



WOODBITS

NEWSLETTER

Issue 210

November 2023

Welcome

SHAVINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to another Club newsletter. Can you believe that 2023 is already drawing to a close?

NEXT MEETING

Christmas is coming and the weather is getting cooler alongside the nights becoming longer but fear not because the 12th of December is our next club night. We are planning a variety of activities and mini demonstrations and one of our members will be providing cake and mince pies. I look forward to seeing you there.

DECEMBER COMPETITION TABLE

For beginners the subject is a Christmas Tree and the advanced is a Game or Toy. Its interesting to see the different designs for Christmas trees, so whether you are advanced or a beginner, please bring along any trees you have made and perhaps we'll have enough to create our own forest!

TRAINING UPDATE

November saw the final Adeyfield based basics training session, a review of which can be seen in this newsletter. We are very fortunate to be able to announce that all future basic training sessions will take place at the superbly equipped Queens Park Arts Centre in Aylesbury. As part of this relocation, we would like club members to make a contribution to the success of the centre.

Could you please make and bring along a few small hand-turned Christmas donations that can be sold via the Arts Centre shop in Aylesbury. Good saleable items would be Apples, Pears, Bottle Stoppers, Bottle Openers, Pens, Snowmen and Christmas Trees. This is partly to help them fund their activities, but also to highlight the skills and output of our club. Any items will be gratefully received.

MEMBERSHIP

The club continues to grow its membership, increasing to 90 as I write. We welcome Sasha Smith as one of our newest and his brief profile is included this month. If you are new to the club and would like to tell us a little about yourself in future newsletters, please send us your profile with a picture. December is also the month to send out membership subscription renewal emails, so look out for a message from Steve Hart in the next couple of weeks. A prompt response would be appreciated, because as you might imagine, repeated communications to 90 members can be a bit of a chore.

PROJECT IDEAS?

We welcome members input to our newsletter and this month we are fortunate to have several articles from Harvey Alison, Tony Taylor, David Evans and Peter Clark. Please do consider contributing your own project ideas to future editions. Contact Allen Kaye.

That's all from me for 2023.

I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Club event.

Adam.

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Club News

November Competition

Beginners

1st Steven Hills



2nd = Pete Pocock

2nd = Mike Pearson



Advanced



1st Phil Scoltock

2nd Peter Hoare



3rd Tony Taylor

Open



1st Andrew Holwerda

2nd Peter Kemp



3rd Paul Boyes

Meetings Calendar

2023

Dec. Club night

2024

| | | |
|-----|------|------------------|
| Jan | 9th | Gary Rance |
| Feb | 13th | Emma Cook |
| Mar | 12th | Terry Vaughan |
| Apr | 9th | AGM + Demos |
| 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 |



Paul Rowland, (pictured to the right) who organises our programme of demonstrators has done a sterling job this year and in planning for next year but he is always looking for feedback from members about the format of the demonstration evenings as well as the particular demonstrators and topics they choose. Please contact him either at one of the club meetings or email him paulrowlie@gmail.com with your comments and feedback.

Raffle purchase Diary for 2024

I am the raffle coordinator for the forthcoming year. Many thanks to those people who responded to my last request.

If you think you can help for future months, then please contact me. Each month I give £60 to buy about 5 prizes which are then raffled off at a meeting. 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 Beginners

Dec Christmas tree

2024

Jan 20 to 30cm Long Spurtle

Feb 12 to 15cm Dia. Bowl

Mar Ring Finger

Apr Egg Cup

May Dibber

Jun Candle Holder

Jul Plate or Platter

Aug Any Style of Rolling Pin

Sep An Apple or Pear

Oct Paper Weight

Nov Bud Vase

Dec Xmas tree decoration

Advanced

Puzzle or game

Natural edge vase

Wool Bowl

Something Offset

Egg Shaped Box

Goblet With One or More Rings

Lidded Box

Something Stained or Painted

Bowl on Feet

Hollow Form

Two or More Woods

Pen/Pencil/Brush Holder

Pair Candle Holders

New Logo

The club logo is now being used in a variety of formats in addition to print and it now has to work in colour as well as black and white - also now for a variety of electronic formats - for the website, different phones, laptops, tablets etc. Andrew Street is leading a review of the logo and is asking for help.

If you have an interest in logo design or would be happy to give him feedback as to new images please contact him.

andrew.street@hotmail.co.uk

Craft Fairs.

Many of our members attend Craft Fairs. It can be hard work and is rewarding, both financially and good fun.

This list is for your diaries and calendars. If you are attending, please make sure you visit a fellow members stall.

If you are attending an event this year, please let us know and we will add it to the list.

