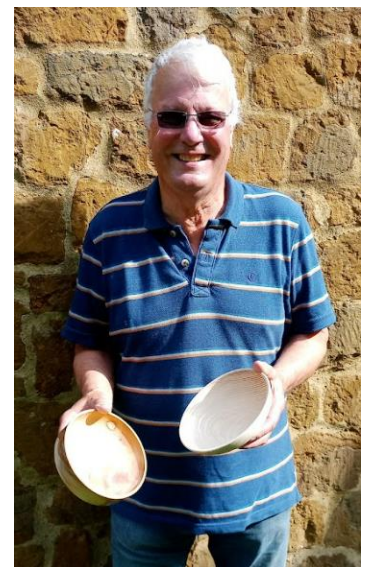


May 14th In-house Training session - Report

14th May saw a very enjoyable in-house training session at Adeyfield.

Topics included Bowl & Spindle Basics, Sharpening using the ProEdge; and Propeller Turning of a bowl with a rectangular natural edged rim.

Photos taken of the day – see in the Projects section some more photos of the Paul Boyes winged bowls.



Two further personal reports from the 14th Training day

Christine

I had absolutely no hands on knowledge of turning before Sunday. Chris Bentley was very patient and understanding as he explained all about the lathe and tools and the principles of turning.



Very quickly Chris had me using the lathe and starting to get things right. Everything was done at the right speed and I got on much better than I could have hoped for, even producing a piece of spindle work and a bowl by the end of the day.

All in all, a very professional day but also fun with a group of friendly people.

Andrew

I had limited experience of practical turning prior to this training, mainly pens. My main target for the day was to learn how to turn bowls safely.



Harvey Alison was a great tutor and soon had me safely mounting a bowl blank, (one of the things I was worried about) and producing a bowl shape. Harvey was very encouraging and allowed me to proceed at a good pace. I made my first bowl which I was very pleased with and then Harvey encouraged me to finish off a bowl that had been started. I managed, (with a little help), to produce a very thin bowl that I would have not thought possible at this stage.

Darren Breeze July 12th Master Class – 1 slot remaining – book now !!

We have 1 place available to book for a hands-on masterclass which will be provided by **Darren Breeze on July 12th.**

It is an all day session in Hemel Hempstead, where he will teach; and then attendees will be guided to make their own version of 12" square wall hanging which will be decorated including texturing, air-brushing and embellishing waxes – similar to Darren's wall hangings pictured right, or add a clock mechanism (available on the day) as in the inset photo.

The session will be substantially subsidised, the cost per attendee for this full day of group training is £35/person.

To book, please email

<mailto:training@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk>

Lathes, wall-hanging blanks, power texturing tools and air brushes will be provided.



Box Making Course – Gary Rance

Gary, one of our members is well known for a wide variety of turned objects and through the AWGB, is offering a workshop on Box Making. It is on the **30th June** in Wendover and described as an Intermediate level course.

There is no charge but members are encouraged to make a donation to the AWGB.

If you want more details see below: or contact Gary directly

Website: www.garyrance.co.uk
Etsy: <https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/GaryRanceDesign>
Instagram: rance-gary
Phone: 07759 116937
Email: garyrance@hotmail.co.uk

Below are some of Gary's boxes



You can also get more details via the link below that takes you to the AWGB webpage which details how to make an application.

[Member Training Workshops – AWGB](#)

Projects

Winged Bowls – Paul Boyes

Following on from an outstanding days tuition from Peter Hoare at the Club training session on Sunday

Here are my first attempts at turning winged bowls on my own!

I borrowed the clubs Sorby Pro Edge sharpening system enabling me to get razor sharp gouges which I learnt from Peter was the key to success



Next Gen Turners – Peter Moncrieff

Pete Moncrieff-jury looks to the next generation of turners

One of the questions that crops up a lot at clubs, galleries etc. is how do we attract young people to woodturning and, indeed, other crafts? Certainly, in the UK crafts are often seen as the domain of predominantly older men and women and, until recently, ones that were seen as 'trades' usually of men. Fortunately, there is now a good number of highly talented lady turners (is that the PC way of putting it?) who are often at the forefront of innovative and highly skilled work. Younger people, however, are needed to continue the skills and the crafts.

In our club the average age is probably well over 60, as many of the turners have taken up the craft as a hobby on retirement. This isn't a problem per se, but when you see the seminars, conventions etc., with so many mainly older attendees as well, you have to ask yourself: 'How do we get young people interested?'

I am one of those who believes everyone has creative abilities, but in the world in which we live being creative isn't something that is promoted in schools or colleges. It is knowledge, the intellectual aspect, that is promoted and even, dare I say it, forced on young people with the attendant failure of those who would be far better served learning a skill. I learned to turn at a time when schools taught art, woodwork, metalwork and other practical skills and crafts. Today few schools seem to have the facilities, having sold off the machinery and equipment and instead focused on making children and teenagers into fodder for universities.

With all this in mind, how do we encourage young people to get involved in crafts, in our case woodturning? I don't have the answers apart from trying to get them making, doing things.