Contact – Chairman@Hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

| Date (s) | Event | Link | Club Member |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 7 Oct – 23 Dec | Oxford Craft Guild, 82 Derngate, Northampton, | https://www.ocg.co.uk/ | Graham Lester |
| Saturday, 2nd December | Baldock Christmas Fair. St Mary's church hall. | Peter Clark will be attending and has booked a table | peterh.clark57@gmail.com |

New member welcome

It is always good to hear from new members about their interests. This time it is Sacha Smith. He wrote

I'm a new member to the club.

I have no experience with woodturning but I'm a keen wood worker making everything from pergolas to soap dishes!

I'm looking forward to learning all about woodturning and will take any advice, hints and tips off anyone who has the time. I look forward to meeting everyone.

*Regards
Sash.*



Demonstration by Kate Kitchen – Review by Tony Taylor.

Photos by Andrew Street

Kate demonstrated how she makes two little novelties, chicken and sheep. The turning techniques were just those of simple spindle turning, but the object was really to show how quite simple but effective designs could be made quickly and form the basis for a profitable business.

The lesson is that the general public is often more impressed by and willing to buy little turned wooden pieces rather than the more sophisticated items, which we like to make, but which are inevitably more expensive.

Members were very appreciative of Kate's efforts in coming so far, despite the travel difficulties. No doubt with the approach of Christmas, some of us will be following her lead in making attractive little things for the craft shows.



Not demonstrated at our session but this is an example of Kate's 'small toy' work

Note: Kate is a crafter and woodworker from Wakefield who has showcased her skills on TV alongside The Repair Shop host Jay Blades. She has a Facebook page if you wish to know more about who she is and what she does.

<https://www.facebook.com/KateCraftyLass/>

Training Session at Adeyfield

The first part is a review of the day by Adam Blackie and the second part are reflections and thoughts by one of the participants – David Evans

Review by Adam Blackie

It was an absolute delight to once again deliver some training to our newest members on Sunday 19th of November. Along with Harvey Alison, Peter Hoare, and Chris Bentley as fellow trainers, we spent the day with some of our newest members, tackling the basics of diverse subjects such as hollowing, texturing, thin wall bowl turning, dealing with composite materials and of course the perennial favourite of sharpening. Our students at this event were Mel Williams, Bill Montgomery, David Evans and Paul Boyes, some of whom are very new to the club and others have slightly more experience. In any case, I know that we all enjoyed spending the day together and getting to know each other a little better alongside passing on a few skills.

At the end of the session I was, however, slightly disappointed to realise but this is the last of these sessions that will be held at Adeyfield. This is because Mel has taken over the organisation of these sessions from Phil Scoltock and has found a much more appropriate location at the Queens Park Arts Centre in Aylesbury. This move will increase our capacity and also provide proper workshop environment for our activities. I would also like to thank Philip Francis for suggesting the move and helping Mel with the arrangements.

Here are a few pictures of the event, but a lot more can be seen on the club picture library by following this link - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kgaLiCBYAC48sBkau6p7lpgBBY0762zf?usp=drive_link



Sharpening to a lethal edge – Bill and Mel look harmless, but who's to know what they were really thinking ???.....





The start of the day. Note the shavings have begun to fall....



An appropriate result for this time of year. - Very Nice.



Two different pictures, but really the same thing. – Our students working out what they need to do next



When the wood is spinning time really does fly. The day was over, almost as soon as it had begun.

Training Session at Adeyfield – Reflections by David Evans

As a relative newcomer to the world of woodturning I signed up for a training session to hone my fledgling skills.

I've practised spindle work and turned a couple of bowls, but with the festive period approaching I wanted to turn a Christmas tree. I had already briefed my tutor, Peter Hoare, at a previous club night and the week before the event he sent me an itinerary.

We were to run through some of the basics including identifying tools and their use, mounting a blank and turning from square to round before embarking on my project. He also advised me to search the internet for videos of craft folk turning similar projects.

On the day I brought enthusiasm and a shiny new set of tools, while Peter brought experience, a couple of blanks and a beautiful Christmas tree template he had turned from Yew the previous week. I found Peter to be a patient and informative teacher.



I used each of the basic tools in turn and Peter provided some excellent tips and tricks on how to get the most from them and the wood. I had also brought a bowl I was experimenting with. I'd managed to take a chunk out of it and had filled it with resin. Another club member, Brian Stanton, had helped me take the resin back, but the bowl still needed finishing. Watching Peter improvise to get the bowl re-mounted in as central a position as possible I realised these were the kind of skills you only get from years of practice.

I'm sure I speak for the other beginners in the room when I say we were very fortunate to have such excellent trainers willing to pass on their knowledge. Peter and Adam Blackie said the teaching had been a fulfilling experience for them too.

At the end of the day, despite Peter's best guidance, my effort was more Chinese Pagoda than Christmas tree. But I have to say I was very pleased with how the bowl turned out.

Since joining the club in January I have been overwhelmed by how welcoming everyone at the club has been. That willingness to pass on knowledge to new members like myself is inspiring. Who knows, maybe with another few years' practice under my belt I could be inspiring the next generation of woodturners too

David Evans

Next session planning

We will be holding another session at Aylesbury in February 2024. Please talk to Mel Williams about booking your slot.

Finally, a call for more trainers.

If you are an experienced Turner and feel that you might give up a weekend or two to assist the club in delivering these basic training sessions, please do get in touch with Mel Williams.

It would be useful to share the load and would also introduce new skills into what the club can offer at these sessions.

Please don't be shy, there is no right or wrong way to deliver basic training. The fact that a friendly club member is willing to give up a Saturday or Sunday and stand next to a beginner will build their confidence. This is all that is really needed.

Everything else, including how and what to do, will be organised by the club committee.

I would also urge you to take part as a way of giving a little back to your club. Its also a great way to spend a day.

Adam Blackie

From Tree to Bowl Part 2 – Harvey Alison and Tony Taylor

With a bit of help from Tony, here are some key stages and a few pics for the second article in the series, rough turning the larger branches and crotches into bowls.

Slabbing the trunk is planned for December and finish turning sometime next year!

Key steps involved are:

Small chainsaw pre-processing, eliminating the pith and getting nice looking pieces that will fit on the bandsaw. See Glenn Lucas videos on YouTube for the method.

Band sawing to form rough bowl blanks. I used to use a special jig, but much faster to just do it roughly with a disk pinned to the top of the blank.

Solid fixing to lathe, as blanks are very green and heavy, and are often mounted off center to get the features in the right place e.g. walnut heartwood 'stripe' in this case almost all turning done with a single 1/2" swept back bowl gouge.

Gradually increasing speed as the blank becomes more centered. I usually leave a double tenon for ease of access at the bottom like David Ellesworth. Aim for 'Fred Flintstone' bowl thickness, around 1:8 rim:diameter ratio.



Key thing is for even thickness all round, to reduce drying stress.





I experimented this time with Chestnut end seal, which is a wax emulsion, rather than just paint or glue. Tim reckons it halves the moisture loss compared to them - we shall see! label with processing date, as you *will* forget!

Shavings make good compost, used 1:3 with green materials, unless you make a pile like the one I made this weekend, which is way too much - fortunately it is fireworks night soon!



Projects

Lazy Susan Plate – Peter Clark

This is a repeat of the article in last months newsletter but this time it has the correct and more useful photos. Allen

I wanted to make a Lazy Susan plate. As I began to think about this I began to wonder whether it was necessary to use a purchased Lazy Susan bearing, and whether it could be re-imagined differently using glass marbles. These would be visible as part of the design, rather than hidden away in the centre of the plate.

I ordered a couple of 10 inch sapele blanks from G&S Timber (<https://www.toolsandtimber.co.uk/>), a bag of marbles from Amazon, and started drawing a diagram of how a cross section through it might work.

The marbles would need to run in a groove shared between both the upper and the lower parts. I mounted one of the blanks on a faceplate and started turning. Having got the thing circular (the easy bit!) I now needed to consider again exactly where the groove would go. I wanted the marbles as close to the outside as possible for two reasons.

I wanted the best visibility for the design, and also the best stability for the plate as it was rotating. Initially, my thought was to use a round nose scraper to shape the groove. After all, marbles are spherical, so this seemed to make sense.



I also didn't know how many marbles would be needed to fill the track. Would it fill completely or would there be a gap of a fraction of a marble left? If that happened, would I need to start again with the track cut a little closer to the centre? My basic schoolboy arithmetic was not up to calculating this! Whilst considering all this I managed to forget where I had put the bag of marbles, causing the inevitable family comment that "Dad has actually lost his marbles".

I cut my first groove in the face of the blank, to a depth of what I estimated to be approximately one third of the diameter of a marble, and then took the faceplate off the chuck. I put it on the table and began filling the groove with marbles. Forty two, with a little spare! Forty two, as readers of The Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy will know, is the answer to life, the universe and everything. I took this to be a good sign!

I then started to repeat the process with my second blank. Having completed this I excitedly placed it over the top of the marbles and tried a gentle rotation. I had, at this point, not installed any central pivot. Marbles began to escape from the groove, even on a slow and carefully managed rotation. I wondered if the shape of the groove might be the problem. Was the rounded shape a little too close to the marbles and not allowing enough "rattle room"?