One idea is that each of us reaches out to the young people in our families and to those we have contact with. In other words, take on the responsibility of being an ambassador for our craft.

Obviously, health and safety can be an issue, but we should be looking out for that anyway. There is something special in creating something. It doesn't have to be a great decorative work of art, just something that the person can feel proud of. Having been in the teaching profession myself I can also say that watching someone learn a skill and the look on their face when they hold something they have made is a special privilege in itself. Many young people have never experienced the thrill of holding something that they have made, never thought that they could actually create something themselves. Often it is a case of experimenting, getting to see what the young person is good at — there are so many ways to encourage people but it needs people to do the encouraging.

I suspect that most, if not all, those who read this magazine are enthusiastic about their craft. Think how great it would be to have young up-and-coming turners in our clubs and seminars; to have their work in our galleries. To happen it will need us to reach out; to be prepared to share our workshops and our skills with youngsters.

Just a thought, really, it is up to us to promote our craft. Maybe you already do — if so, that's great, if not think about it.

Article Reproduced from the Woodworker magazine with kind permission of Pete

Appeal for Harpenden Summer Craft Fair contributions – last call.

Firstly, thanks to everyone who has contributed so far. Some of the contributions are pictured.

The Harpenden Craft Fair (AKA Art on the Common) is scheduled for the 17th and 18th of July.

The club will be represented by Peter Hoare, Keith Harrup, Adrian Peter and myself.

We will be promoting our club and also selling turned items to benefit club funds and on our own behalf.

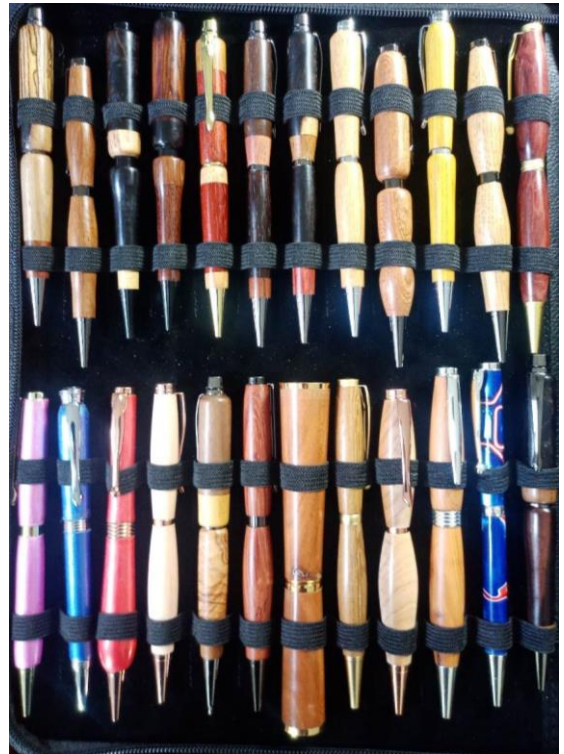
Personally, my aim this year is to raise £500 for the club, adding to our reserves and helping to pay for future club training events. My focus will be small items - pens, bottle stoppers and bottle openers.

Club members have already contributed a few dozen pens, and along with my own stock, I now have 78 pens to sell with a dozen bottle openers. BUT I would like to take around 100 items. If I can sell for an average of £5 each, I will hopefully achieve the £500 target.

If you are willing to help by making something for me to sell, various kits can be obtained free of charge from Rob Wiscott on the club sales table.

If you have anything to contribute (literally anything will sell) please bring them along to the club in May or June. The more variety we have the better it shows the abilities of our club.

Adam Blackie 07941 270 640



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May Library Update

The full library list can be seen via our website - <https://hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk/membership>

There are two updates this month.

1. A new addition:

Tenfer Woodturning Steady Rest for 12 inch Swing Medium Size Lathe

Compatible with 12"/ 310mm swing lathe. The Lathe steady rest is great for eliminating the vibration and wobble while turning long and slender pieces. The base of this steady rest has adjustable spacer blocks providing a secure fit on lathe beds. The non-marring wheels have a wide range of movement so it can be used as a bowl rest as well as a steady rest.

Base to top: 400mm. Center height: 155mm

- This steady rest is compatible with 310mm / 12" swing lathe. Easy installation, no additional hardware required.
- The position of each wheel can be adjusted individually. Which gives it a wide range to easily adapt to any turning pieces from 13mm to 150mm
- Can be used for turning long spindles like baseball bats, table and chair legs.
- The wheels are made of Non marring soft material, and it has high strength to tightly hold the pieces.
- Heavy duty construction ensuring safe and excellent control.



This item can be **made available to members via Peter Clark**, who has generously offered to lend this specialist tool to any member who would like to try before they buy.

It is available via Amazon - Search for "Tenfer Woodturning Steady Rest"

2. A texturing tool update.

We now have a set of two texturing tools that can be borrowed by members.

Crown Spiralling Tool + Knurling Tool



This miniature spiralling and texturing tool brings a new dimension to decorating turned work. Use it to add a multitude of patterns, textures, and effects to enhance your work.

It comes complete with two spiralling wheels; a seventeen tooth and a twenty-seven tooth. The wheels are high speed steel, suitable for both hard and soft woods. Made in England.