I put the blanks back on the chuck and squared off the bottom of the groove to make a square channel for the marbles. This seemed to me to fix the problem, but I will never actually know if the round channel would have worked if I'd had a central pivot at that stage.



It was about this point that I had the idea to illuminate the marbles from the inside with a string of LED lights. The one I used, also from Amazon, has a cork shaped battery holder. This needed an appropriately shaped recess to be chiselled out of the bottom of the base to accommodate it, with a small hole drilled right through the base to feed the cable through. One metre of light string may be a bit excessive. The wire was hot melt glued in a spiral around the upper face of the base, keeping it all inside of the marble channel.

The battery holder was also hot melt glued into the recess in the base, taking care to keep the battery access door to the bottom!

The pivot I fitted was cut from a very carefully measured length of 20mm round steel bar, drilled and tapped for an M10 bolt. The length needed to be precise to allow sufficient epoxy into the top, and just enough to allow space for a penny washer and a bit of freedom for it to turn without marbles escaping!

The project was completed with the addition of three small wooden feet to allow clearance for the bolt head above the table.

I had hoped to be able to show some pictures of the internals but cannot now undo the M10 bolt from the steel bar without risking breaking the epoxy joint holding the bar to the underside of the top.

Altogether a challenging but very enjoyable project

Peter Clark



Library

The full library list and the associated rules can be seen via our website -

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

Tool Library Contact

Adam Blackie

07941 270640

treasurer@hertsandbedswoodturners.co.uk

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For Sale and Wanted

Wood for sale 1

As noted last month, we were contacted through the website by Geoff Harris – he is a fellow woodturner and has a large stock of hardwood he wants to sell. The wood includes oak, ash, rose woods, sapeles, boxwood, walnut, pear and more, well dried and suitable for turning.

He still has wood for sale and is based Between Royston and Cambridge and contact numbers are 01223208850 or 07971544517



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Wood for sale 2

I was contacted by Ian Lamb in Chesham who has recently felled a walnut tree which has been cut into discs, longer trunk sections (2 feet) and some round log-length pieces (photos attached)

No prices quoted but if you are interested please contact him on mrlamineepie@protonmail.com



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Wood for sale 3

Les Kirk, an past member who lives in St Albans, has some substantial pieces of timber for sale. He sent me the following details,

The types are oak, mahogany and elm. The oak was purchased from Timet in Oxford in 1984 and is planned to various thicknesses from 15mm to 45mm and in various lengths and widths. The elm is about 35 years old and 27mm thick in various widths



The mahogany pieces are in various sizes. All this timber has been stored in an integral garage so is very dry



If you are interested please contact Les directly on les.kirkbuildconsult@gmail.com

Note – Les sent me two handwritten pages of each piece of timber with ‘starter’ prices based on what might be paid if the wood came direct from a commercial woodyard. I would be happy to send a scan of these over to you on request or indeed you can contact Les directly. Allen

Wood for sale 4 Lime

We have been contacted by Gilles Sauvestre.

He works for Maydencroft Ltd as a forestry consultant. They are based in Hitchin and manage extensive areas of woodland in southern England.

This winter they are about to harvest 50 m³ of lime coppice, around 20 to 35 cm diameter, located around Leighton Buzzard. They will cut the trees this winter, but given how wet the woodland is, it is unlikely it will be on the roadside before June.

Here is a picture of the stand.



Lime is a rather unusual species for them to harvest, and it is a useful wood for turning.

They are asking if any turner might be interested in buying this timber (or part of it)?

If you are interested please contact : gilles.sauvestre@maydencroft.co.uk

Mobile - 0782 431 4258

Poetry Corner

THREE DAY'S STAY AT PASSFORD HOUSE HOTEL IN THE NEW FOREST

New Forest fords were surpassed this week
Amidst dancing wind blown leaves which were no freak
Autumn colours of every hue
Lit up by winter sunshine whilst the cold wind blew
Such variety of barked trees in ancient woodland
All stages of century's growth, some fallen, majestic, abound
Fascinating heathland with nature's treasures to be found
Support grazing ponies and grey coated donkeys
Oblivious to the contrasted sea boat quays.....

In the Solent's playground at the Needle's end
Inspired me to compose these words which now I send
First mist hidden vision, then came in clear clifftop view
By glistening glints of water born sun ray pathway, only seen by few

The fore mentioned Ford is Passford House hotel
Where homely reception rang a historic genteel bell
Intriguing artefact filled rooms with erstwhile soundings
But modern staff and menu made pleasant the surroundings
Well placed as a touring centre to explore the area's riches
To encourage a revisit, making other playground switches

Martin Sexton. 24th November 2023