More details can be seen here - <https://www.axminstertools.com/crown-mini-spiralling-tool-952463>

The club added a standard Knurling tool. Simply adds texture to your work and at around 10 inches in length, very easy to use.



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. 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

For Sale and Wanted

Lathe and Accessories

I had an email (copied below) from David Vesey in Berkhamsted. If you are interested in any item, please contact him directly

I'm gradually clearing my workshop, was thinking of downsizing our house but putting that off for a bit. I've been woodturning for 20 years or so and bought a VB36 with long bed and tailstock when I retired, now thinking of selling it if I can get a reasonable price, but little idea what that might be and would value your thoughts on this. New prices from Steiner, Germany seem very high compared to what I paid or to a Robust or Oneway.

Also like to get rid of a little used record power camvac.

I'd sell it with various accessories, faceplates, adaptors for m33x3.5 and Myford ML8 threads, pin Chuck, (probably not the vicmark Chuck) a home made hollowing arm which fixes to the tailstock, see pictures. Might sell a few tools but plan to keep my dads old ML8.

If anyone is interested they would be welcome to visit, look at it and discuss price.

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

Some photos below:



Wood for sale

Mike Fitz, another of our members still also has a substantial amount of exotic and special wood for sale – mostly for turning. Mike lives in Harpenden.

The wood species include:

- Tulipwood,
- Mexican Rosewood,
- Cocobolo,
- Kingwood,
- Anjan,
- Indian Rosewood,
- Cereto,
- Satinwood,
- lignum Vitae
- Honduras Rosewood,
- Stripy Ebony



All are available 2" x 2" @ £1.00 per inch.

If you are interested, please contact Mike
on 01582 762231 or
07840098141

Other sizes:

1.3/4" sq.

1.1/2" sq.

1.1/4" sq.

1." sq.

Prices of these are negotiable.

Also Anjan 2.1/4" sq. x 22". £15.00

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Equipment still for sale.

I circulated details of some items for sale last week in Baldock. Roland emailed me to say most items were sold however there are a few still available.

Robert Sorby Hollowmaster available at £15. 6 sets of Axminster Tools Chuck Jaws (all different and available separately at £20 each)

Kel McNaughton Bowl Saver Kit which has had very little use (new price is nearly £300) available at £150.
If you are interested please contact him: **Rowland Penfold** <row@penfold7.plus.com>

Woods A-Z

Walnut

Walnut is one of my favourite woods although it can be a tad expensive.

Heartwood can range from a lighter pale brown to a dark chocolate brown with darker brown streaks. Sapwood is nearly white. Grain is usually straight, but can be irregular.

English Walnut is rated as moderately durable in terms of decay resistance, though it is susceptible to insect attack. Easy to work provided the grain is straight and regular. Not really hazardous and severe reactions are uncommon, most reactions simply include eye and skin irritation.



A source on the net suggests that Walnut turns best at a lathe speed of 800-1,000 rpm, and requires sharp tools. Walnut's pronounced end grain in the bottom of a bowl tears easily and produces a surface that can be difficult to sand. The best finish for walnut is a clear one. Danish oil for example.

This wood species is not listed in the CITES Appendices, but is reported as being near threatened and may be restricted in the future.

Wenge

Heartwood is medium brown, sometimes with a reddish or yellowish hue, with nearly black streaks. Oil finishes tend to turn the colour nearly black but unusually compared to other species, the wood can get lighter with age.

The wood is durable but can be difficult to work with hand and machine tools. Blunts tool edges.

Although severe reactions are quite uncommon, breathing wenge wood dust has been reported to cause problems including skin irritation

Prices are high, and are likely to remain so as supplies dwindle.

It is listed as endangered.



Poetry Corner

KING CHARLES III CORONATION

KING CHARLES III. 6th MAY 2023. THE CROWNING PROGRESS

In this Royal morning progress the Blues and Royals were challenged by six Windsor greys and blues
King and Queen, coach of state and multi military, blue, red, blue and khaki in all their coloured hues
To the resplendent Abbey where His humility and designed diversity were the order of the day
Humble and vulnerable for the anointing, with swelling emotion, one can say
The royal pair and the congregation together were the serving , not the served
In this centuries old ancient ceremony which today we all observed
Sweet chosen music, the high vaulted sounds of angels so pleasing to the ear
Tradition repeated with deep felt and serenely seen conviction was here
Then came gold and 'circumstance' glittering twinkling crowns
Innovation never seen before, lady and multi faith bishops joining in the sounds
His oath ,equal to his Royal Mother's, kept from so many years ago
And filial duty expressed with a loving kiss, which to reap one first must sow
Miraculous precision, to the moment timed, was the return in the coach of awe
Wondrous discipline by all concerned, seldom been bettered before
The Mall massed people's loyal walk to the palace gates
With bunting, jacks and home made crowns, to welcome their new crowned mates
Royal Salute and Anthem on the lawn, never more sincerely rendered
Raised head dress and three cheers in unison by all paraded on this day, surrendered.

Martin Sexton. 7th May 2023.